

# 8TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE  
PRAVNI FAKULTET



University of Maribor

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Faculty of  
Criminal Justice and Security



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

## FEAR OF CRIME // CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES THROUGH THE PRISM OF PREVENTION

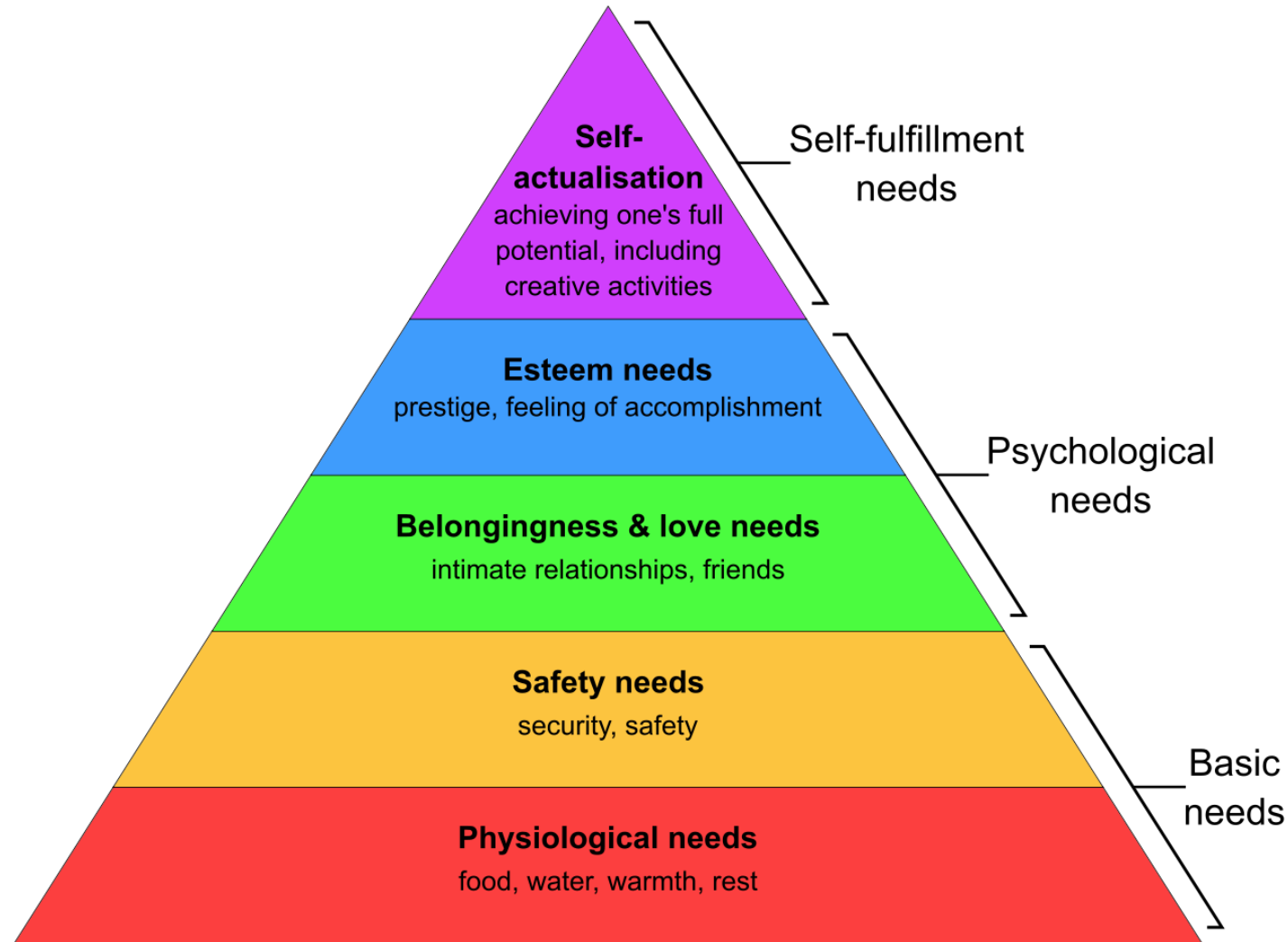
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Irina Vujović

