

ICPC's Second Annual Colloquium on Crime Prevention – *Brussels November 2002*

ICPC held its second annual colloquium on November 25th 2002 on Crime Prevention and Youth: What Role for the School. The meeting was very ably and generously hosted by Yves Van de Vloet, Secrétaire permanent à la Politique de Prévention and his staff. M. Van de Vloet also represented the Belgian government and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Minister of the Interior, M. Antoine Duquesne.

The Colloquium was attended by over 150 invited participants: 48 ICPC representatives and guests from 17 countries, and more than 100 participants from Belgium. As an international event, the Colloquium provided an opportunity to look at, and learn from, developments in countries well beyond national borders or regions, and provided opportunities to exchange information on experiences, problems and solutions.



The main purpose of the Colloquium was to discuss the growing range of promising school-based crime prevention strategies and programmes, as well as some of the challenges, and there were four sub-themes:

- Role of police in schools
- Mediation and restorative programmes
- The role of parents and the community outside the school
- Education in the law



The Opening Panel
(from left to right):
Dr Stephen Edwards, Dr Margaret Shaw, Mme Myriam Ezratty,
Mr Yves van de Vloet, Dr Alexander Butchar

Dr Steven Edwards

Vice President, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC, USA.

Overview of National School-Based Crime Prevention in the United States

While there has been a decline in levels of school shootings in the past two years, levels of bullying and harassment continue to rise, and often go unreported. Less media attention and concern with domestic terrorism has resulted in the withdrawal of police school resource officers. In relation to the role of the police, it would be preferable to have a uniformed officer in every school, since this is often the only positive contact between students and the police. Zero tolerance laws and policies remain in conflict with alternative solutions to school violence. School safety centres exist in 16 States, but many communities and policy makers do not want to address the wider societal issues of violence prevention. Schools still tend to operate in isolation from the rest of the community. Crucial components of good crime prevention use a comprehensive strategy, include respect and relationships, youth involvement, meeting parents on their own turf, having small schools. Projects which work include mentoring and after-school programmes - a combination of hard (locks, lights and alarms) and soft (attitudes, beliefs and behaviours) approaches. Planning and evaluation are crucial, as well as involving all stakeholders.
