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Comparative Legal Perspectives on the Forms and Methods of Early Crime Prevention: Evidence from Selected Foreign Jurisdictions

N. A. Muminov
Responsible Officer, Yangi Hayot District Administration, Tashkent City, Republic of Uzbekistan

A B S T R A C T
This article examines contemporary foreign approaches to early crime prevention through a comparative legal, criminological, and behavioral analysis. The study focuses on public participation mechanisms, digital crime reporting platforms, community-based prevention programs, and restorative justice models implemented in selected foreign jurisdictions. The findings demonstrate that effective crime prevention increasingly depends on the integration of legal regulation, technological innovation, and behavioral incentives aimed at fostering cooperation between the state and society. Particular attention is paid to transparency, victim-centered data collection, and restorative approaches as key factors in reducing latent crime and preventing recidivism. Based on international experience, the article proposes practical recommendations for enhancing national crime prevention policy through participatory and preventive models.

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Introduction

Crime prevention has undergone a fundamental transformation in recent decades, shifting from a predominantly punitive paradigm toward early, preventive, and socially oriented models of intervention. In modern legal systems, the effectiveness of crime control policies is increasingly assessed not by the severity of punishment, but by the state's capacity to prevent criminal behavior at its formative stage through institutional transparency, public participation, and behavioral regulation.

Despite ongoing reforms, many national systems continue to face persistent challenges, including latent crime, limited civic engagement, insufficient access to crime-related information, and weak integration of technological and behavioral tools into preventive strategies. These challenges significantly reduce the preventive potential of criminal law and undermine public trust in law enforcement institutions.

Against this background, the study of foreign experience in early crime prevention acquires particular importance. International practice demonstrates that sustainable crime reduction increasingly relies on a combination of legal mechanisms, digital technologies, community-based initiatives, and behavioral incentives designed to encourage cooperation between the state and society.

The purpose of this article is to conduct a comparative legal and criminological analysis of selected foreign models of early crime prevention, with particular attention to public participation, technological platforms, victim-oriented approaches, and restorative justice mechanisms. The study aims to identify best practices that may be adapted to the national legal system in order to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and strengthen the preventive function of criminal law.

Methodology

The research is based on a combination of comparative legal analysis, criminological assessment, and behavioral law methodology. The study examines normative acts, policy documents, and practical models

implemented in selected foreign jurisdictions, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Georgia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, and South Africa. Special attention is paid to institutional design, public participation mechanisms, and behavioral incentives influencing compliance and cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

The examination of foreign experience in combating crime is widely regarded as one of the most effective means of improving national crime prevention policies. By carefully adapting and implementing proven international practices, states are able to strengthen the overall effectiveness of their criminal justice systems while taking into account domestic legal traditions and socio-cultural realities. In this sense, comparative analysis does not merely serve an informative function, but becomes a practical tool for shaping modern and responsive crime prevention strategies.

In recent years, many foreign countries have increasingly relied on advanced digital technologies in the field of crime prevention. From a criminological standpoint, such innovations facilitate early intervention, enhance situational crime prevention, and reduce the level of hidden crime by increasing institutional transparency and public confidence in law enforcement bodies. A notable example can be found in Canada, where the CityProtect digital platform has been introduced as an integral element of preventive policy[1].

Through the CityProtect system, every crime-related report submitted by citizens can be monitored online in real time. Individuals are able to follow the progress and outcome of their reports, while law enforcement agencies regularly publish updated information on areas identified as crime "hot spots." This level of openness not only improves communication between the public and state authorities, but also promotes a sense of shared responsibility for public safety.

From the perspective of criminal law, the use of such digital tools reinforces the preventive function of legal norms by increasing the certainty and visibility of state response to criminal behavior. The awareness that offences are promptly registered, monitored, and addressed contributes to general deterrence, as potential offenders perceive a higher likelihood of detection and legal consequences.

At the same time, Behavioral Law theory helps to explain the broader social impact of platforms such as CityProtect. By reshaping the informational environment in which individuals make decisions, these systems influence behavior in subtle yet significant ways. Easy access to crime-related information, combined with transparent feedback mechanisms, encourages law-abiding conduct and motivates citizens to actively cooperate with law enforcement agencies. As a result, compliance with the law is driven not only by fear of punishment, but also by trust, predictability, and a growing sense of civic engagement.

