

**Forum:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
**Issue:** Addressing Criminal Threats against Tourists  
**Student Officer:** Sofia-Maria Kapetanaki  
**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Sofia Kapetanaki, and it is my utmost honour to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the 13<sup>th</sup> PSMUN conference. I am 17 years old and a 12th-grade student at Platon School. My MUN experience started in 9th grade and it has immensely grown since then. I have attended 14 conferences and I am well-versed in a wide range of subjects. I guarantee you will not be disappointed if you decide to join MUN because it is an enjoyable experience.

UNODC is a committee that discusses topics closely related to the theme of the conference which is “Paradox of Progress”. The paradox of progress refers to the concept that the more society moves forward, the more problems are created. In essence, topics closely related to the paradox of progress explain how despite the fact that societies may develop and take human rights more into account, their progress is truly the source of further problems. This is due to the fact that many people view development as a chance to only empower oneself, an opportunity to act in accordance with selfish and harmful intentions for the society.

The following study guide is to guide you upon the critical issue of “Addressing Criminal Threats against Tourists”. It will provide you with an appropriate understanding of the topic. Nevertheless, you are expected to conduct your own extensive research, to have a clear image of your country’s position and policy. Should you have any questions on the topic or need any clarifications, do not hesitate to contact me through my email [kapetanakisophia7@gmail.com](mailto:kapetanakisophia7@gmail.com) .

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference and making unforgettable memories!

Best Regards,

Sofia Kapetanaki

## INTRODUCTION

*“Crime can have a very negative impact on tourism and security in tourism cannot be taken for granted, so it is necessary to make significant efforts to ensure a safe environment for tourists. In order to prevent crime and to create a safe environment for tourists, it is necessary to ensure the cooperation of all stakeholders involved in tourism: the tourism industry, local community, national authorities, police and state agencies.”<sup>1</sup>*

Crime in tourism is a significant problem and increasingly influences the travel decisions of tourists. This phenomenon can severely damage the reputation of a place and hinder the tourism industry. There are many types of crime committed by locals and tourists in tourist areas, the most common being stealing tourists. For this reason, it is important to ensure the safety of tourists and to create basic conditions for crime prevention.

Crime against tourists has negative consequences on both tourists and the host community. Aside from the obvious threats to physical safety, should a tourist become the victim of crime, there are social and emotional repercussions as well. This can include social change, increased crime, and gambling, changes in moral behaviour, changes in family structure and roles, problems with the tourist-host relationship, and the destruction of heritage. The host community/nation may also experience the negative effects of crime against tourists through loss of tourism revenue, costs to the taxpayer through the legal processing of criminals or health care for injured tourists, and a broad range of negative socio-cultural consequences.

Many countries’ economies are heavily dependent on tourism. Besides the undeniable economic benefits, the development of tourism from a sociocultural perspective also has negative consequences such as threatening traditional family and social values, cultural practices with tourism demand, pollution of the natural environment, and crime.

Therefore, anything that deters tourists is a threat to both the tourism industry and the economy as a whole, with crime, public unrest, political unrest, and terrorism being particular concerns for the tourism industry. Crimes against tourists slow down tourism and can seriously undermine a destination's image. As a result, the tourism industry's reputation for crime control and tourist safety is critical to its success.

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<sup>1</sup> Mataković, Hrvoje, and Ivana Cunjak Mataković. “The Impact of Crime on Security in Tourism.” *Security and Defence Quarterly*, War Studies University, Poland, 24 Dec. 2019, [securityanddefence.pl/The-impact-of-crime-on-security-in-tourism,115539,0,2.html#S1](https://securityanddefence.pl/The-impact-of-crime-on-security-in-tourism,115539,0,2.html#S1).

This is necessitated by the fact that tourists pay less attention to safety when on vacation and are more willing to take risks and visit unfamiliar environments. In fact, tourists seek to rest and enjoy their free time. Holidays are generally associated with rest and a break from the negative aspects and events of everyday life. Physical and mental safety takes a backseat while on vacation. This makes them more vulnerable and more likely to be exposed to criminal activity.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Criminal Threat

A criminal threat occurs when a person threatens to kill or physically harm someone and that person is thereby placed in sustained fear for his/her safety or for the safety of his/her immediate family. The threat must be communicated, specific and unequivocal.<sup>2</sup>

### Tourism

Tourism describes the movement of individuals or groups from their usual area of residence to a different locale.<sup>3</sup>

### Terrorism

The calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby bring about a particular political objective. Terrorism has been practiced by political organizations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and police<sup>4</sup>. Tourist terrorism refers to “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives”.<sup>5</sup>

### Victimisation

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<sup>2</sup> “Criminal Threats.” *Murrieta Crime Lawyer Karen E. Lockhart*, [www.attorneykarenlockhart.com/criminal-threats.html](http://www.attorneykarenlockhart.com/criminal-threats.html)

<sup>3</sup> *Relationships between Crime and Tourism - Core*, core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234760495.pdf.

<sup>4</sup> “Terrorism.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 22 Aug. 2023, [www.britannica.com/topic/terrorism](http://www.britannica.com/topic/terrorism).

<sup>5</sup> *Special Report: A Review of the FBI’s Handling of Intelligence Information Prior to the September 11 Attacks*, oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/archive/special/0506/chapter2.htm.

The process of being victimised, either from a physical, psychological, moral, or sexual point of view<sup>6</sup>. In tourism, this applies to crime and gang activities, illegal gaming, burglaries in accommodation, robberies in bars or other places, crimes on public transportation (on buses, subway trains, and airport terminals, among others) as well as terrorism.