Jovana Vučeraković

Nina Koprivica

# Security as a primary *human need*



Malsow's Hierarchy of Needs

# Human Security and Human Rights – **A Human Right to Security**

- **Concept of Human Security** - UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on Civil and Political Rights, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- **Historical Sources** – Magna Carta Libertatum, Petition of Rights, Habeas Corpus Act, Bill of Rights, etc.
- Human security refers to “the development and respect for human rights,” **but it also goes beyond them.**
- Unlike human rights, which have institutional mechanisms, **human security relies on an individual's value system**, or rather, on their **subjective feelings** about whether they feel threatened or not.





"If you've ever called **911**  
to report an emergency,  
thank the Johnson Crime  
Commission."

Nov. 17, 1967 photo of the former president of USA – Lyndon B. Johnson - "[The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society](#),"



June 26, 1945 San Francisco  
Signing of **The United Nations Charter**

“

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and **freedom from fear and want** has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people”

- Preamble of **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**



# „New dimensions of human security“ – individual security concept

## Increasing human security entails:

Investing in human development, not in arms;

Engaging policy makers to address the emerging peace dividend;

Giving the United Nations a clear mandate to promote and sustain development;

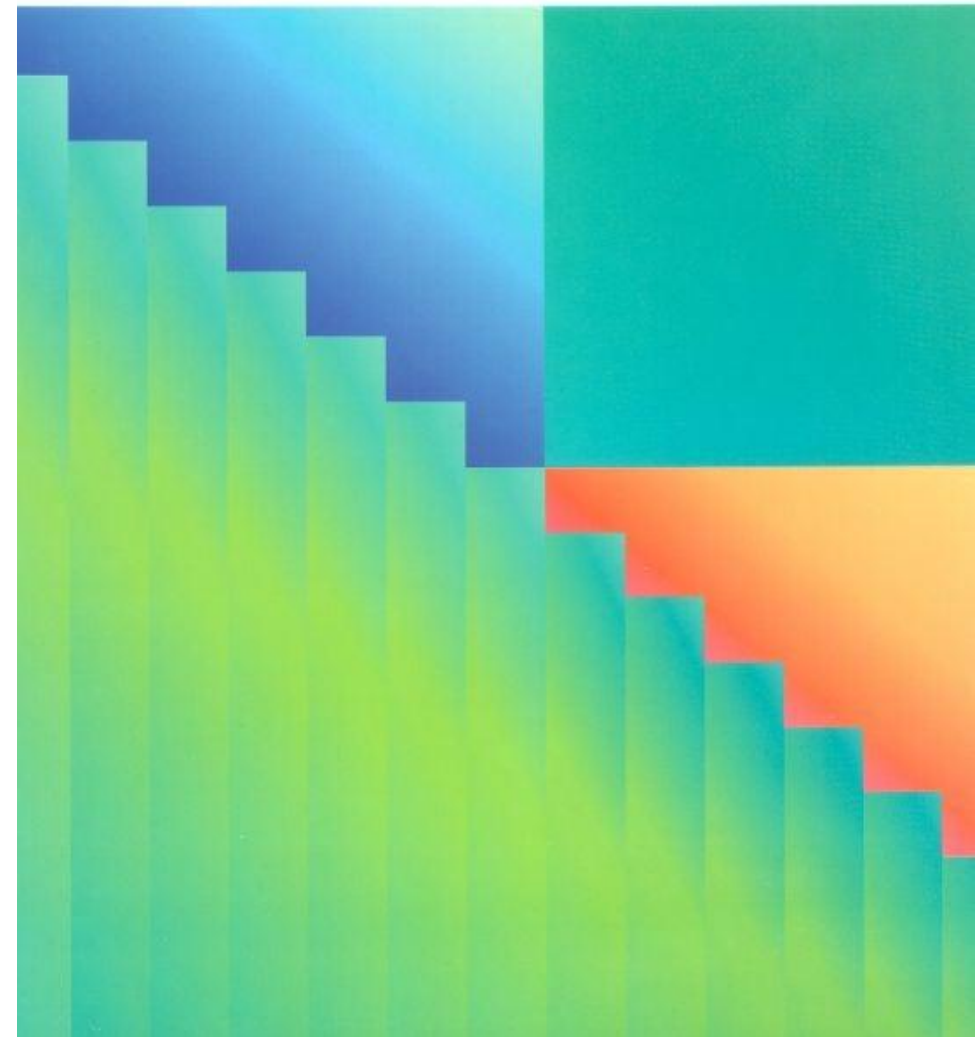
Enlarging the concept of development cooperation so that it includes all flows, not just aid;