Overall, the Canadian experience demonstrates that the integration of digital technologies into crime prevention policies should be viewed not simply as a technical upgrade, but as a comprehensive legal and criminological approach. Such an approach strengthens early prevention mechanisms, enhances institutional accountability, and fosters a proactive partnership between the state and society in addressing crime.

In the Republic of Georgia, the reform of police services has been accompanied by the systematic introduction of information and communication technologies aimed at improving operational efficiency and institutional accountability. For this purpose, the Service Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was established as a specialized body responsible for providing technical support to law enforcement units. Within this framework, patrol officers and service vehicles were equipped with GPS tracking devices, enabling continuous monitoring of personnel deployment and movement in real time[2]. From a criminological perspective, the use of GPS technologies enhances situational crime prevention by optimizing patrol coverage, reducing response times, and increasing the visibility of police presence in public spaces. Such measures contribute to the deterrence of criminal behavior and improve the effectiveness of preventive policing, particularly in high-risk areas. A similar technological approach has been adopted in the Russian Federation through the introduction of the "Mobile Inspector" software system. This digital tool allows law enforcement officers to transmit information in an online mode while

[1] https://cityprotect.com/map/list/incidents

[2] https://sa.gov.ge/

simultaneously enabling supervisory bodies to determine the precise location of officers performing their duties. The system thereby strengthens internal control mechanisms and ensures greater transparency in police operations[3]. From the standpoint of criminal law, these technological solutions support the preventive function of law enforcement activity by reinforcing the inevitability and timeliness of official response to unlawful conduct. Moreover, Behavioral Law theory suggests that the continuous monitoring enabled by such systems influences both officer behavior and public perception. For police officers, awareness of real-time supervision promotes discipline, professionalism, and compliance with procedural standards. For the public, increased transparency fosters trust in law enforcement institutions and encourages cooperation with preventive initiatives.

Overall, the experiences of Georgia and the Russian Federation demonstrate that the integration of information and communication technologies into police reform processes represents not merely a technical modernization, but a broader legal and behavioral strategy. This strategy aims to enhance early crime prevention, improve institutional efficiency, and align law enforcement practices with contemporary standards of accountability and public trust.

However, in the national context, a number of persistent challenges remain in the activities of sectoral services of internal affairs bodies, particularly with regard to identifying perpetrators of crimes and obtaining timely operational information about wanted persons. These shortcomings negatively affect the efficiency of crime detection and weaken the preventive capacity of law enforcement institutions. In this regard, the introduction of the above-mentioned foreign practices into domestic law enforcement activities may serve as an effective solution, enabling the achievement of tangible results while requiring relatively limited financial and organizational resources.

The analysis of selected foreign states' experience in applying various forms and methods of crime prevention demonstrates that, in most jurisdictions, the essence of combating crime is closely linked to ensuring public safety. This conclusion reflects a broader criminological understanding that crime prevention policies are effective only insofar as they are integrated into a comprehensive system aimed at protecting society as a whole.

At this point, it is necessary to clarify the conceptual meaning of public safety in order to reveal its significance in the fight against crime. In academic literature, one group of scholars defines public safety through the identification of all objects requiring protection. According to this approach, public safety represents a set of institutions and means designed to prevent and eliminate threats to human life and health, material assets, and the environment. Such a definition emphasizes the systemic and preventive nature of public safety, highlighting its role as a foundational element of state policy[4]. Another scholarly perspective, advanced by K. S. Belsky, characterizes public safety as a social environment marked by the absence of religious, ethnic, and labor-based conflicts. This interpretation places particular emphasis on social stability and harmony as key indicators of a safe public order. From this standpoint, public safety is not limited to the physical protection of individuals, but also encompasses the prevention of social tensions capable of escalating into criminal behavior[5].

According to S. I. Girko, public safety, understood as the protection of society from internal and external threats, constitutes a highly significant theoretical and practical problem. The resolution of this problem is directly linked, alongside other social relations, to the formulation of a coherent law enforcement strategy aimed at ensuring public safety at the national level. This position underscores the strategic nature of public safety, viewing it not merely as an operational task, but as a core element of state policy in the sphere of crime prevention[6]. Professor L. L. Popov offers a broader and more complex interpretation of public safety. In his view, public safety encompasses a system of public relations that arises in situations

[3] https://knd.gov.ru/document/mp

[4] Туманов Г.А., Фризко В. И. Общественная безопасность и ее обеспечение в экстремальных условиях // Государство и право. 2019. № 8. С. 21–23.