### Transnational Crime

Transnational crimes are violations of law that involve more than one country in their planning, execution, or impact. These offences are distinguished from other crimes in their multinational nature, which poses unique problems in understanding their causes, developing prevention strategies, and mounting effective adjudication procedures.<sup>7</sup>

### Public-private partnership

A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is a partnership between the public sector and the private sector for the purpose of delivering a project or a service traditionally provided by the public sector.<sup>8</sup> In the tourism industry this is most likely to happen for economic development reasons, advertisement and upgrading country safety.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the 20th century, tourism became one of the main economic sectors. The industry continues to be prevalent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century too, as it influences a country's economic growth positively. It continues to grow despite negative world circumstances, such as financial market instability, energy crisis, and armed conflict. Simultaneously, tourism has a positive economic impact on the balance sheet, employment, gross income, and production, considering that the share of tourism in global GDP was 10.4% in 2017<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Muratore, Maria Giuseppina. "Victimization." *SpringerLink*, Springer Netherlands, 1 Jan. 1970, [link.springer.com/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5\\_3156](https://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5_3156).

<sup>7</sup> "Transnational Crime." *Obo*, [www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780195396607/obo-9780195396607-0024.xml](http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780195396607/obo-9780195396607-0024.xml).

<sup>8</sup> "Public-Private Partnership (PPP) &nbsp; // ." *Public-Private Partnership (PPP)*, [www.icao.int/sustainability/pages/im-ppp.aspx](http://www.icao.int/sustainability/pages/im-ppp.aspx).

<sup>9</sup> "Jica Economic Development Department; Building Resilient Tourism Industry - from Readiness for Disasters and Crisis Risks to Post-Crisis Recovery -." *JICA*, [www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/types\\_of\\_assistance/tech/projects/activities/activities\\_37.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/tech/projects/activities/activities_37.html).

Furthermore, tourism is, directly or indirectly, connected with over 313 million jobs, or 4.2% of all jobs in the world<sup>10</sup>. This industry is truly a major driver of economic growth and development in some developing countries because it stimulates new economic activities. Tourism is often considered a key business in many countries, and one that is particularly desired due to its low energy use and pollution. According to the World Tourism Organization, the tourism industry accounts for 6% of total global exports and 10% of total employment<sup>11</sup>.

However, as the tourism development projects expanded to attract more tourists, the host community reacted to the excessive tourism activities which hampered their lives. Consequently, over-tourism or excessive tourism led to conflicts between the local community and tourists.<sup>12</sup>

Although the impact of economic activity on crime has been extensively studied, only a few studies have examined the impact of crime on economic activity. These studies typically concentrate on narrow geographic places. Many studies state that the high crime rate is in areas with low income. However, research findings that concentrate on a single location may not be generalizable. Another issue that makes evaluating the impact of crime on international travel problematic is the lack of comparable crime measures between countries.

Often, the increase in crime in tourist destinations is linked to deeper socioeconomic issues. These create an image of insecurity that directly or indirectly influences decision-making and destination selection. Indeed, tourists seek to rest and enjoy their leisure time, considering that vacation is often associated with tranquillity and escape from the negative aspects and events of daily life. During holidays, physical and psychological safety becomes a secondary concern for many. This increases their vulnerability and exposure to criminal activity. To understand the relationship between crime and tourism, one must realise that it goes beyond a simple sense of opportunism.

The strength of the country's economy and welfare system also plays a role in the country's security. Stability in this context can be defined in two ways: political stability and economic stability. A lack of stability in either of the aforementioned domains, let

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<sup>10</sup> Mataković, Hrvoje, and Ivana Cunjak Mataković. "The Impact of Crime on Security in Tourism." *Security and Defence Quarterly*, War Studies University, Poland, 24 Dec. 2019, [securityanddefence.pl/The-impact-of-crime-on-security-in-tourism,115539,0,2.html](http://securityanddefence.pl/The-impact-of-crime-on-security-in-tourism,115539,0,2.html).

<sup>11</sup> *Crime and International Tourism - Auburn University*, [cla.auburn.edu/econwp/Archives/2014/2014-01.pdf](http://cla.auburn.edu/econwp/Archives/2014/2014-01.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> "Overtourism Conflicts and Their Resolution." *Overtourism Conflicts and Their Resolution | Emerald Insight*, [www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83909-706-520211011/full/pdf](http://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83909-706-520211011/full/pdf).

alone both, can be dangerous, as historical precedent has shown. Without security, there can be no sustainable economic growth. Experience has taught us that the opposite is also true: chronic and widespread poverty may compromise a country's overall stability. Peace and security are essential for the growth and development of the tourism industry. They create a sense of trust and safety for both domestic and international passengers, luring them to destinations and allowing them to explore without continual concern.