Agreeing that 20 percent of national budgets and 20 percent of foreign aid be used for human development;

Establishing an Economic Security Council

Increasing human security entails:

HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT 1994



## Human security—as people see it

How individuals regard security depends very much on their immediate circumstances. Here are some views of security gathered from around the world, through a special sample survey by UNDP field offices.

### *Primary school pupil in Kuwait*

"I feel secure because I am living with my family and I have friends. However, I did not feel secure during the Iraqi invasion. If a country is at war, how are people supposed to feel secure?"

### *Woman in Nigeria*

"My security is only in the name of the Lord who has made heaven and earth. I feel secure because I am at liberty to worship whom I like, how I like, and also because I can pray for all the people and for peace all over the country."

### *Fourth-grade schoolgirl in Ghana*

"I shall feel secure when I know that I can walk the streets at night without being raped."

### *Shoe-mender in Thailand*

"When we have enough for the children to eat, we are happy and we feel secure."

### *Man in Namibia*

"Robberies make me feel insecure. I sometimes feel as though even my life will be stolen."

### *Woman in Iran*

"I believe that a girl cannot feel secure until she is married and has someone to depend on."

### *Public administrator in Cameroon*

"Security for me means that my job and position are safe and I can continue to provide for the needs of my family and also have something for investment and friends."

### *Woman in Kyrgyzstan*

"Human security indicates faith in tomorrow, not as much having to do with food and clothing, as with stability of the political and economic situation."

### *Secondary school pupil in Mongolia*

"Before, education in this country was totally free, but from this year every student has to pay. Now I do not feel very secure about finishing my studies."

### *Woman in Paraguay*

"I feel secure because I feel fulfilled and have confidence in myself. I also feel secure because God is great and watches over me."

### *Man in Ecuador*

"What makes you feel insecure above all is violence and delinquency—as well as insecurity with respect to the police. Basic services are also an important part of security."

