

The logo for the New York City Bar, featuring the text "NEW YORK CITY BAR" in a serif font, centered between two horizontal blue bars.

NEW YORK  
CITY BAR

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION<sup>1</sup>  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF DRUGS AND CRIME**

**REDUCING REOFFENDING THROUGH  
REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

Recidivism and the evidentiary tendency of convicted criminals to reoffend is a global issue for society. The need for rehabilitation to ensure a formative reintegration into society and to prevent re-offenders from committing crimes is imperative and necessary.

Although the prison system in the United States of America is far from perfect and there is significant variation among municipal, state and federal systems and among individual facilities, the better-run systems and facilities provide evidence-based treatment to their incarcerated populations. The ultimate objective is to reduce the ills of recidivism as people who have been incarcerated return to their communities. Offenders are subsequently assessed to determine their medical condition, family needs, educational level and mental health; there are reentry programs that are quite effective in aligning with the purposes of reentry for incarcerated people. Through steadfast caring staff, many offenders are offered effective post-release services and emotional support.

We are of the belief that it is vital to offer formerly incarcerated offenders the ability and means to lead fulfilling and meaningful lives. Upon release, it is of the utmost importance to provide case management, personal coaching, recovery support, and referrals for substance abuse treatment and other mental health issues; and to direct participants to mentors as well as provide housing, transportation, and employment resources. The needs of offenders reentering the community are profound, creating a deep desire for services that are gender sensitive and also attuned to the needs of children and youth to assist offenders in their transition into society. A holistic approach to reentry—one that concentrates on the challenges faced by offenders as they transition to civilian life as well as the impact of their return to families is crucial in comprehending that there is no singular uniform paradigm for successful reentry. Utilizing peer support may increase the positive outcome of reintegration post incarceration by preventing relapse of criminal

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<sup>1</sup> The New York City Bar Association, which has been in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1997, is pleased and honored to submit this concise statement to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime.

**About the Association**

*The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has over 23,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world.*

activity such as drugs and domestic violence, promoting swift recovery and diminishing the likelihood of recidivism.

With the goal of upholding the efficacy of the complex integration of incarcerated people, reducing reoffending through rehabilitation with the aid of NGOs ought to be examined within the objective of an international human rights framework, through the scrupulous lens of conforming to the rule of law and adhering to the deterrent principles of the criminal justice system.

In summation, we support the commitment to reduce reoffending, which was clearly expressed by the U.N. Member States and is reflected in the “Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the outcome document of the 14th U.N. Crime Congress).

United Nations Committee  
Catherine Van Kampen, Co-Chair  
Sophia Murashkovsky, Co-Chair  
Ervin Nina, Co-Chair

August 2022

**Contact**

Elizabeth Kocienda, Director of Advocacy | 212.382.4788 | ekocienda@nycbar.org  
Mary Margulis-Ohnuma, Policy Counsel | 212.382.6767 | mmargulis-ohnuma@nycbar.org