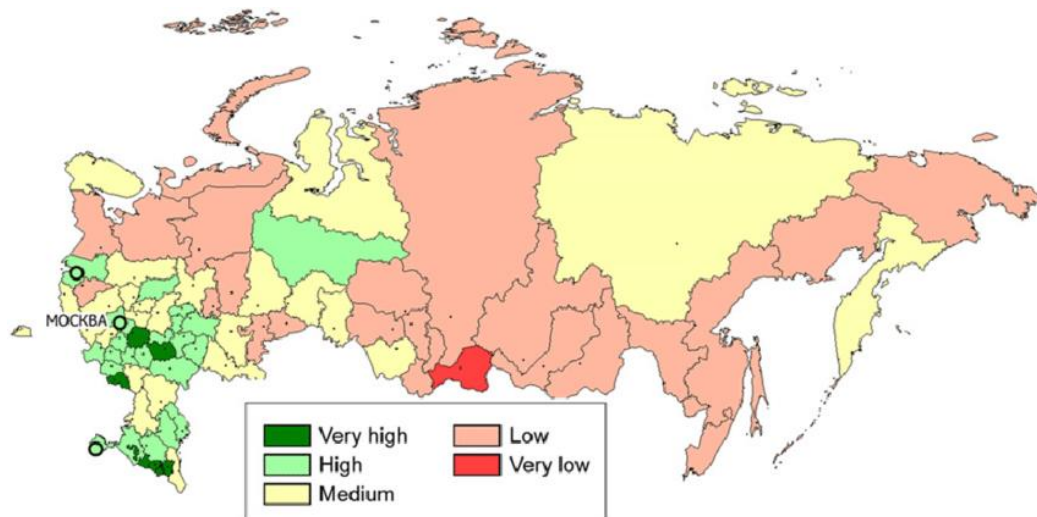


Figure 1: Risk Level for Tourists Related to Criminal Threat. *The Territory of the Country as an Object of Tourist ...* - ResearchGate, [www.researchgate.net/profile/Oleg-Afanasiev/publication/344156720\\_The\\_Territory\\_of\\_the\\_Country\\_as\\_an\\_Object\\_of\\_Tourist\\_Safety\\_Global\\_Practice\\_and\\_the\\_Case\\_of\\_Russia/links/61ef0b4ac5e3103375ba126a/The-Territory-of-the-Country-as-an-Object-of-Tourist-Safety-Global-Practice-and-the-Case-of-Russia.pdf](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Oleg-Afanasiev/publication/344156720_The_Territory_of_the_Country_as_an_Object_of_Tourist_Safety_Global_Practice_and_the_Case_of_Russia/links/61ef0b4ac5e3103375ba126a/The-Territory-of-the-Country-as-an-Object-of-Tourist-Safety-Global-Practice-and-the-Case-of-Russia.pdf). Accessed 25 Aug. 2023.

It has been observed that crises that have a significant impact on tourism are mainly driven by non-sectoral developments such as terrorism and security threats, health issues, and natural disasters. Although the long-term effects may be minimal, in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster, tourists tend to be discouraged from visiting the affected area. This can cause a chain reaction leading to closures and layoffs in tourism businesses, which, in turn, can impact entire local communities. These crises include, but are not limited to, climate change, over tourism, COVID-19, poaching, wildlife decline, and safety.

There are also two other important factors that lead to tourist victimisation, such as ethnicity, choice of accommodation type, age, travelling alone or with others, and gender, and nationality, among other factors. It should further be noted that studies on the relationship between crime and tourism seasonality have concluded that crimes such as thefts, robberies, kidnappings, and murders increase dramatically during 'high season' periods when compared to other times of the year.

## Historical Background

Travel has always involved some degree of risk and danger. Assault, robbery, and persecution were the acknowledged risks of venturing beyond one's home territory and the borders of "civilization". However, historically, as far back as biblical times, there have been injunctions to care for and behave to sojourners with honesty. One of the main effects arising from the establishment of the various empires throughout history was the improved security for travel, especially trade.

Security in tourism is not only a question of the postmodern age, since people have always faced certain forms of danger and uncertainty on their journeys. However, mass travel and mass tourism are new phenomena connected with the late 20th century. This is due to the fact that travel was limited to those who were very rich or to those who had to travel due to the nature of the work (e.g. sailors or soldiers) in the period prior to the 1950s. Bearing in mind that tourism became more accessible to the general public in the 20th century, as social mobility and overall revenue increased, tourism grew to be one of the most important economic branches in a high-speed manner.

Today, the protection of tourists remains crucial for all host communities as well as the visitors. Destinations that are perceived by tourists to be too dangerous or unstable can experience severe downturns in visitor numbers. In recent years, people have paid more and more attention to travel safety and travel risks. Tourism risk perception is a quantitative assessment of tourism security. The inevitability of tourism risks requires that tourists have a certain level of knowledge of the destination environment.

## Tourists as the chosen target

Tourists are the chosen target since, in general, they carry big sums of money or other valuables and frequently do so in public and in a casual manner. Tourists are also easily identified by their clothing, transfer potentially stolen items and are only temporary visitors. Although theft is the most common crime committed against tourists, they are also subject to physical and sexual assault, credit card fraud, and scams.

Because of these potentially negative effects, businesses and governments involved in tourism, and those destinations reliant on tourist flows of visitor income have come to recognise the need to ensure the safety of tourists to their regions. Additionally, the need to empower tourists and reduce their anxiety about becoming the victims of crime when travelling is also an area that warrants attention.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, as tourists' numbers grow, so too can local hostility toward tourists, thereby increasing

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<sup>13</sup> *Relationships between Crime and Tourism - Core*, [core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234760495.pdf](http://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234760495.pdf).



the chances that they will be cheated, robbed, or assaulted. Terrorist or other groups may specifically target tourists, singling them out for hostage-taking or even murder.<sup>14</sup>

## Case studies

### The Case of New Orleans

The New Orleans tourism industry has had steady expansion over the last decade, highlighted by the construction of new attractions, hotels, first-class conference facilities, and, most recently, the inclusion of gambling to the recreational mix. Tourism jobs currently account for 16% of the city's employment, up from 7% ten years ago.<sup>15</sup> Tourism is predicted to have an economic impact of US\$3.5 billion. However, this successful economic sector is increasingly under threat from criminality. Indeed, New Orleans has a murder rate eight times higher than the national average and five times that of New York City, with 76 murders per 100,000 residents.<sup>16</sup> Despite the fact that the problem has existed for numerous years, the tourism sector and local administration have consistently denied the possibility of negative consequences. Tourism is expanding: the convention centre is undergoing a third phase extension, 3,000 hotel rooms are being added to the current 25,000, and plans for a family attraction theme park are underway. During this period of development enthusiasm, the industry has struggled to recognize the threat and detect tell-tale signals of the effects of crime, namely decreasing revenues.

