



## Recommendations for juvenile justice reform from panelists presenting as part of the International Symposium of Girls in Conflict with the Law @ GirlsJustice.org

- Implement the [United Nations rules](#) for the treatment of female prisoners and non-custodial measures for female offenders in order to create a gender responsive justice system that includes the presence of female officers and staff trained in gender responsive approaches, gender-based policies, and regulation mechanisms
- As per [Article 37b of the CRC](#), only detain juveniles as a last resort, reduce the number of girls held in places of detention, apply non-custodial solutions/alternatives to detention, and transition to community-focused solutions
- When detention is unavoidable, ensure it is for the shortest appropriate period and in conditions that are child-friendly and gender-sensitive (for example, separate facilities for girls, guarantees of the highest attainable health standard, removal of cash bail for children)
- Provide adequate, ongoing, and robust mental health support for juveniles in detention and adopt survivor-centered, rather than trauma-centered, approaches that encourage increased agency
- Institute rehabilitation programs, improved treatment options, and reintegration programs for juveniles in detention to ensure a smooth transition out of detention
- Ensure children in remand are always separated from adults, have safe spaces with well-trained teachers, receive a formal education including relevant vocational skills, critical thinking, rehabilitative training, and life skills
- Support and address the root socio-economic causes that lead to juvenile offending through funding and support for social services and community-based organizations, including adequate funding for programs that address food insecurity and the root causes of family instability
- Repeal all laws criminalizing girl-specific and “immoral” behavior of gendered societal norms and decriminalize children in victimizing situations- e.g., trafficked children or victims of sexual abuse
- Address long-standing research gaps rooted in discriminatory thinking by funding and supporting research on girl’s lives, including a special focus on Indigenous girls and girls of color, and systematically collect disaggregated data in order to better understand the pathways leading children to detention



- Provide adequate and ongoing support for community-based organizations that work with at-risk girls on vocational training and mentorship to help prevent them from entering the justice system