[UNDP Human Development Report 1994 document](#) str 21-22, box 2.1

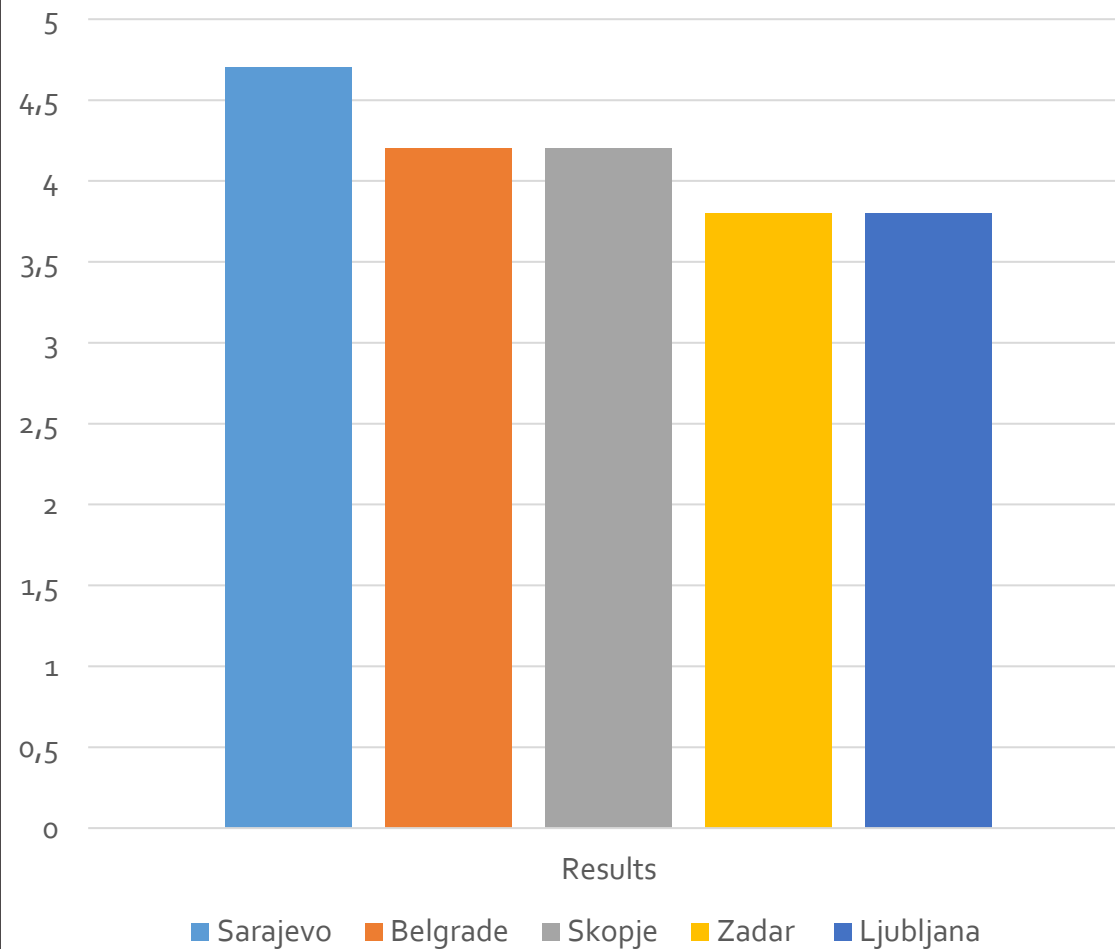
“In the final analysis, human security is a **child** who did not die, a **disease** that did not spread, a **job** that was not cut, **anethnic tension** that did not explode in violence, a **dissident** who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons- *it is a concern with human life and dignity.*”

- UNDP Human Development Report 1994 document





## Fear of Crime in the Capital Cities of The Former Yugoslav Republics



Regional Research Project "Fear of Crime in Large Cities" which was carried out in 2009 by the faculties of the University of Belgrade, the University of Bitola, the University of Sarajevo, the University of Zagreb and the University of Maribor.



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building peace

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[Headline of F3 - Freedom From Fear Magazine | UNICRI: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute](#)







## Fear of Crime

the complexity of defining

# fear

/fiə/

*noun*

*“Fear is fundamentally based on an emotion, characterized by a sense of danger and anxiety (Ferraro, Robinson, LaGrange), as a reaction to any danger from the external environment (fear of traffic, fear of enclosed spaces, fear of infection, etc.).”*

# criminality

/krimi'nali/

*noun*

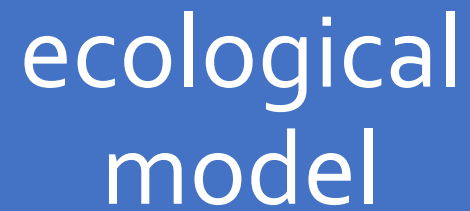
*“a set of phenomena that cause the highest degree of instability in the security aspect of social life”*

