



working to reduce crime and its impact on people and communities

NIACRO Policy Briefings: Off The Record

NIACRO believes...

Everyone in society, including victims of crime and those who have offended, has the right to be treated fairly.

Helping people who have offended to make positive choices contributes to reducing offending.



NIACRO services:

- **Support children and young people to develop their personal, social, educational and employability skills;**
- **Encourage all service providers and employers to contribute to reducing offending; and**
- **Engage with public representatives and influence the tone and content of media coverage.**

Key messages

1. People should have the opportunity to apply for old and minor convictions received under the age of 18 to be removed from criminal records, as recommended in the Youth Justice Review (2011).
2. A multi-agency panel would consider these applications on a case-by-case basis, ensuring fairness, transparency, proportionality and public safety.
3. Trapping young people in the criminal justice system is not a deterrent and can actually increase crime.
4. Rehabilitation, not revenge: criminal and police records damage young people's chances of accessing sustainable education, training and employment opportunities, therefore increasing their risk of reoffending. Allowing people to fully re-integrate into society reduces crime and makes communities safer.
5. Creating barriers to education, employment or training for young people with criminal records is a poor economic policy and results in welfare dependency.