Even for American standards, New Orleans is a violent city. In 1994, more than 400 homicides occurred in New Orleans. Such figures quickly led to reports of crimes and other issues, such as police corruption, being reported in the national media, resulting in unfavourable publicity for the city. Although homicides are rare in the tourist zone, tourists have been slain in New Orleans, and many have been victims of thefts and other crimes. However, gunshots anywhere in the city hit the front page of the local newspaper and the nightly news, adding to a sense of insecurity felt mostly by residents and, to a lesser extent, by visitors. Residents and visitors are frequently targeted for theft and muggings, even on the streets of the French Quarter. As the media spreads crime stories locally and globally, people perceive the city as unsafe and fear

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<sup>14</sup> "Crimes against Tourists." *ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing*, 8 Sept. 2022, [popcenter.asu.edu/content/crimes-against-tourists-0](http://popcenter.asu.edu/content/crimes-against-tourists-0).

<sup>15</sup> *New Orleans Tourism and Crime: A Case Study - Researchgate*, [www.researchgate.net/publication/232274608\\_New\\_Orleans\\_Tourism\\_and\\_Crime\\_A\\_Case\\_Study](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/232274608_New_Orleans_Tourism_and_Crime_A_Case_Study).

<sup>16</sup> *New Orleans Tourism and Crime: A Case Study - Researchgate*, [www.researchgate.net/publication/232274608\\_New\\_Orleans\\_Tourism\\_and\\_Crime\\_A\\_Case\\_Study](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/232274608_New_Orleans_Tourism_and_Crime_A_Case_Study).



for their protection. To a lesser extent, the New Orleans crime crisis has been published abroad through pieces in journals such as *The Economist* (Murder in the Cities, 1994).

### Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean: A case study of St Lucia

Tourism is Saint Lucia's major source of foreign exchange, with a significant direct and indirect impact on economic activity. As a result, understanding what drives demand for Saint Lucian products is critical in determining future sector performance. Poorly managed tourism causes deforestation and erosion, degradation and depletion of biological variety, disruption of natural habitats, and overconsumption of resources such as freshwater and electricity. St. Lucia's hotel sector alone utilises 17% of the island's energy resources. Poverty, youth unemployment, large-scale migration to urban areas, drug trafficking, a weak educational system, ineffective policing, widespread weapon availability, drug and alcohol use, and the presence of organised gangs are all risk factors for youth violence.

Today, it is typically safe to go around St. Lucia by oneself. Taxis and buses are generally a safe form of transportation for travellers. However, like many major tourist locations, congested areas are attractive targets for small larceny such as pickpocketing and bag snatching.

The study examined the frequency of crime in St Lucia and tourist arrivals from 1996 to 2004 and, then, analysed the data to see if there was a relationship between the two factors. It also looked into the types of crimes committed against visitors and whether they were victimised more than the citizens. The raw police crime data was analysed using secondary analysis, followed by additional statistical studies. According to the study's findings, inhabitants are more vulnerable to crime on the island than tourists. The study also found that property-related crimes, such as larceny and house/hotel breaking, are the most common forms of crimes committed against tourists. Additionally, it was discovered that most of the crimes against tourists are perpetrated in the north, north-western and south-western sections of the island which is where the island's main tourism infrastructure is located.<sup>17</sup>The increased incidence of crime in St Lucia has the potential to have a major adverse effect on the tourism industry, so the study concludes with a number of recommendations based on the research findings as well as what is currently being prescribed in other Caribbean countries.

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<sup>17</sup> *Tourism and Crime in the Caribbean: A Case Study of St Lucia*,  
[www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/11745398.2007.9686777](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/11745398.2007.9686777).

## Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Goal 16 aims at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. All people need to be free from all forms of violence and feel safe in life, regardless of their ethnicity, faith, or sexual orientation.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have devastating effects on a country's development. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation, and torture often occur where there is conflict or absence of law. Governments, civil society, and communities must work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and instability. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights are key to this process, as are reducing the flow of illegal weapons, fighting corruption and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.