[5] Бельский К.С. Полицейское право/под ред. А. В. Куракина. М.: Изд-во «Дело и Сервис», 2004. 816 с.

[6] Гирько С.И. Обеспечение общественной безопасности в системе мер защиты личности, общества и государства: состояние, проблемы, перспективы // Административное право и процесс. 2009. № 5. С. 8.

involving objects and activities posing an increasing risk to individuals and society as a whole, as well as in special circumstances such as natural disasters or other emergencies of a social or technological nature. These relations are regulated by legal, technical, and other normative frameworks designed to minimize harm and prevent the escalation of threats. From a criminological perspective, this approach highlights the preventive function of legal regulation in managing risk-prone environments and reducing the likelihood of criminal or socially dangerous behavior under extraordinary conditions[7]. S.V.Stepashin further conceptualizes public safety as a qualitative state of social relations that ensures the stable and consistent development of society within specific historical and natural conditions. He emphasizes that public safety serves as a protective mechanism against threats arising from internal and external conflicts, the content and direction of which may change under the influence of various factors. This understanding reflects a dynamic view of public safety, recognizing it as a continuously evolving condition shaped by social, political, and behavioral determinants[8].

From the standpoint of Behavioral Law, these scholarly positions collectively suggest that public safety is closely connected to patterns of individual and collective behavior. The effectiveness of public safety measures depends not only on formal legal norms, but also on the extent to which individuals perceive protective institutions as legitimate, responsive, and capable of managing risks. When such perceptions are present, lawful behavior is reinforced, social tensions are reduced, and the preventive potential of the legal system is significantly enhanced.

In sum, the theoretical approaches advanced by Girko, Popov, and Stepashin demonstrate that public safety should be understood as a multidimensional legal and social phenomenon. It functions simultaneously as an object of legal protection, a strategic goal of law enforcement policy, and a behavioral condition essential for sustainable crime prevention and social stability.

An analysis of scholarly approaches to defining the concept of *public safety* makes it possible to identify its key characteristics. In this regard, A.Zholdasov proposes a classification of public safety based on several interrelated dimensions.

First, public safety is understood as a state of sufficient (stable) security, characterized by the absence of real or potential threats to the individual, society, and the state. Such a condition fosters a subjective sense of security among the population. Effective provision of public safety enables citizens to exercise their rights established by applicable legislation particularly personal rights within an environment of security and public order. From a criminological perspective, this dimension highlights the preventive value of public safety, as the perception of stability and protection reduces criminogenic risks and discourages unlawful behavior.

Second, public safety is ensured through the coordinated activity of a system of state authorities vested with general and special competences, as well as through the participation of non-governmental non-profit organizations and citizens. In this context, public safety is primarily guaranteed by the state, which bears the responsibility to adopt extraordinary, special, and temporary measures whenever situations arise that pose a threat to protected interests. From the standpoint of criminal law, this reflects the state's duty to activate enhanced protective mechanisms in response to heightened risks, thereby reinforcing the principle of inevitability of lawful intervention.

Third, the effectiveness of ensuring public safety is closely dependent on the existence of public order. Without maintaining a stable public order, it is not possible to provide a high-quality level of safety for the population. Consequently, this necessitates the creation of a solid normative legal framework regulating public relations in the sphere of public safety. Such a framework serves as a structural foundation for preventive activity, aligning law enforcement practice with clearly defined legal standards.

Fourth, the provision of public safety is regulated by a specific system of legal norms. This feature indicates that the protection of the population from unlawful encroachments and various threats is carried out on the basis of the rule of law. It should be emphasized that legal norms play a particularly significant

[7] Административное право/под ред. Л.Л.Попова. М.: Юрист, 2002. 699 с.

[8] Степашин С.В. Теоретико-правовые аспекты обеспечения безопасности в Российской Федерации: дис. … докт. юрид. наук. СПб., 1994. 246 с.

role in regulating a substantial range of public relations related to public safety in emergency situations. These norms define, inter alia, the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, the permissible limits of citizens' behavior in the sphere of public safety, and the temporary obligations imposed on natural and legal persons to ensure safety. In addition, legal norms determine the types of unlawful conduct, thereby establishing an exhaustive list of actions that constitute encroachments upon public safety, both under ordinary living conditions and in emergency circumstances[9].

