



civilisation, with a common set of laws, a world currency and a world police force.

### Substance Abuse

Many crimes are committed while people are acting under the influence of habit-forming drugs or alcohol. If people had a real spiritual dimension to their lives they would have no need to use these substances, which cause people to temporarily lose their sense of right and wrong and can permanently impair the intellect.

"It is inadmissible that man, who hath been endowed with reason, should consume that which stealeth it away."

The Bahá'í teachings state clearly that society must use every means at its disposal to prevent the trade in harmful drugs.

### Crimes of a Sexual Nature

These types of crime may have become more common because of the inappropriate importance given to the search for sexual satisfaction, and because of the apparent lack of boundaries in sexual behaviour. The Bahá'í teaching is that sexual relationships should only exist within marriage:

"The Bahá'í Faith recognises the value of the sex impulse, but condemns its illegitimate and improper expression.... The proper use of the sex instinct is the natural right of every individual, and it is precisely for this very purpose that the institution of marriage has been established."

### Proper Treatment of Criminals

Although individuals are encouraged to forgive those who commit crimes against them, society as a whole cannot do this:

"...if criminals were entirely forgiven, the order of the world would be upset. So punishment is one of the essential necessities for the safety of communities."

"The community has the right of defence and of self-protection; moreover, the community has no hatred nor animosity for the murderer; it imprisons or punishes him merely for the protection and security of others."

Although prisons are necessary, they do not prevent crime being committed. The following is from the Bahá'í writings and was written in the early years of this century:

"The communities are day and night occupied in making penal laws, and in preparing and organizing instruments and means of punishment. They build prisons, make chains and fetters, arrange places of exile and banishment, and different kinds of hardship and tortures, and think by these means to discipline criminals, whereas, in reality, they are causing destruction of morals and perversion of characters."

### Preventing Crime

Prevention is required rather than an attempt at containment.

"The communities must think of preventing crimes, rather than of rigorously punishing them."

Moral and spiritual training is required:

"The most essential thing is that the people must be educated in such a way that no crimes will be committed; for it is possible to educate the masses so effectively that they will avoid and shrink from perpetrating crimes, so that the crime itself will appear to them as the greatest chastisement."

"They.... will refuse, though they be dying of hunger, to stretch their hands and seize unlawfully the property of their neighbour..."

A Just Future

A spiritual regeneration of the whole world is necessary for crime to be reduced to its minimum level.

"Divine civilisation so traineth every member of society that no-one, with the exception of a negligible few, will undertake to commit a crime."

When we have a world civilisation based on spiritual values, with a universal economic and legal system based on justice, crime will cease to be the problem it is today.

The text of all these leaflets remains the copyright of Warwick Bahá'í Bookshop. The Bookshop is happy for people to download individual copies for their own purposes. Printed copies can be purchased from the Warwick Bookshop. Individuals or communities wishing to translate or print these leaflets in other countries please contact the Bookshop for permission.

METADATA

Views12202 views since posted 2000-06; last edit 2026-04-18 14:58 UTC;

previous at [archive.org.../warwick\\_law\\_order](https://archive.org.../warwick_law_order);

URLs changed in 2010, see [archive.org.../bahai-library.org](https://archive.org.../bahai-library.org)

Language

English

Permission

editor and publisher

History

Formatted 2000 by Graham Sorenson.

Share

Shortlink: [bahai-library.com/635](https://bahai-library.com/635)

Citation: ris/635

select Collection:

Archives

Articles

Articles-unpublished

Audio  
Bibliographies  
BIC  
Biographies  
Books  
Chronologies  
Compilations  
Compilations-NSA  
Compilations-personal  
Documents  
East-asia  
Encyclopedia  
Essays  
Etc  
Excerpts  
Fiction  
Glossaries  
Guardian  
Histories  
Introductory  
Letters  
Maps  
Music  
Newspapers  
NSA-documents  
NSA-letters  
Personal  
Pilgrims  
Poetry  
Presentations  
Resources  
Reviews  
Scripts  
Software  
Statistics  
Study  
Talks  
Theses  
Transcripts  
Translations  
UHJ-documents  
UHJ-letters  
Video  
Visual  
Writings  
home

[sitemap](#)

[series](#)

[chronology](#)

[search:](#)

[author](#)

[title](#)

[date](#)

[tags](#)

[adv. search](#)

[languages](#)

[inventory](#)

[bibliography](#)

[abbreviations](#)

[links](#)

[about](#)

[contact](#)

[RSS](#)

[new](#)

— [Law and Order: Warwick Leaflets](#) (Used by permission of the curator)