

Principles

The following principles reflect the values and guide the activities of the John Howard Society across Canada.

- 1.** People have the right to live in a safe and peaceful society as well as a responsibility implied by this right to respect the law.
 - 1.1.** The John Howard Society undertakes the responsibility to promote activities which contribute towards healthy community life.
 - 1.2.** The John Howard Society creates the opportunity for the prevention of crime through social development.
 - 1.3.** The John Howard Society shall develop services which encourage the development of attitudes of responsibility and accountability on the part of those people who have been in conflict with the law.
 - 1.4.** The John Howard Society will pursue the application of provisions contained in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms particularly as it relates to our mandate.

- 2.** Every person has intrinsic worth and the right to be treated with dignity, equity, fairness and compassion without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability when involved with the criminal justice process.
 - 2.1.** John Howard Society promotes the application of the least onerous sanction within a restorative justice model.
 - 2.2.** John Howard Society promotes the concept of minimum intervention in the applications of the sentence, and the correctional services shall not, through non-judicial action, increase the punishment beyond the sentence imposed by the court.

- 4.3.** The John Howard Society promotes community acceptance of responsibility for both the individual and social aspects of criminal activity. The Society will encourage citizens to become involved in the delivery and management of justice related services.
 - 4.4.** The John Howard Society has the right to have access to all potential recipients of its services as well as to complete and accurate information concerning the criminal justice process.
 - 4.5.** When a need for services is identified, the John Howard Society shall provide the service directly or encourage others to provide it.
 - 4.6.** The John Howard Society has a right to consult with, and be consulted by all levels of government regarding the delivery of correctional services.
 - 4.7.** The reform and advocacy activities of the John Howard Society will be conducted within the means and guidelines of democratic change.
 - 4.8.** The John Howard Society seeks to identify social and economic conditions which contribute to crime or hinder the search for effective solutions to the problems of crime.
- 5.** Justice is best served through measures that resolve conflicts, repair harm, and restore peaceful relations in society.

 - 5.1.** The services of the John Howard Society shall be directed towards individuals and communities, not towards specific components of the criminal justice system.
 - 5.2.** The John Howard Society endorses a restorative model of justice and is committed to implementing that model in its own work with those individuals who request assistance.
 - 5.3.** The John Howard Society encourages social cohesion and the safety of individuals in society through mediation, reparation and, wherever possible, reconciliation.
 - 5.4.** The John Howard Society provides effective responses to crime which includes personalizing the process, attempting to resolve the conflict in the community in which it took place and developing caring environments.
 - 5.5.** The Society advocates for a system of justice which does not utilize or perpetrate violence and revenge.

6. Independent, autonomous non-government voluntary organizations have a vital role in the criminal justice process.
 - 6.1. The John Howard Society places priority upon funding arrangements which allow maximum autonomy and freedom.
 - 6.2. The John Howard Society undertakes to monitor the manner in which government authorities fulfill their responsibilities in the administration of court imposed sanctions for criminal activity by ensuring that the government remains accountable to the community for its actions and policies and by seeking and effective voice particularly for those facing a period of incarceration.
 - 6.3. The John Howard Society is committed to the view that the range of social and medical services and educational opportunities generally available to members of our society should be available to inmates of penal institutions and undertakes to advocate for the provision of these services and opportunities by government and by others and to assist in their provision where there is a need and where it has the financial and personnel resources to do so.
 - 6.4. The John Howard Society of Canada is a federation of provincial John Howard Societies that in turn are societies involving local John Howard Societies. The provision of services is a provincial and local prerogative which provincial and local societies undertake to perform in a manner which is consistent with the values and principles of the national body.