



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 16 calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also envisions transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

In 2012, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. Under the guidance of the Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, the EU can look back on 60 years of peace, democracy and solidarity within its territory. Effective justice systems play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and the EU's fundamental values. At EU level, a number of instruments and mechanisms are used by the Commission to promote and uphold the EU's fundamental values, in particular the rule of law. Nevertheless, crime still remains a threat to European citizens, businesses, state institutions and to society as a whole. In particular, one of the biggest challenges for European societies is corruption, which compromises trust in democratic institutions and weakens the accountability of political leadership. The European Commission has been given a political mandate to monitor the fight against corruption and to develop a comprehensive EU anti-corruption policy. Monitoring SDG 16 in an EU context focuses on peace and personal security, access to justice and trust in institutions. Over the past five years, all the indicators for which data are available show strong progress towards SDG 16.

Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police. Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year; this amount of money could be used to lift those who are living on less than \$1.25 a day above \$1.25 for at least six years. Birth registration has occurred for 73 per cent of children under 5, but only 46 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa have had their births registered. Approximately 28.5 million primary school age who are out of school live in conflict-affected areas. The rule of law and development have a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing, making it essential for sustainable development at the national and international level. The proportion of prisoners held in detention without sentencing has remained almost constant in the last decade, at 31 per cent of all prisoners.

Things to do:

- ✓ Support Choose Love and buy real products for refugees.
- ✓ Speak up! Ask your local and national authorities to engage in initiatives that don't harm people or the planet.
- ✓ Vote! Take advantage of your right to elect the leaders in your country and local community.
- ✓ Find a Goal 16 charity you want to support. Any donation, big or small, can make a difference!
- ✓ Know your rights at work. In order to access justice, knowing what you are entitled to will go a long way.
- ✓ Run for a public post. ¹

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=SDG_16_-_Peace,_justice_and_strong_institutions#Context

<https://www.globalgoals.org/take-action/?id=16>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