From the perspective of Behavioral Law, the normative regulation of public safety shapes behavioral expectations by clarifying permissible and prohibited conduct, especially in situations of increased risk. Clear and predictable legal boundaries contribute to voluntary compliance, enhance trust in public institutions, and strengthen the overall preventive effect of the legal system.

In sum, Zholdasov's classification demonstrates that public safety represents a multidimensional legal phenomenon encompassing objective security conditions, institutional responsibility, normative regulation, and behavioral influence. Taken together, these elements underscore the central role of public safety in the system of crime prevention and in ensuring the sustainable development of society.

From this perspective, ensuring public safety and elevating the quality of crime prevention to a new level may be effectively supported through the development of an online platform designed for rapid communication and immediate crime reporting at the neighborhood level. Such a platform could be introduced on a pilot basis in selected regions as an analogue to widely used international solutions, including *Nash Gorod* (Russia), *Boston 311* (United States), and *E-people* (Republic of Korea). The platform would be intended to facilitate direct and operative interaction between traffic safety and public order services, preventive inspectors, and units of the National Guard.

In practical terms, the platform should incorporate an interactive territorial map displaying the locations and operational details of on-duty officers, as well as a function for submitting reports on criminal incidents, comparable to the user interface of ride-hailing applications. In particular, citizens should be able to send urgent alerts such as SOS signals, phone calls, or text messages by pressing a dedicated emergency button within the platform, thereby instantly contacting the nearest law enforcement officer. From a criminological standpoint, such digital tools strengthen situational prevention, reduce response times, and increase the visibility and accessibility of law enforcement services, which collectively contribute to the deterrence of criminal behavior.

At the same time, crimes involving violence within the family remain among the most pressing and latent social problems of contemporary society. Domestic violence is often concealed, underreported, and normalized within everyday life, which significantly complicates preventive efforts. When characterizing the moral and cultural dimensions of preventing domestic violence, it should be emphasized that addressing determinants of a moral and cultural nature must involve both general social measures and special criminological interventions. These measures should aim not only at legal suppression of violent conduct, but also at transforming behavioral patterns and social attitudes that tolerate or justify violence within the family.

The study of foreign experience in this field contributes to the improvement of national law enforcement and judicial practice in preventing domestic violence. In international criminological discourse, this area is commonly referred to as "domestic violence" or "family violence." The global nature of the problem is evidenced by the fact that, in many countries, a significant proportion of violent crimes are committed within the family environment. Such offences are most frequently perpetrated by one spouse against the other, reflecting deeply rooted power imbalances and behavioral norms within intimate relationships.

Empirical research conducted worldwide further demonstrates the alarming prevalence and social acceptance of violence against children. For example, the Hori survey conducted in Germany in 1968 revealed that 85 percent of respondents regarded corporal punishment of children as an acceptable method of upbringing; two years later, this figure declined only slightly, to 75 percent. In the United

[9] Жолдасов А.Ф. Жамоат хавфсизлиги: тушунчаси, таърифи ва ўзига хос хусусиятлари // Academic research in educational sciences. 2021. №12. URL: https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/zhamoat-havfsizligi-tushunchasi-tarifi-va-ziga-hos-hususiyatlari.

States, studies conducted in 1979–1980 established that, annually, approximately 5.7 cases of physical abuse, sexual violence, or cruel treatment were recorded per 1,000 individuals under the age of eighteen. According to expert estimates, between 0.5 and 2.5 million elderly persons in the United States suffer from various forms of abuse each year.

From the perspective of Behavioral Law, these findings illustrate that violence within the family is sustained not only by legal gaps, but also by entrenched social norms and cognitive biases that normalize aggressive behavior in private settings. Consequently, effective prevention requires an integrated approach combining legal regulation, technological solutions for early reporting, and behavioral interventions aimed at reshaping social attitudes. Only through such a multidimensional strategy can the state reduce the latent nature of domestic violence and ensure meaningful protection of vulnerable individuals[10].