# MODELS OF FEAR THROUGH DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

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Explaining the Etiology of Fear of Crime





# Social control model

- **model of social disorganization** – if social control is weaker, the fear of crime is more pronounced
- If **the environment in which** we live is characterized by **physical signs of decay** - this leads to a poor perception of the community by its residents
- indicates a breakdown in behavioral norms and weak social control
- Residents in whose environment there are such **signs of the absence of informal social control** are more likely to exhibit higher levels of fear of crime than others (Skogan and Maksfield, 1981)

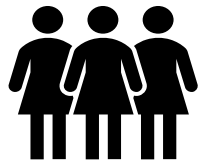


a typical Brazilian favela

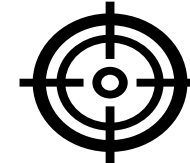
# Vulnerability model

This model belongs to the so-called individual explanatory models and assumes that the physical and social characteristics of an individual contribute to the fear of crime.

**variables of gender and age are significant  
as predictors of fear of crime**



**physically vulnerable / socially vulnerable**



Consequently, persons who assess their exposure to crime as high, do not have effective defense and protection mechanisms or the ability to escape from situations in which they may be victimized, and foresee a high probability of victimization, are considered a **"vulnerable" population**.



women have a higher level of fear than men

(Clemente and Kleiman, 1977, Garofalo, 1979, Toseland, 1982, according to Tolle, 2001; Skogan and Maxfield, 1981; Ferraro and LaGrange, 1987; Rountree and Land, 1996; Borooah and Carcach, 1997; Lane and Meeker, 2000)



women, along with older people, have a lower chance of being victimized

(Fattah and Sacco, 1989)

**conclusion - "paradox of fear of crime"**

# Victimization model

## **direct/indirect victimization**

fear of crime is caused by one's own "encounter" with crime or information that people hear about criminal activities either through conversations with other people or through the media (Hale, 1996; Ditton and Farrall, 2000).

## **media coverage of criminal acts**

media articles play a major role in creating the image of crime

often focusing on the most serious and sensational criminal acts that can result in a "*crime wave*"



Amid global backlash, SARAH VINE's scorching verdict on Meghan's...

6,400-word masterclass in manipulation

SEE PAGE 17



CUT

MEGHAN

THE CASEY ANTHONY TRIAL  
GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER?

Despite damning testimony, many legal experts say the case against accused mom Casey Anthony may not stick



CASEY ANTHONY  
AGE 27

HORROR IN THE SKY

Airline jet and Black Hawk chopper in deadly crash over DC

At least 18 bodies recovered in Potomac River

PAGES 4-5

NEZAVISNE DNEVNE NOVINE  
INFORMER



VOUČIĆ SRBIMA NA KIM:

Ako nas napadnu

MEDIA COVERAGE ON CRIMINAL ACTS/ HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED FEAR OF CRIME?

HAVE POLICE GIVEN UP ON BURGLARY?

BRITISH policing has 'lost its way' and the public feel forces have all but given up on crimes such as burglary, a former senior officer warned last night. Confessions in the police are being avoided by 'wasteful low' crime-up

By David Harewood  
Home Affairs Editor

notes for house-breaking and robbery - so much so that people feel such offences have effectively been downgraded, he said.

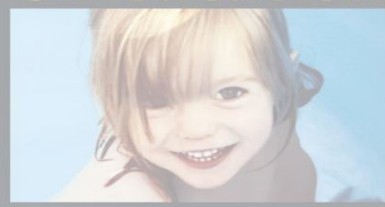
During his tenure, Mr. Harewood is known to report on the state of policing, which he is highly critical of.

including their use of blurring police records. Harewood said: 'The police are still not taking the right kind of action and justice is not being done.'

The situation is not as bad as it was in the 1970s when the police were seen as the only force that could be relied upon to protect the public.