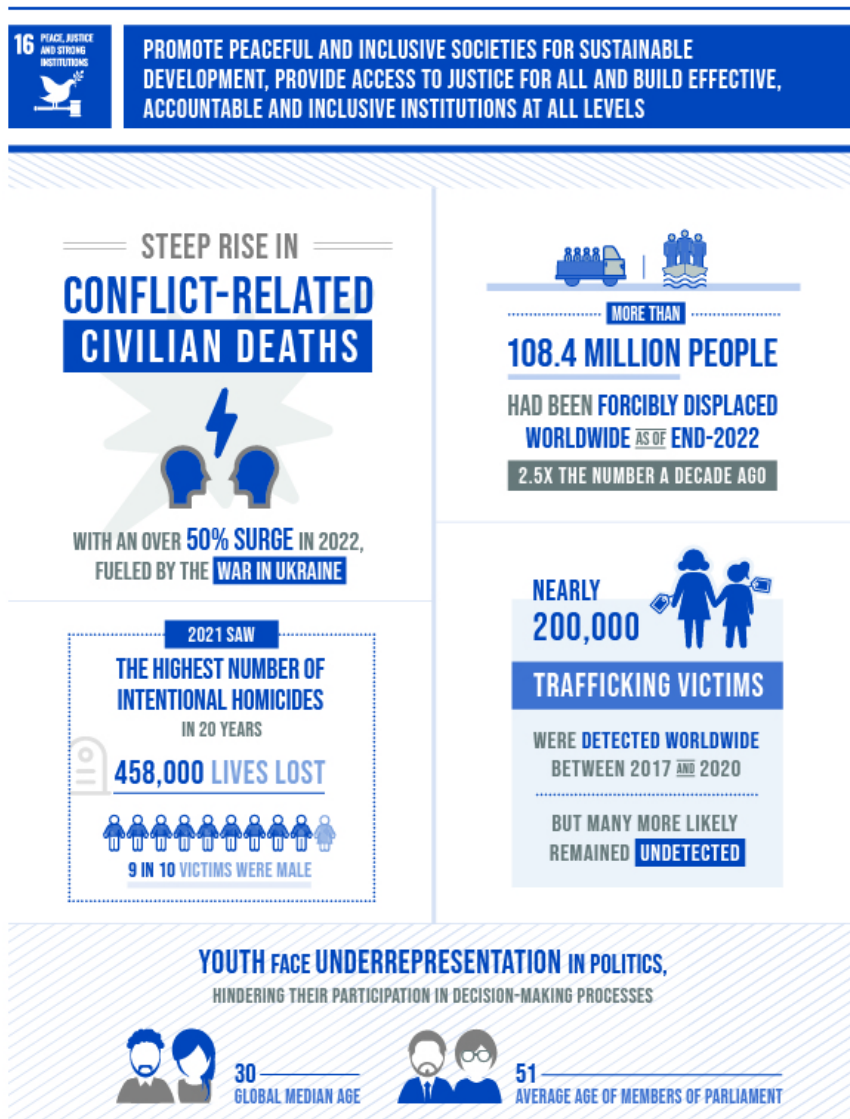
Irresponsible tourism displaces and disempowers locals, leaving disadvantaged communities too often abandoned, exploited by institutions, unjust treatment, and unethical labour relations with little access to justice, harming the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

Tourism has its fair share of injustice, ranging from construction workers building resorts in dangerous conditions to poorly paid hotel workers, bureaucratic ineffective institutions, corrupt officials and organisations, or the stark contrast of unequal conditions in comparison to tourists, to tourism-created price inflation driving locals out.

At its core, tourism relies on multicultural exchange, tolerance, and understanding of — and often proactive interest in — diverse backgrounds. For this, peaceful societies are required. For this to be sustainable, a viable, maintainable balance is required, without violence and conflict. Sustainable tourism *“takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”* (UNWTO). Responsible tourism, in the words of the Cape Town Declaration means *“making better places for people to live in and better places for people to visit”*.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Earth-Changers.com. “How Can Tourism Help the Sustainable Development Goals? #16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions.” *Medium*, Medium, 9 May 2019, [earthchangers.medium.com/how-can-tourism-help-the-sustainable-development-goals-16-peace-justice-strong-institutions-8ab940b48855](https://earthchangers.medium.com/how-can-tourism-help-the-sustainable-development-goals-16-peace-justice-strong-institutions-8ab940b48855).



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2023: SPECIAL EDITION- [UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2023/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/)

Figure 2: Infographic of the 16<sup>th</sup> SDG -Transnational Crime<sup>19</sup>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### Venezuela

Venezuela's ongoing socioeconomic and political crises began during Hugo Chávez's administration and deteriorated under his successor, Nicolás Maduro. It has been marked by hyperinflation, rising famine, disease, crime, and mortality rates, all of

<sup>19</sup> SDG Indicators, Goal 16 Infographic." *United Nations*, United Nations, [unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/).

which have resulted in significant departure from the country. Venezuela has a crime index of 83.76, the highest of any country in the world.<sup>20</sup> In addition to the political and economic crisis that Venezuela is going through, there is also a public security emergency. Violence against civilians is increasing throughout Latin America, but in Venezuela, it is a scourge comparable only to the northern triangle of Central America. According to the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (OVV), in 2017<sup>21</sup>, the country was ranked second regionally and globally (behind El Salvador). This entailed a total of 26,616 deaths in the entire country, although the official figure is lower: 21,752 homicides (70.1 per 100,000)<sup>22</sup>. Further, official statistics minimise the number of violent deaths since the category of homicides is used only for cases where criminal proceedings have been initiated; the thousands of violent deaths caused by a gunshot without a known cause are not included.

The US State Department has issued a Level 4 travel advisory<sup>23</sup> for Venezuela, stating that it is unsafe to travel to the country. The high crime rate in Venezuela is attributed to reasons of this advisory including corruption in the government, flawed justice system and violation of the rule of law.

## South Africa

South Africa has the third highest crime rate in the world. More specifically, the country has particularly high rates of assault, rape, murder and other violent crimes. This is attributed to a number of factors, including high levels of poverty, inequality, unemployment and social exclusion, as well as the normalisation of violence. More than one in four men<sup>24</sup> surveyed by the South African Medical Research Council admitted to having committed rape. The high crime rate, recidivism and overwhelmed criminal justice system in South Africa have been described as a crisis that requires a radical rethinking of crime and punishment for youth. Police visibility, effective training and better resourcing of police stations are government's priorities. Government has prioritised its response to the growing problem of criminal groups that extort money from construction and other businesses.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> "Violence, Corruption and Organized Crime in Venezuela." Peace in Progress Magazine, [www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/](http://www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/).

<sup>21</sup> "Violence, Corruption and Organized Crime in Venezuela." Peace in Progress Magazine, [www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/](http://www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/).

