

Modern Crime Prevention



I am delighted to welcome you to London for the Home Office's second International Crime and Policing Conference.

Over the last twenty years, crime has fallen across the Western world. In the UK and elsewhere, we have seen dramatic falls in 'traditional' high volume crimes, like burglary and street violence. But crime and criminality are changing. The internet and new technology offer criminals, particularly organised criminals, the scope to offend on an unprecedented scale and across jurisdictions. And there is an urgent need to do more to tackle the victimisation of vulnerable people through crimes that have often been under-reported in the past, such as domestic abuse, child abuse and slavery.

There is no doubt that better crime prevention contributed significantly to the sharp falls in 'traditional' crimes in recent years. We must understand what worked previously and apply that rationale to tackle new, emerging or previously hidden crime types. During this conference, I will launch a new Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, which sets out this Government's thinking in more detail. The strategy is based on six key drivers of crime – opportunity, character, the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System, profit, drugs and alcohol – and contains proposals to make crime harder to commit in certain situations or in relation to certain products, and less profitable for criminals. It brings to bear the latest techniques – from behavioural economics to data analytics – and seeks collaboration from a wide variety of partners including government, law enforcement, businesses and the public.

Against that backdrop I welcome you to this conference, which brings together leading experts from around the world in crime and policing, from academic, law enforcement, voluntary sector, industry and policy-making backgrounds. I hope this event will highlight new research, generate ideas, showcase innovation and foster greater collaboration. We held the inaugural International Crime and Policing Conference in early 2015 - and I hope this year's event will be equally successful and enjoyable. I look forward to welcoming you in person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Theresa May'.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary



Home Office