The police are still not taking the right kind of action and justice is not being done.

Kidnapped On Vacation



EVERY PARENT'S NIGHTMARE

During a family holiday, 3-year-old Madeleine McCann vanishes from her bed. Inside her parents' heartbreaking search



**BODIES ON THE BEACH**  
Hunt for the LONG ISLAND SERIAL KILLER  
Who is the cold-blooded murderer killing women and dumping their bodies on a New York beach?

Scott Hamilton  
BATTLING A THIRD BRAIN TUMOR

Nicole Curtis  
FROM STRUGGLING SINGLE MOM TO HGTV STAR!

WATCH OUR NEW CRIME SERIES  
People INVESTIGATES  
New York's Most Notorious Investigation

**NEĆEMO SE PREDATI!**  
Nisam im ja Tadić ni Koštunica

- Neću dozvoliti da vas proteraju sa Kosova. Imam obavezu da čuvam glave Srba, rekao je predsednik Vučić na dramatičnom sastanku sa kosovskim Srbima posle nedavnih napada 'kosovske policije'

SREČKO SOFRONIJEVIĆ  
Hoće da istrebi

MARINA JOVANOVIĆ  
Muža mi zamalo ubili!

DAUBOR JEVIĆ  
Kurti želi da optuži Beograd

## Crucial role of media and politics in shaping public perceptions of crime



- Sensational and selective reporting – **highlighting violent crimes**
- Political discourse often **exploit public fear of crime** during election cycles

Example of cover of a daily newspaper in February 2025



# Ecological model

- ✓ The ecological model of fear of crime indicates, despite some discrepancies, sufficient evidence to suggest that **fear of crime is related to place of residence**, with those living in urban areas reporting higher levels of fear than those living in rural areas (Box, Hale, & Andrews, 1988; Scott, 2003).
- ✓ Some authors (Wilcox, Queensberry and Jones, 2003) add that fear of foreigners is a consequence of demographic heterogeneity, "social climate", dynamics of growth and development of the city, whereby **fear of crime becomes fear of urbanity**. As cities rapidly develop and become "multicultural", there is concern about the prevalence of other cultures (i.e., other nationalities and religions) than the traditional (domicile) one, which produces another type of fear - fear of the future.