<sup>22</sup> "Violence, Corruption and Organized Crime in Venezuela." Peace in Progress Magazine, [www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/](http://www.icip.cat/perlapau/en/article/violence-corruption-and-organized-crime-in-venezuela/).

<sup>23</sup> Crime Rate by Country 2023, [worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country](http://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country).

<sup>24</sup> Crime Rate by Country 2023, [worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country](http://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country).

<sup>25</sup> "Fighting Crime." *Fighting Crime | South African Government*, [www.gov.za/issues/fighting-crime](http://www.gov.za/issues/fighting-crime).

## El Salvador

El Salvador is one of three countries in Central America's Northern Triangle, along with neighbouring Guatemala and Honduras, all of which are affected by high levels of violence. Organised crime is a big problem in El Salvador, contributing to much of the social violence, with the two largest gangs being MS-13 and Barrio 18. An estimated 25,000 gang members are running hiding in El Salvador, 9,000 people in prison and about 60,000 young people – members of the youth groups – dominate the country<sup>26</sup>. Many gangs also have ties and, in some cases, territorial disputes with drug traffickers. In addition to the gangs, the country's high unemployment and low wages have pushed families into areas where crime is frequent. Property crimes, such as robbery, burglary, and auto theft are the most common ones.

## Jamaica

Jamaica has one of the highest crime rates globally, plagued by government corruption, gang activity, and high levels of violent crime, including sexual assault. Travellers should especially avoid Spain Town and areas of Kingston and Montego Bay. The U.S. Overseas Security Advisory Council describes the Jamaican police force as understaffed and possessed of limited resources<sup>27</sup>. Tourism has made a positive contribution to the economic growth and overall development of Jamaica. However, the rate of violent crime and criminal activity has cost the island dearly.

The negative image and reputation of a violent society can have a lasting effect that discourages visitors to the island. This is especially true in recessionary environments where travellers have less discretionary income and, therefore, more choices in terms of vacations and spending. Naturally, the issues of violent crime and criminal activity reported in the national and international media have not only negatively impacted tourism in Jamaica, but the tourism industry as well.

## Egypt

Unfortunately, Egypt has been the subject of multiple terrorist assaults in recent years, particularly in the Sinai region. Terrorism is one of the major hazards linked with visiting this country since both tourists and locals have been attacked. The ramifications of these heinous occurrences have resulted in a significant drop in travel to Egypt over the years. Visitors must be wary of the potential of petty crime in addition to terrorism. Terrorist attacks are possible anywhere in Egypt. Religious sites and tourism destinations are potential targets. Pickpocketing and larceny are

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<sup>26</sup> Crime Rate by Country 2023, [worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country](https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country).

<sup>27</sup> Crime Rate by Country 2023, [worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country](https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country).

widespread, especially in crowded locations, as they are in the most prominent tourist attractions. There have also been accusations of sexual harassment and assault directed toward female travellers. While these issues, along with petty crime, are not unique to Egypt, they are, indeed, important challenges. Despite the significant security presence, terrorists have carried out several strikes in urban locations, including Cairo. Terrorists have targeted religious sites such as mosques, churches, and monasteries, as well as buses that transport people to these areas. It is critical to emphasise that, despite the foregoing facts, millions of tourists visit this nation each year without incident. This could be attributed to a succession of government initiatives, such as greater police presence and the usage of surveillance cameras. Overall, the country is experiencing an increasing feeling of optimism and stability.

### Denmark

Denmark has a low crime rate that is virtually non-existent outside of the biggest cities. While the risk of incidents such as pickpocketing is present, the danger to tourists is rare. In addition to police visits to schools, the council is dedicated to increasing students' understanding of social norms and attitudes. Students are taught the consequences of delinquent behaviour, and training focuses on problem solving without resorting to harmful activities. By reducing inequality and social unrest, people are less likely to turn to crime or violence. As a small country, it is easier to maintain public order and social cohesion is high. There is no distinction between men, women, elderly, young people, or ethnic minorities. Also, another factor that makes Copenhagen a safe city is its low crime rate. The focus is on early intervention with prevention initiatives. Generally high quality of living, with relatively small gap between high and low income levels, nobody has to resort to crime for survival.

### United States of America (USA)

International travel is important to the US economy. The travel and tourism business in the United States generated \$1.9 trillion in economic production, supporting 9.5 million American employment, and accounting for 2.9% of the country's GDP<sup>28</sup>. International travellers spend more in the United States than in any other country, accounting for 14.5% of global international travel spending.<sup>29</sup> Travel and tourism are America's largest service exports and job creators, currently a minority remain conscious of this because they're intangible exports. International travel and tourism are expected to rise dramatically over the next five years, benefiting the US economy greatly. Tourism contributes greatly to the economy because it affects many different

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<sup>28</sup> *Paper 1 Tourism and Crime in America - Palermo*,  
[www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijsth/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf](http://www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijsth/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> *Paper 1 Tourism and Crime in America - Palermo*,  
[www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijsth/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf](http://www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijsth/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf).

company sectors and increases employment and payroll income.<sup>30</sup>Violence is an epidemic in the USA with widespread consequences. In 2011 alone, there were approximately 1,203,564 violent crimes nationwide, the highest number occurring in large cities (Uniform Crime Report, 2012). It is estimated that the United States spends 15% of its GDP on containing violence. It affects the community in profound ways, decreasing property values, reducing productivity, and increasing health care costs (Center for Disease Control and 7 Prevention (CDC), 2012).