Among the factors contributing to violence against elderly persons within the family are the socialization of caregivers in environments where violence is perceived as a normal or acceptable form of behavior, intergenerational conflicts, and gerontological problems associated with aging, illness, and physical or cognitive decline. From a criminological perspective, these factors interact to increase the vulnerability of older persons and to reduce the likelihood of timely detection of abuse, particularly in situations where dependence on caregivers limits victims' ability to seek help.

Crimes against sexual freedom and sexual integrity also occur within the family context, with women and minors most frequently becoming victims. In this regard, the family environment, which is ordinarily perceived as a space of protection and trust, may instead become a setting in which serious violations of fundamental rights take place.

In particular, offences against the sexual inviolability of minors most often involving stepdaughters or stepsons pose a grave threat to their normal physical, psychological, and moral development. Such crimes include sexual intercourse with a minor and other related criminal acts. According to assessments by researchers in the United States, nearly two million American women were subjected to similar forms of abuse during their childhood. These figures underscore the latent and long-term nature of harm caused by intra-family sexual violence.

An analysis of violence-related crimes committed within families in foreign countries reveals that, worldwide, approximately 14,000 women are killed each year by their husbands or close relatives. It has also been established that nearly 40 percent of violent crimes occur within the family setting. For this reason, domestic violence is widely recognized as one of the most serious social problems of the modern era. In academic and legal discourse, this phenomenon is variously referred to as domestic violence, family violence, or gender-based violence.

Domestic violence is considered one of the most widespread forms of crime globally. In approximately 96 percent of cases, women and children are the primary victims. Although acts of violence are committed by adults, the consequences are often borne by children, either directly or indirectly. Observers emphasize that domestic violence occurs in all countries, regardless of their level of economic development, and is recorded across all social strata. This universality highlights the structural and behavioral roots of the problem.

Systematic attention to domestic violence began in the 1960s, when European and American societies started to recognize the need to protect women from abuse. During this period, various civil society organizations were established to provide assistance to victims. A notable example is the creation of the "Battered Women's Movement" in London in 1971, which led to the establishment of specialized support centers for victims of domestic violence. In subsequent years, a number of states adopted specific legislation establishing legal responsibility for domestic violence. Laws aimed at combating domestic violence were enacted in the United Kingdom and Switzerland in 2004, and in Slovenia in 2008. At

[10] https://vpc.org/press/new-vpc-study-analyzes-25-years-of-data-from-when-men-murder-women-for-domestic-violence-awareness-month-in-october/?campaign=14820441548&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqdqvBhCPARIsANrmZhPTKPZycBGa3pGgx53u82sKTP7VhqsDrgGC7BhDsj0p_zEZ7damwa8aAj5-EALw_wcB

present, approximately sixty countries worldwide have adopted dedicated legislation addressing domestic violence, with the experiences of France and Bulgaria attracting particular scholarly and practical interest[11]. From the perspective of Behavioral Law, the persistence of domestic violence can be explained by entrenched social norms, power asymmetries, and cognitive justifications that normalize violent behavior within private relationships. Accordingly, effective prevention requires not only criminalization and legal sanctions, but also long-term behavioral and cultural interventions aimed at transforming attitudes toward violence, strengthening social intolerance of abuse, and ensuring accessible mechanisms for protection and reporting.

When considering systems that differ from national practice, particular attention should be paid to approaches aimed at preventing recidivism. In many foreign countries, effective practices have been developed that seek to preserve the social qualities of individuals who have committed crimes and to prevent the negative influence of a criminal subculture within correctional institutions. To this end, alternative legal mechanisms to traditional criminal justice responses are increasingly applied. Such mechanisms are designed to reduce the criminogenic impact of incarceration while promoting moral rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Unlike the legal systems of many foreign states, the current legal framework of Uzbekistan has historically not incorporated a specific legal and social institution known as *restorative justice*. Nevertheless, restorative justice has emerged globally as a response to new challenges and threats facing contemporary criminal justice systems, particularly those related to recidivism, social exclusion, and the limited rehabilitative effect of punitive sanctions.

Restorative justice is founded upon three core principles. First, it prioritizes the restoration of victims' rights and interests, emphasizing the need to address the harm caused by crime rather than focusing exclusively on punishment. Second, restorative justice recognizes a broader circle of subjects within the legal relationship, encompassing not only the offender, but also the victim and society as a whole. This inclusive approach reflects a criminological understanding of crime as a social conflict that affects multiple stakeholders. Third, restorative justice is based on partnership and cooperation between state authorities and civil society institutions, thereby expanding the role of the community in resolving criminal conflicts and preventing future offending.