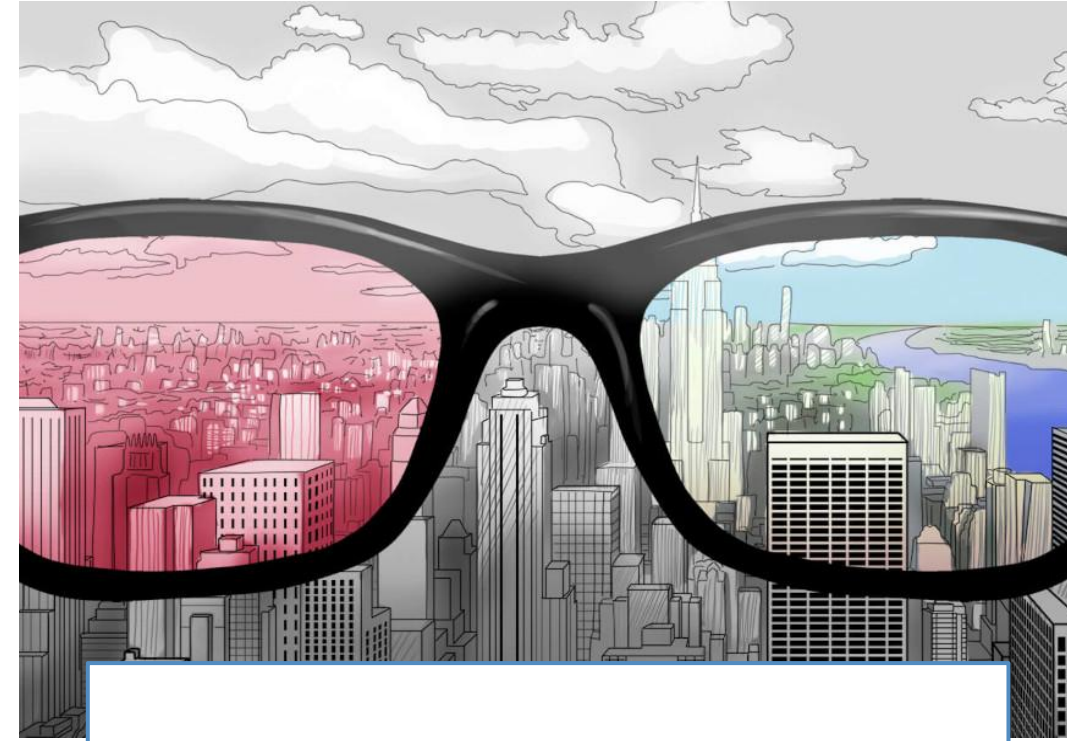


### **Influence of physical appearance of the environment**

Incivility – the feeling of being surrounded by real or symbolic threats

„the broken window theory“  
(Kelling and Cooles, 1997)

social integration, satisfaction with the neighborhood, social connectedness of community members and feeling of loneliness



### **Individual perception context**

the fear of crime  
correlates more with the perception of high crime than with official data on the crime rate Warr (1982)

«criminalized space» by Van der Wurff et al.  
(1989:145) - perceived by potential victims

# PREVENTION

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Specific Acts and Subjects of Prevention, Consequences of  
Unaddressed Fear and CASE STUDY: Massacres in Cetinje – Fear of  
Crime in Practice



Acts to prevent fear of crime that are designed to **reduce people's anxiety** about becoming victims of crime, **enhance public safety**, **build trust with law enforcement**, and **improve the community's sense of security**.

Examples:

1. **Community Policing:**

This involves building stronger relationships between law enforcement and the community. Officers become familiar with local residents, helping to increase trust and reduce fear of crime.

2. **Neighborhood Watch Programs:** These initiatives empower local communities to collaborate with law enforcement and each other to keep an eye on crime activity, fostering a safer environment.



The police are key to increasing security

4. **Public Education Campaigns:** These programs aim to inform people about crime rates, safety tips, and the resources available to them, helping to combat irrational fears and increase a sense of control over personal safety.
5. **Legislation on Domestic Violence and Hate Crimes:** Stronger laws protecting vulnerable individuals and communities help reduce the fear of being targeted because of their identity, sexual orientation, or domestic relationships.
6. **Victim Support Services:** Offering resources such as counseling and legal assistance to victims can reduce the emotional toll of crime and help people feel more supported, which in turn can reduce fear.
7. **Gun Law and Policies Debate** - it is necessary for the narrative of the Draft of Law on Weapons to turn towards solving the problem of illegal possession of weapons, which in Montenegro has been identified as a means of committing criminal offenses in the majority. In this regard, the positions of negotiators and public opinion expressed during the public debate process regarding this draft should be taken into account and harmonize with EU standards.
8. **Controlling Media Reports During a Crisis:** reduce an unnecessary panic and lead people to take incorrect actions, sensational headlines or graphic images that amplify fear and anxiety by funding agencies that will monitor and conduct investigations into media reporting in crisis situations and educate media professionals on the importance of responsible reporting.

# SUBJECTS OF PREVENTION

A wide range of actors are involved in the prevention of fear of crime, both institutional and from the local community.

