



## Juvenile Justice Panel website: additional information

### Information about transitional justice<sup>1</sup>

In many contexts children move between the role of being victims / survivors and offenders – particularly when growing up in poor conditions or being disadvantaged due to other reasons, and in contexts of armed conflict and post-conflict.

Juvenile justice is therefore a crucial security issue in post-conflict situations in poor countries. In post-conflict countries there is frequently a steep rise in 'normal' crime following peace settlements, caused by:

- high rates of unemployment
- children and adolescents having participated in the previous armed conflict
- easy access to small arms
- high influx of people to urban areas etc.

This situation may cause severe security problems. It is therefore essential to ensure that reasonable measures are taken to address such problems in order to avoid the treatment of children and young people in conflict with the law in post-conflict situations from becoming a serious human rights concern.

Transitional justice may take a restorative justice approach - for example, *ad hoc* Truth and Reconciliation Bodies may be established along with, to a certain degree, Special Courts and other justice bodies that are set up with a particular purpose or case portfolio in post-conflict situations to provide reconciliation, peace-keeping, peace-building and accountability for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The reconciliation part of the functions of these bodies can take a clear restorative justice approach, and in many situations young offenders will be part of this process.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information provided by UNDP, March 2006.  
[www.juvenilejusticepanel.org](http://www.juvenilejusticepanel.org)