From the perspective of criminal law theory, restorative justice represents an alternative paradigm of legal response to crime. Its methods of influence and fundamental approaches to implementation differ significantly from those of the traditional criminal justice system. Whereas conventional criminal proceedings are primarily oriented toward retribution and formal adjudication, restorative justice emphasizes dialogue, accountability, and reintegration. Behavioral Law theory further explains the effectiveness of restorative justice by highlighting its capacity to influence offenders' behavior through moral engagement, acknowledgment of harm, and the rebuilding of social bonds, rather than through coercion alone[12]. Accordingly, restorative justice should be viewed not as a replacement for the criminal justice system, but as a complementary mechanism capable of addressing the underlying behavioral and social causes of crime. By reducing reliance on custodial measures and fostering constructive interaction among victims, offenders, and the community, restorative justice contributes to the prevention of recidivism and supports the development of a more humane and effective model of criminal justice.

In several European countries, particularly in Germany, noteworthy practices have been established that actively leverage citizens' capacity in the prevention of offences and the fight against crime. Under this approach, German citizens who witness any offence, including manifestations of antisocial behavior, are encouraged to immediately inform competent state authorities through telephone calls, SMS, or MMS messages. Based on such reports, prompt preventive measures are undertaken, and the reporting individual is subsequently informed of the outcome. From a criminological perspective, this model

[11]http://m.kun.uz/news/2016/03/25/tadqiqot-jahonda-har-yili-14-mingga-yaqin-ayol-zoravonlik-qurboniga-aylanmoqda

[12] Қурбонов, Ш. (2023). Хорижий амалиёт мисолида рецидив жиноятликни профилактика қилишга нисбатан айрим ёндашувлар. *Евразийский журнал права, финансов и прикладных наук*, *3*(5), 58–62. извлечено от https://in-academy.uz/index.php/EJLFAS/article/view/14060

strengthens early intervention mechanisms and reduces the latency of offences by transforming citizens into active participants in situational crime prevention.

From the standpoint of Behavioral Law, the effectiveness of this practice lies in its ability to lower reporting costs and reshape behavioral incentives. By providing simple and accessible communication channels, the state reduces psychological and procedural barriers to reporting, thereby encouraging prosocial behavior and reinforcing norms of shared responsibility for public safety. The feedback provided to citizens further enhances trust in law enforcement institutions and sustains continued engagement.

Early indications of similar practices can be observed in the national context. On 8 January 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 15, approving the Regulation on the procedure for encouraging the active participation of citizens and public organizations in the prevention of offences and the fight against crime[13]. This normative act marked an important step toward institutionalizing civic involvement in crime prevention.

In addition, by Presidential Decree No. PQ–3528 of 14 February 2018, entitled *"On the Introduction of a Qualitatively New System for Maintaining Public Order, Preventing Offences, and Combating Crime in the City of Tashkent,"* the task was set to develop, by 1 September 2018, a draft Law *"On Citizens' Participation in Maintaining Public Order,"* based on the study of advanced foreign experience[14]. From a criminal law perspective, this initiative reflects a shift toward a preventive and participatory model of public order protection, in which citizens are recognized as legitimate actors within the broader system of crime control.

Taken together, these developments indicate a gradual movement toward a cooperative framework of public safety, in which state institutions and society jointly contribute to crime prevention. Such a model not only enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement responses, but also fosters a culture of legal compliance and civic responsibility, thereby strengthening the long-term preventive potential of the criminal justice system.

Measures aimed at actively involving the wider public in offence prevention are widely implemented in many countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, and Australia. In order to operationalize public participation in crime prevention, a range of specialized programs has been developed and successfully implemented in practice. These include *Neighborhood Watch*, *Crime Stoppers*, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* often associated with the "broken windows" theory and *Safe City* initiatives. Collectively, these programs are designed to enhance informal social control, increase community vigilance, and strengthen cooperation between citizens and law enforcement agencies.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, comparable initiatives have also been introduced. In particular, law enforcement authorities have developed and deployed the *Safe City* hardware and software complex, with targeted measures undertaken to ensure its extensive application in the city of Tashkent. This system is intended to improve urban safety through technological monitoring, real-time data analysis, and coordinated preventive responses, thereby aligning national practice with internationally recognized models of situational crime prevention.

