



# The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders – NICRO

## *A pioneer of diversion and offender reintegration*

This NPO, founded in 1910, provides support to over 15 000 individuals nationally who are in conflict with the law. Services are provided to children as young as 10 and adults as old as 60.

Their core services are the following:

- Diversion for offenders of less serious offenses
- Non-custodial sentencing for lower risk offenders
- Ithuba to reduce the likelihood of reoffending

NICRO promotes the use of alternatives to incarceration, attempts to improve conditions in correctional facilities, supports the effectiveness of independent oversight mechanisms monitoring correctional facilities and aims to prevent and combat torture.

Their interaction with offenders is not restricted and extends to their communities and their families. By actively engaging with the community, crimes are prevented and first time offenders do not repeat.

There are numerous cases of successful outcomes including a woman living in an impoverished community who was caught stealing painkillers. She suffered from terrible toothache and could not afford medication. NICRO's diversion programme prevented her from having to face formal criminal justice proceedings and through counselling and other NICRO interventions, she was able to start a small business that supplements her income. Another example is of a Grade 11 pupil who was charged with theft. Through NICRO's intervention he learnt valuable life skills and refrained from any further criminal activities. He received a glowing reference and now works at one of the top 4 leading retail banks. These are but two of the amazing case studies that exist as testimony to the effectiveness of the NICRO run programmes.



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