



# INTERPOL

International Criminal Police Organization

**Topic:** Implement protocols, training, and strategies to promote police force's mental health who deal with daily crimes



**Committee:** The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

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## **I. Committee Background**

The International Criminal Police Organization is an intergovernmental organization that aims to facilitate international police cooperation. The International Criminal Police Commission was established in September 1923 with headquarters in Vienna.

Interpol's objective aims to promote the widest-possible mutual assistance between criminal police forces and to establish and develop institutions likely to contribute to the prevention and suppression of international crime. Interpol is addressing that police officers are often exposed to violent and traumatic incidents that result in stress, as well as critical global issues like counter-terrorism, cybercrime, organized crime and financial crime. There are some countries involved and supporting Interpol such as Argentina, Bangladesh, Denmark, Germany and the United States.

## **II. Topic Information**

The importance of mental health care in the security forces and victims is indisputable. We can't forget that the agents have a professional position, which can on several occasions affect their physiological health.

A violent victimization (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) may result in a victim reporting one or more of the following socio-emotional consequences: moderate to severe distress,



significant problems with family or friends, or significant problems with their job or school work.

People often find it difficult to find reasons to justify or understand the violence of criminals increases when it is accompanied by cruelty. It is very common that in the face of unexplained events, mental illness is understood as the cause of the behavior. That is, society tends to relate cruelest events that occur in their environment with the suffering of a certain Psychopathology.

#### **a. History of the Topic**

Over 14,500 officers in 2023 often faced high-stress situations, life-threatening incidents, anxiety and exposure to human suffering. What we mean is that these occupational stressors can lead to chronic stress, which is, major risk factor for mental health disorders such as depression anxiety and Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The United Nations provide support to police services including protecting civilians, help facilitate secure elections, prevent and address serious organized crime and also restructure and develop the host-State police services.

#### **b. Current Issues**

Including but not limited: police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, dispatchers and paramedics as members of the armed forces, have higher exposure to potentially psychologically traumatic events (PPTe) and report higher rates of mental health disorders than the general population. 44% Armed Forces members and Veterans had experienced symptoms consistent with anxiety or depression and at some point between 2002 and 2018, while 25% of respondents had experienced symptoms consistent with both.

PTSD and PTG are common specific negative and positive post traumatic outcomes. The survivors' guilt is common among the psychological distress experienced by individuals who have survived a traumatic event, particularly



victims of violent crimes, natural disasters, and military conflicts, where individuals may grapple with feelings of remorse for having survived while others perished or suffered.

The effects of early childhood trauma and attachment; historical, intergenerational, and cultural trauma, and the interaction of trauma, faith, and spirituality is common among the criminals influencing the decisions in their lives.

### **c. Bloc Positions**

- United States: Co-responding police-mental health programs are increasingly used to respond to 'Emotionally Disturbed Policies in relation to traumatic experiences at work' in the community. Co-responding police-mental health programs were found to have strong linkages with community services and reduce pressure on the justice system, but there is limited evidence on other impacts. The Victim and Witness Assistance Unit (Grants Unit) is responsible for the administration of the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).
- Mexico: The Comprehensive Care Centers (CAIs) are offices of the Executive Commission for Victim Care, distributed throughout the federal entities of the Mexican Republic. The CAIs provide and coordinate, together with the competent institutions, care services for victims of federal crimes and human rights violations.
- Canada: The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) provides support, research, and education to survivors of serious crime and stakeholders in Canada. CopLine is dedicated to serving active and retired law enforcement officers and their loved ones by providing confidential 24/7 trained retired officers for callers that are dealing with various stressors law enforcement careers encounter both on and off the job. Based out of the United States but available to those in Canada as well.





- United Kingdom: This supports officers and police staff with: mental and physical health support, mental health outreach support, training, and toolkits to improve the provision in individual forces. Contains learning from across the emergency services, academia, and Public Health England to provide organizations with a self-assessment tool that sets the minimum standard for the emergency services. The range of support includes: practical and emotional support and advice for adult victims of crime; independent advocacy for victims/survivors of domestic abuse; access to restorative justice; pre-trial support for witnesses; support for victims and witnesses of major crime incidents; and a named caseworker allocated for all referrals.
- Australia: The Australian Government funds consultations with specialist medical practitioners, general practitioners (GPs), psychologists and other allied health practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).
- Sweden: There are several non-profit associations and organizations working with the support and assistance of victims of crime, for example, crime victim hotlines and crisis hotlines for women. Police officers are confronted with not only organizational stressors, such as lack of support from leadership, time pressure, and staff shortages, but also task-related strains, such as potential violence, threats, and exposure to unknown situations and interpersonal conflicts, which have been established since the infancy of police-related research.
- Germany: Germany is renowned for its precision and excellence in medical treatments, which extends to its mental health care services. With a blend of innovative therapies, Germany offers a holistic approach to mental health, focusing on both physical and psychological.
- Lebanon: The project Support to community policing in Lebanon, seeks to shed light on the issue of mental health in the security forces. They support the Lebanese police in order to implement a preventive and psycho-



educational strategy with psychological tools and methodologies to prevent, protect and resolve possible stress situations.

- Spain: Spain has a compensation program for victims of terrorism and other crimes in which the victim suffers serious bodily or mental injury or death. Citizens of a foreign country who are in Spain legally on the date of the crime are eligible to apply for compensation if their country of nationality provides similar assistance to Spanish nationals.
- France: Many such organizations exist in France to help victims of crime, both with victim counseling and with legal advice. The American Citizen Services offices in the U.S. Embassy in Paris and Consulate General in Marseille and Strasbourg can assist in accessing the local criminal justice system and resources for crime victims in France. Victims of criminal offenses are granted a set of rights that they can exercise in order to meet their needs and defend their interests by the government.

### **III. Conclusion**

The socio-emotional consequences of violent victimization extend far beyond the immediate experiences of individuals; they reverberate through families, communities, and societal structures. The mental health of security forces, criminals and victims of violent crime are urgent and complex. The historical psychological impacts on victims, underscores the need for systemic change. Recognizing the high rates of mental health disorders among these populations, there is a critical need for comprehensive support systems that include access to mental health care, training, and resources.

### **IV. Essential Questions**

1. What are the main impacts and causes of the mental issues of police, victims, and criminals?



2. What are the most effective strategies for implementing mental health support programs within security forces?
3. What are the main factors contributing to the mental issues in criminals?
4. How can programs be implemented to address the different mental problems of victims?
5. What role can INTERPOL do facilitating training programs on mental health?

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