In addition, in Germany and the United States, offence prevention efforts are supported not only by annual unified reports on so-called "index crimes," prepared by federal investigative bodies, but also by regularly published *National Crime Reviews* developed under special programs. These reviews employ data collection and analytical methods that differ significantly from traditional official crime statistics.

[13] Ўзбекистон Республикаси Вазирлар Маҳкамасининг 2018 йил 8 январдаги "Фуқаролар ва жамоат ташкилотларини жамоат хавфсизлигини таъминлаш, ҳуқуқбузарликлар профилактикаси ва жиноятчиликка қарши курашишдаги фаол иштироки учун рағбатлантириш тартиби тўғрисидаги низомни тасдиқлаш ҳақида"ги 15-сон қарори. https://lex.uz/docs/3499747

[14] Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг 2018 йил 14 февралдаги "Тошкент шаҳрида жамоат тартибини сақлаш, ҳуқуқбузарликлар профилактикаси ва жиноятчиликка қарши курашишнинг сифат жиҳатидан янги тизимини жорий этиш тўғрисида"ги ПҚ–3528-сон қарори. https://lex.uz/docs/3556832

Their empirical foundation consists of periodic interviews conducted with large population samples often involving approximately 50,000 respondents representing more than 100,000 individuals.

The primary objective of such surveys is to determine whether respondents have been victims of crimes or offences, while also gathering detailed information on their demographic characteristics, interactions with offenders, reporting behavior (or reasons for not reporting incidents to the police), the circumstances of criminal incidents (including time, location, and modus operandi), and the severity of physical or material harm suffered. From a criminological perspective, these victimization surveys provide a more accurate picture of the real scale and structure of crime, including its latent component, thereby enabling more informed preventive policymaking.

In the United States, victimization prevention strategies extensively rely on models emphasizing the role of community organizations, individual security, and environmental influences on behavior. In several states, the establishment of volunteer patrol groups has led to a reduction in violent crime by up to 30 percent. This outcome illustrates the preventive potential of collective efficacy and community-based engagement in maintaining public order[15]. Another distinctive feature of the United States' approach is the introduction of a system of public incentives for individuals who provide information of significant operative and preventive value. By openly rewarding citizens who contribute to crime prevention efforts, the state reinforces prosocial behavior and lowers the psychological barriers associated with cooperation with law enforcement. From the perspective of Behavioral Law, such incentive-based mechanisms effectively reshape individual cost–benefit calculations, encourage lawful conduct, and promote sustained civic participation in crime prevention.

Taken together, international experience demonstrates that broad public involvement, supported by technological tools, empirical data collection, and behavioral incentives, constitutes a key component of effective offence prevention strategies. These approaches not only enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies, but also contribute to the formation of a preventive legal culture grounded in shared responsibility for public safety.

In the United States, a wide range of incentive-based methods is employed to encourage public participation in maintaining public order and preventing crime. These methods include the free provision of well-designed or prestigious uniforms, the awarding of commemorative badges as tokens of recognition, the organization of free meals and charitable events, and public expressions of gratitude delivered by high-ranking state officials through mass media channels[16]. Such forms of recognition are intentionally visible and socially meaningful, reinforcing the value of civic engagement in crime prevention.

From a criminological perspective, these incentives strengthen informal social control by fostering sustained cooperation between citizens and law enforcement agencies. They contribute to the formation of community-based preventive networks in which individuals perceive themselves not as passive observers, but as active contributors to public safety.

Behavioral Law theory offers further insight into the effectiveness of these practices. Non-material rewards, symbolic recognition, and public acknowledgment serve as powerful behavioral stimuli that satisfy individuals' needs for social status, belonging, and moral validation. By reducing the psychological costs associated with participation and increasing its perceived benefits, such incentives reshape citizens' motivation structures and promote prosocial behavior. Participants are encouraged to internalize law-abiding norms not solely through fear of legal sanctions, but through positive reinforcement and social approval.

