What’s the goal here?
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Why?
Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). People everywhere need to be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

In order to advance the SDGs we need effective and inclusive public institutions that can deliver quality education and healthcare, fair economic policies and inclusive environmental protection.

What needs to be done to address this?
To achieve peace, justice and inclusion,
it is important that
governments, civil society
and communities work
together to implement
lasting solutions to reduce
violence, deliver justice,
combat corruption and
ensure inclusive
participation at all times.

Freedom to express views,
in private and in public,
must be guaranteed.
People must be able to
contribute to decisions
that affect their lives.
Laws and policies must be
applied without any form
of discrimination. Disputes
need to be resolved through
functioning political
and justice systems.

National and local institu-
tions must be accountable
and need to be in place
to deliver basic services
to families and commu-
nities equitably and with-
out the need for bribes.

How does this goal apply
to me, wherever I live?

Crimes that threaten the
foundation of peaceful soci-
eties, including
homicides, trafficking and
other organized crimes,
as well as discriminatory
laws or practices, affect all
countries. Even the world’s
greatest democracies
face major challenges in
addressing corruption, crime
and human rights violations
for everyone at home.

What would be the cost of
not taking action now?

Armed violence and inse-
curity have a destructive
impact on a country’s devel-
opment, affecting economic
growth and often resulting
in long-standing grievances
among communities.

Violence, in all its forms,
has a pervasive impact on
societies. Violence affects
children’s health, devel-
opment and well-being,
and their ability to thrive. It
causes trauma and weak-
ens social inclusion.

Lack of access to justice
means that conflicts remain
unresolved and people
cannot obtain protection
and redress. Institutions that
do not function accord-
ing to legitimate laws are
prone to arbitrariness and
abuse of power, and less
capable of delivering pub-
lic services to everyone.

To exclude and to dis-
criminate not only vio-
lates human rights, but
also causes resentment
and animosity, and could
give rise to violence.

What can we do?

Take a genuine interest in
what your government is
doing. Raise awareness in
your community about the
realities of violence and the
importance of peaceful and
just societies, and identify
how you can pursue the
SDGs in your daily life.

Exercise your right to hold
your elected officials to
account. Exercise your right
to freedom of information
and share your opinion with
your elected representatives.

Be the change – promote
inclusion and respect
towards people of different
backgrounds, ethnic origins,
religions, gender, sexual
orientations or different
opinions. Together, we can
help to improve conditions
for a life of dignity for all.

To find out more
about Goal #16 and
other Sustainable
Development Goals, visit:

http://www.un.org/
sustainabledevelopment