### United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the world's largest and most diverse gathering of policymakers, academics, scholars, intergovernmental organisations and civil society in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The congresses have been held every five years since 1955 in various parts of the world and cover a variety of topics. They have had a significant impact in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, and have influenced national and international policies and professional practices. The Congresses provide a forum for the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> *Paper 1 Tourism and Crime in America - Palermo*,  
[www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijssst/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf](http://www.palermo.edu/economicas/cbrs/pdf/ijssst/5/paper1-Tourism-and-Crime-in-America.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> "Crime Congress - About." United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime,  
[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/about.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/about.html).



## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
7 March 1973	Vehicle bombs are defused at El Al terminal at Kennedy Airport, the First Israel Bank and Trust Company, and the Israel Discount Bank in New York City, members of Black September are arrested in 1991, sentenced to 30 years in prison (USA).
11 July 1988	An attack on the island ferry City of Poros kills nine and wounds dozens. ANO is declared to be responsible <sup>32</sup> (Greece).
26 February 1993	A bomb in a Cairo coffee shop kills a Turk, a Swede and an Egyptian and wounds 20 (Egypt).
18 September, 1997	Nine German tourists and their driver die in a shooting and firebomb attack outside the Egyptian Museum (Egypt).
12 August 2001	A suicide bomber attacks a restaurant near Haifa, wounding 20, Palestine Islamic Jihad is suspected of orchestrating the attack (Israel).
15 December 2020	UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/145 on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” is adopted.
18 December 2020	The EU Council approves of the EU drugs strategy for 2021-2025, aiming to ensure a high level of health promotion, social stability and security and contribute to awareness raising.
15 December 2022	UNGA Resolution A/RES/77/237 on “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular, its technical cooperation capacity”, is adopted.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### The Global Programme for Strengthening Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organized and Serious Crime (GPTOC)

Transnational organised crime requires a coordinated transnational response. While organised crime networks are spreading across the globe, efforts to combat them must also cross borders to ensure that organised crime networks are redirecting their

<sup>32</sup> Nctc. “Historic Timeline: National Counterterrorism Center.” Historic Timeline | National Counterterrorism Center, [www.dni.gov/nctc/timeline.html#1990](http://www.dni.gov/nctc/timeline.html#1990).

activities to other countries. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provisions on mutual legal aid, extradition, transfer of convicted prisoners and confiscation of property make it a practical tool in the field.

The Global Program to Strengthen Member States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Serious and Organized Transnational Crime (GPTOC). The results of the Organized Crime Convention are aimed at combating various forms of serious and organised crime. These goals are achieved through the development and dissemination of tools, assessment and awareness training, and the provision of mentors. The project focuses on international cooperation in criminal and other cross-cutting issues. Project components include establishing and linking regional networks as well as supporting criminal intelligence, covert investigations and witness protection capabilities. This program was quite successful as it helped Member states tackle better transnational crime. It provided technical assistance to States to effectively implement the Organized Crime Convention in order to deal with different forms of serious and organised crime. GPTOC, in cooperation with established witness protection authorities and Europol, supported States in adopting and strengthening policies, procedures and measures to support and protect witnesses and victims.<sup>33</sup> Many countries attempted to cooperate to prevent an increase in crime and awareness training was conducted successfully.

#### [Resolution on “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular, its technical cooperation capacity” \(UNGA A/RES/77/237\)](#)

The resolution regarding “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice program, in particular, its technical cooperation capacity” was adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2022. It proposes alternative strategies to deal with the negative impacts of transnational organised crime on development, peace, stability, security, and human rights, in the face of an increasingly vulnerable States' vulnerability to this crime and to the increasing penetration of organised crime. Organized crime must be fought with full respect for the principle of State sovereignty and in accordance with the rule of law, as part of a comprehensive response to promote lasting solutions through the promotion of human rights and fairer socioeconomic conditions. This resolution was pioneer and actually useful for this issue as it promoted alternative strategies to deal with the negative impacts of transnational organised crime for many sectors. Some Member States aim to adopt a single documentation standard to improve technical interoperability and accessibility of legal documents. Also, the cooperation of the public and private sector played a crucial role in preventing and combating criminal activities, including transnational

organised crime, corruption, cybercrime, and terrorism, particularly in the tourism industry.

[Resolution on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” \(UNGA A/RES/75/145\)](#)

This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2020. This resolution deals with the issue of “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” and can be considered as one of the resolutions globally significant on this issue since it provides clear remedies. Its main objectives include urging Member States to adopt further measures consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant provisions of international law, including international human rights. That means creating standards to prevent terrorism and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. This resolution was useful, however, it did not make any innovative proposals. Many resolutions have been provided on international terrorism, but society remains to face such occurrences. This indicates that the suggested measures were ineffective, and the matter should be revisited. It is critical to strengthen international, regional, and subregional cooperation aimed at improving States' national capacity to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism. Cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking prompt and effective measures to eradicate this scourge.

[Report on “Ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in countering criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector, including by means of public-private partnerships” \(ECOSOC E/CN.15/2013/19\)](#)

The report regarding “Ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in countering criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector, including by means of public-private partnerships” has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/19, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organised crime in all its forms and manifestations”.<sup>34</sup> It summarises the views expressed by Member States and international organisations, including regional organisations, on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of international cooperation in combating criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector, including through public-private partnerships. The report also includes information on identified shared dangers and difficulties, as well as recommendations on how to improve international

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<sup>34</sup> “Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Twenty-Second Session Vienna, 22-26 April 2013 Item 5 (d) of the Provisional Agenda\* Integration and Coordination of Efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Other Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Matters.” *United Nations Digital Library System*, United Nations, [digitallibrary.un.org/](http://digitallibrary.un.org/).

