



Committee: CCPCJ

Topic: Improving vulnerable people access to justice, including a fair trial

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CCPCJ is The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and was established by ECOSOC resolution in 1992. It's one of the main branches of the United Nations, and coordinates with other UN bodies in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. It's the preparatory body of the United Nations Crime Congresses. CCPCJ is in charge to implement into concrete action, decisions and resolutions. Every year, at the end of the year, CCPCJ meets in a session too recognize administrative values as the governing body of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice program.

What do we mean by a "vulnerable person"? By a vulnerable person we are referring to children, poor people, women, the elderly, or simply just people with any kind of disability. It is difficult for them to transmit or say what they mean and want to say, mostly because they feel overwhelmed by the question the attorneys are asking them or sometimes they take advantage of their difficulties to make them sound as if they weren't telling the truth and to confuse them as they speak. It is hard for vulnerable people to have a fair trial or, to be fair in the justice system because policeman or the ones in charge to take those trials don't have the requirements or the education you need to have in order to be able to take this case and be successful at them. It's hard for those types of people to take their ideas straight.

By a vulnerable person we can also be talking about the ones that don't have enough money to pay for the attorneys because they are in disadvantage with society, maybe because of their geological situation, financial position, among others. That being said, you need or it's most likely for people to take or support your case if you have a certain level of economy or education and as we know for people with disabilities is more difficult to be socially involved like everyone else in the society.

There was this case about a mother named Melissa Cunningham and her youngest child Pete, who had a disability; He started stealing electronic devices from stores and was arrested several times, but when the officers of justice professionals asked him questions

or told him to tell his version it was hard because of the disability, he had”“At one point I practically lived in police stations” “We kept saying that he’s got problems and that he doesn’t understand what they are saying. He was vulnerable.” (C. Melissa, 2018).

They later on discovering he had a learning disability and a personality disorder which made him hard to understand what he was doing was wrong, that is why he kept doing it, when he reaches his 20 a judged realize he was dealing with this and gave him and his family the treatment he needed.

Some of the solutions that had been already implemented or that are trying to be implemented are:

- “Liaison and diversion which is a system that works in identifying and supporting vulnerable people in the justice system, like giving them appropriate services. This is only implemented in half of England.
- There are registered intermediaries that have supported at least 6000 people to give evidence in a way the court or the ones going over the case could understand, most of them are communication specialist teachers, speech and language therapists, mental health nurses, and psychologists which also make sure the questions asked to the vulnerable people are understandable. This is also in England and they are around 135 people.
- There is already a plan called “Disability justice plan (DJP)” in which reforms have already made improvements in the justice sector in South Australia and are creating changes in the law for vulnerable people.

Some viable solutions that can be implemented are:

- Giving funds to the intermediaries so they can amplify their work to other parts of the world.
- Raise awareness of the treatment these people are receiving, meaning that they are not having equal or fair trials like other people, so that the ones involved in the justice system can be more sensitive about this case and give them what they need for their evidence to be more understandable to juries.
- Train people involved in the justice system, starting from public ministers to judges, like in sign language, symbol communication or teach them eye-blink technology with people who can no longer speak.
- Have a psychology system in which vulnerable people can be evaluated and can be instructed in the knowledge of legal language, more now that we are having the modernity to have oral judgements.

Helpful Questions:

- How is vulnerable people treated injuries?
- How much is the percentage of people with difficulties in jail?
- What is considered a fair trial?

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