From the standpoint of criminal law policy, these mechanisms complement formal preventive measures by creating a supportive social environment in which lawful conduct is publicly valued and reinforced. Collectively, these approaches enable participants to perceive their involvement as meaningful and

[15]The Criminologist – Online newsletter of the American Society of Criminology (США) – http://www.asc41.com/criminologist.html;

[16] Котова Н.К. Виктимологические проблемы криминальной агрессии. – Астана., 2001. – С. 97.

necessary, thereby enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of community-oriented crime prevention strategies.

In the Republic of South Africa, community-based patrol activities involve the paid participation of unemployed individuals. On the one hand, this approach contributes to improving the material conditions of socially vulnerable groups and, as a result, helps to alleviate social tension. On the other hand, by engaging these individuals in active anti-crime roles, the model effectively neutralizes one of the potentially criminogenic social groups. Owing to its positive outcomes, this practice has attracted scholarly and practical interest and is currently being examined in several other countries.

In our view, among the foreign practices discussed above, the United States' model of encouraging public participation in maintaining public order and preventing crime deserves broader implementation in the national context. This model demonstrates significant preventive potential by combining civic engagement with incentive-based mechanisms and institutional support.

At present, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, annual crime statistics are systematically analyzed by region and sector. In addition, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Supreme Court prepare analytical summaries on specific types of crime. However, these materials are intended primarily for internal use and remain largely inaccessible to the general public. This limitation hinders public awareness of state policy in the field of offence prevention and crime control, restricts effective public oversight, and reduces the perceived proximity of law enforcement agencies to the population.

An examination of foreign experience shows that, in the United States and Germany, offence prevention is supported not only by unified annual reports on crime analysis prepared by federal investigative bodies, but also by the regular publication of special *Crime Reviews*. These reviews are openly accessible to the public and provide opportunities for independent data collection and analysis. Their preparation is based on interviews and survey questionnaires administered to representative population samples typically involving approximately 1,000 respondents per 100,000 inhabitants as well as on the identification of victims of crimes and offences. The surveys collect detailed information on victims' demographic characteristics, the nature of harm suffered, and other relevant circumstances.

From a criminological perspective, such victimization-based reporting mechanisms allow for a more accurate assessment of the real scale and structure of crime, including its latent components. From the standpoint of Behavioral Law, public access to crime data enhances transparency, strengthens trust in state institutions, and encourages citizens to engage more actively in preventive practices.

Taking into account that the preparation of annual reports and crime reviews aimed at identifying early prevention challenges and defining priority directions has become an international standard, it is proposed to introduce the practice of preparing an annual *National Crime Review* reflecting the criminogenic situation in the Republic. Such a review could serve as a comprehensive informational platform through which state authorities, local self-governing bodies, and the general public are systematically informed about the national crime situation, the state of public order and public safety, measures undertaken in the field of offence prevention and crime control, and the implementation of tasks assigned to law enforcement agencies, including internal affairs bodies.

The introduction of this mechanism would contribute to strengthening transparency, enhancing public oversight, and fostering closer interaction between law enforcement institutions and society, thereby reinforcing the preventive capacity of the criminal justice system as a whole.

Conclusion

The conducted analysis demonstrates that contemporary crime prevention strategies in foreign jurisdictions are increasingly oriented toward early intervention, public participation, and behavioral regulation. The effectiveness of these strategies lies in their ability to combine legal mechanisms with technological tools and community-based initiatives, thereby reducing the latent nature of crime and strengthening public trust in law enforcement institutions.

The examined practices confirm that public safety functions not only as an object of legal protection, but also as a behavioral condition shaped by transparency, accessibility of information, and citizens'

confidence in state institutions. The integration of digital reporting platforms, incentive-based civic engagement models, and victim-oriented data collection significantly enhances the preventive capacity of criminal justice systems.

The study further reveals that restorative justice mechanisms and alternative legal responses to crime play a crucial role in preventing recidivism by preserving offenders' social ties and minimizing the criminogenic effects of incarceration. At the same time, the analysis highlights the importance of open crime data and regular national crime reviews as tools for informed policymaking and effective public oversight.

In light of international experience, it is proposed to expand the use of participatory crime prevention models, introduce an annual National Crime Review, and strengthen behavioral incentives for civic engagement in public safety. The implementation of these measures may contribute to the formation of a preventive legal culture and to the sustainable reduction of crime in the national context.

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