collaboration in combating criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector. This report influenced national policies and practices while also promoting international collaboration in that field by encouraging the exchange of thoughts and observations, mobilising public opinion, and suggesting possible policies at the national, regional, and international levels. Also, donor countries worked with developing countries to ensure full participation in workshops on this problem.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Train police and private security personnel to recognize and address travel-related security issues

Police and private security personnel need to know the specific crime risks that tourists face, the resources available and how to access these resources (e.g., visitor offices, emergency and social services, medical services). It is also necessary to work closely with relevant local associations and agencies, advising property leasing staff on crime prevention techniques and recommending that tourism industry employees (especially those working in security) undergo thorough background checks and face heavy penalties if found guilty of a travel offence. Training security bodies for such cases is very important and needs to be implemented. Residents and even more visitors need to feel safe. Improving personnel's ability and confidence in dealing with the problem through the implementation of high-quality training programs based on established, effective curricula. Police departments or local governments will bear the costs of designing and delivering training. Regular security training is essential for keeping employees aware of security risks. Depending on their position, employees should be trained on specific security measures that pertain to their functions, such as document abuse, counterfeiting, and other forms of fraud. They should also be taught on personal information management, privacy, and IT security. Staff understanding of security principles and practices, as well as the rationale behind them, should be validated. If people lack information or do not comprehend the importance of all security actions to be taken, they may attempt to make their job simpler by seeking shortcuts in procedures. Employees should also be encouraged to submit suggestions for improvements to security measures.

### Develop a strategic plan for tourism safety and security

Establishing common practices, standards and priorities based on current capabilities and needs, receiving feedback, and considering the diverse perspectives of all relevant public and private sector stakeholders is an important first step in developing a comprehensive and integrated safety and security plan. It is important to note that the development of a new safety and security plan may require complements to the

existing plan(s), in line with the overall tourism strategy and vision and balance the mainstream everywhere. Creating new plans is always on the table, although existing plans need development to be more effective. Creating new ones is needed only if the old ones can't be addressed anymore. A security framework encompasses security strategies, rules, procedures, and controls that contribute to a more secure travel document issuance process. The security framework encourages improved coordination, standardisation, and coherence of security concepts and procedures across the company and document chain. The security policies, practices, guidelines, and strategies produced by the security division and that comprise the organisational security framework should be written and documented. The plan might also help local destinations establish tourism safety and security councils. In some circumstances, national tourism safety and security committees may find it useful to produce guides to national rules and regulations for local tourism officials, along with practical instructions on how to follow the procedures. Establishing a database of model programmes, beneficial practices, and trustworthy statistics on crimes perpetrated against tourists will help with the implementation of a safety and security plan. Accurate, unbiased, and trustworthy statistics are critical for enhancing tourism authorities' reaction to safety and security issues. The creation of a national database on tourism safety and security issues will benefit newcomers to the country, help refine national policy, and offer precise statistics about the danger of crime to visitors.

### Promoting public-private partnership

Public-private partnerships are essential to ensure the safety and security of tourists. Through relationships termed “public-private partnerships” (PPPs), private entities and NGOs contribute to financing, management expertise, technology, and other resources which can support the development of sustainable tourism. Investment in the tourism industry comes mainly from the private sector. Therefore, it is important to develop a formal mechanism for PPP. This partnership will ensure improved safety and security policies and standards, while striking the right balance between the public interest and the protection of the tourism industry as a business to increase security for the tourism industry. The purpose of partnerships is collaboration, in which partners recognize that their missions are similar and work together to share resources and achieve mutual goals. Common tasks, clearly defined leaders, operational planning, and a shared commitment to supply the required resources are all characteristics of successful collaborative partnerships. Police chiefs and sheriffs should explore formalising their agreements with private security companies. Formalization demonstrates to both law enforcement and private security staff that the relationship is an organisational priority. Law enforcement-private security collaborations typically focus on networking, information sharing, crime prevention, resource sharing, training, legislation, operations, and research and guidelines. Each of these topics has a homeland security and terrorist prevention component. These

collaborations must not only prevent and solve crimes, but also prevent terrorist attacks.

### Improve prevention and resilience against crime in tourist destinations

Tourist destinations can face significant challenges in recovering from acts of terrorism, organised crime, other criminal activities or natural disasters. Therefore, if a serious incident occurs, these destinations may have difficulty attracting the same number of tourists as before. This resource allocation may also involve increased national and international cooperation, as well as the development of resilient institutions and societies, equipped with emergency response teams ready to respond. An effective planning process involving a wide range of public and private sector actors is an essential element in the development of a resilient tourism industry. Building capacity at the local level of government is crucial for transparent resource distribution and monitoring, especially when financial resources, skill levels, and human capability are low. Improving tourism planning knowledge and skills in local government departments, as well as raising awareness about environmental management, leads to a better understanding of tourism needs and effective engagement with destination communities on development priorities and planning strategies.

### Collaboration with the tourism industry to identify and address crime-related issues

Police officers should serve on tourism boards and collaborate with hotel/motel, convention, and visitors' bureaus to better understand tourism-related issues and concerns, as well as to develop cooperative crime prevention programs. Police should supply tourist officials with up-to-date information on local crime. Also, police is a body that could help prevent crime as it is the one that's closer to the residential issues, so with appropriate cooperation it can implement crime prevention programs. In the tourism and hospitality industry, partnerships and alliances play a vital role in driving success and growth. They enable businesses to combine resources, expertise, and networks to offer better services and experiences to customers. Stakeholder collaboration and partnership has the potential to lead to dialogue, negotiation and consensus- building on how tourism should be developed. Important partnerships are developed in tourism to ensure the attainment of a high-quality product.

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