

Perspectives on prevention in and after Corona times: More fire protection and not just fire extinguishers!

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1. Prevention is an attitude. Crime prevention is a sub-area and a thematic sub-case of preventive action.
2. The direction and action goals of (crime) prevention are to be consistently oriented towards the general goal of all preventive thinking and action: human rights.
3. The need for a rational and evidence-based crime policy is more topical and significant than ever, but has it also become more promising? The current Corona pandemic shows: scientific findings from different disciplines and their open discourse are a solid basis for political decisions as well as everyday actions in the personal and social sphere. The interaction between science and politics is just as exciting a field of action as quality-oriented journalism.
4. More than ever, it is becoming clear that prevention attitudes, prevention orientation and prevention planning need new narratives and real tellable prevention stories.
5. Scientific knowledge and findings from most research disciplines and disciplinary sub-areas are highly relevant to prevention. By their nature, they are often provisional and small pieces of an extremely multi-part puzzle and are neither free of contradictions nor directly actionable. The professional and everyday discourse competences need to be strengthened and further developed.

6. What holds our global, national, regional and especially local communities together?
The Corona experiences so far already show: the actually achievable promotions and strengthening of social cohesion are central prevention goals and set the standards for the future.

7. The Corona experiences so far show us the high importance of an intensive engagement, discussion and orientation about with risk and protective factors.
Fortunately, the "prevention language" is gradually becoming more precise and clear. For example, today we speak less of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention approaches and increasingly of "universal prevention" (population strategy), "selective prevention" (risk group strategy) and "indicated prevention" (high-risk person strategy). Phenomena such as "prevention dilemma", "prevention paradox" or "Matthew effect" are fortunately increasingly being researched and must be taken into account in future prevention planning.

8. The changed crime trend since the beginning of the Corona pandemic requires an exact analysis in the light and dark areas in order to derive preventive measures of a general nature as well as for comparable future pandemic events in particular.

9. In particular for the crime areas of domestic violence and child protection, interdepartmental prevention strategies urgently need to be developed, which also enable assistance and support in the case of prescribed restrictions on movement. The very specific impact of certain population groups, for example particularly marginalised persons (groups) as a result of movement restrictions, still needs to be investigated in detail and given corresponding relevance for prevention.

10. The digital revolution is fundamentally changing our everyday lives and the way people live together. Direct effects on the prevention of violence and crime are obvious. New phenomena are emerging that require new answers. Established assessments - from criminal law classification to the appropriate prevention strategy - are not (yet) available in many places. Many things are open, which is accompanied by uncertainties and fears. There are also various opportunities that need to be recognised and used. Thus, it was noticeably about time that the 25th German Prevention Day dedicated itself in detail to prevention in the digital world in order to approach a vision of "Smart Prevention".

11. The push for digitalisation and especially digital communication in all areas of life triggered by the Corona pandemic requires a preventive basis in the areas of data security, data law and data protection. The very broad and controversial debates on (inter)national Corona apps show both the need and the necessity of corresponding discourses.

12. Numerous and different experiences in the first weeks and months of the Corona crisis show how important it is to anchor children's rights in the Basic Laws and how, from a preventive point of view, it is essential that politics, society and business are much more committed to children's interests, targeted support for disadvantaged children and child protection in the future. Countless studies and research results emphatically prove this.

13. Also in terms of (crime) prevention, nature and climate protection urgently need to be put on the (inter)national political and economic agendas with the experience already available from the Corona crisis. Only in this way can dramatic poverty, refugee and crime developments as an (un)indirect consequence of threatening climate developments be recognised and prevented in time.

14. The global expert knowledge from the field of medicine (namely the sub-disciplines of public health, virology, immunology, etc.) shows the special importance of evidence-based research and science for humanity in the Corona pandemic. It is to be wished and hoped that very soon the already existing complex knowledge from the disciplines of criminology, crime prevention and various social and societal sciences with comparable influence on a rational and evidence-based crime policy will actually be used and not be largely inconsequential in coalition agreements. In concrete terms, there will hopefully soon be the starting signal for the sustainable establishment of periodic security reports in Germany.
15. In Corona times, it becomes very clear that prevention is not a fire extinguisher, prevention is fire protection. The consequences for new preventive strategies under conditions of relative disorientation include, in particular, a clearer reorientation towards the prevention mode and a turning away from the traditional repair mode?
16. Overall societal prevention strategies now more than ever need the whole orchestra and thus the whole concert. In particular, the central prevention players politics, science, practice, civil society and also the economy are called upon here.
17. Above all, structural reforms and integrated strategies are needed. Behavioural prevention and situational prevention are not contradictory but complementary. Modern prevention only works in an interdisciplinary way and in close cooperation between regional, national and global levels.
18. The central themes and fields of action for preventive action in the near future are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, which are to be achieved supranational by 2030.
19. Above all, with the experience of the Corona pandemic behind it, (crime) prevention needs interdisciplinary strategy development at the levels of the municipalities, the federal states and the federal government. A corresponding prevention plan must therefore be anchored and implemented as a concrete instrument.

20. Future prevention concepts must consistently promote more social solidarity.

Internationally, the Corona crisis is currently showing the dramatic effects of poverty and social inequality and the consistency and sustainability with which we must plan, discuss and act preventively for society as a whole.

21. Crime prevention understood in this way pays off and can help save considerable follow-up and repair costs. Relevant research results on corresponding cost-benefit calculations have been available for many years. Crime prevention is thus also systemically relevant in a specific way and a central aspect of sustainable social policy, which must also be correspondingly structurally and financially secured.

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