Open Society Foundations' Crime and Violence PreventionInitiative

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The Crime and Violence Prevention Initiative is a programme at the Open Society Foundations that is premised on the view that violent crime reduction requires an integrated, long-term approach that addresses the root causes and drivers of crime, in addition to traditional law enforcement and criminal justice sanctions. Through grant making and programmatic work, the Initiative seeks to serve as a force to raise the local and international priority of the prevention agenda, catalyze innovation and local government partnership with civil society, increase awareness of good practices, and otherwise mobilize support and resources for appropriate public policy development and implementation at the local level.

VPA focal person



Gene Guerrero

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Gene Guerrero directs the Crime and Violence Prevention Initiative of the Open Society Foundations. The Initiative focuses on supporting civil society organizations and local government in the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to reduce violence. Previously he worked to reduce the excessive reliance on punishment and incarceration in the United States and to promote fair and equal treatment in all aspects of the United States criminal justice system.

Guerrero has served as the director of the Torchlight Campaign at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in Washington, D.C. There, he directed a national legislative advocacy campaign to protect the rights of refugees. Before that, he was the country director of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Namibia. Guerrero also spent many years working in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Washington, D.C. office and as the director of the ACLU Georgia office. Guerrero received his M.A. in History from Georgia State University in the United States.