## 1. POLICE

- Community policing: regular presence and trust-building
- Awareness campaigns on crime prevention
- Quick and effective response to incidents

## 2. LOCAL AUTHORITIES & URBAN SERVICES

- Maintenance of public order and infrastructure (lighting, cleanliness)
- Organizing public forums and citizen participation

## 3. EXPERTS

- Research on causes and impacts of fear of crime
- Advising on effective prevention policies
- Monitoring and evaluating prevention programs



# CONSEQUENCES OF UNADDRESSED FEAR

- When individuals perceive their environment as unsafe, they start to withdraw from public spaces such as parks, streets, and community centers.
- Persistent fear of crime can lead people to believe that public institutions — particularly the police, local authorities, and the justice system — are incapable of protecting them. This erosion of trust undermines cooperation between citizens and institutions, which is essential for effective crime prevention and community resilience.
- Fear can lead to a psychological state of paralysis where individuals feel powerless to improve their situation. This inaction often fosters a sense of fatalism — the belief that crime is inevitable and unstoppable.
- In the absence of factual information, fear of crime often leads to stereotyping and scapegoating. Certain groups — such as youth, ethnic minorities, or economically disadvantaged populations — may be unjustly perceived as threats.



# CASE STUDY: Massacres in Cetinje – Fear of Crime in Practice

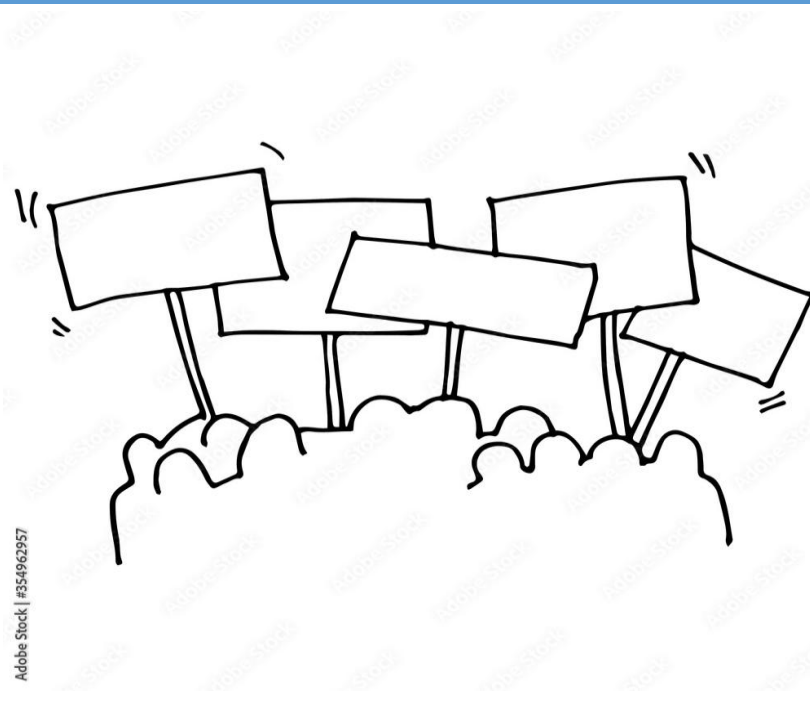
- Two mass shootings in Cetinje, including the tragic event in August 2022 and January 2025.
- Shocked the entire nation – unprecedented level of violence in a small, peaceful town
- Triggered national mourning, media attention, and intense public debate
- This proximity made the violence feel personal and immediate, which amplified the sense of vulnerability and insecurity. Even areas that were not directly affected by the shootings experienced a spread of fear, showing how such incidents can have a ripple effect far beyond their geographic location. The sense of safety, once taken for granted, was quickly replaced with anxiety and distrust — not only towards individuals, but also towards institutions perceived as unprepared or ineffective.
- When it comes to social consequences of fear of crime in mentioned context, that tragedy created decreased trust in institutions, avoidance of public spaces and sense of helplessness and loss of community safety.
- Importance of Fear of Prevention is not only preventing future crimes, but also managing public perception and importance of rebuilding trust and collective resilience



**"FEAR DRIVES WEAK AND TIMID  
PEOPLE TO DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY  
FEAR MOST."**

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**—Ivo Andrić**



Adobe Stock | #354962957



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# THANK YOU!

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