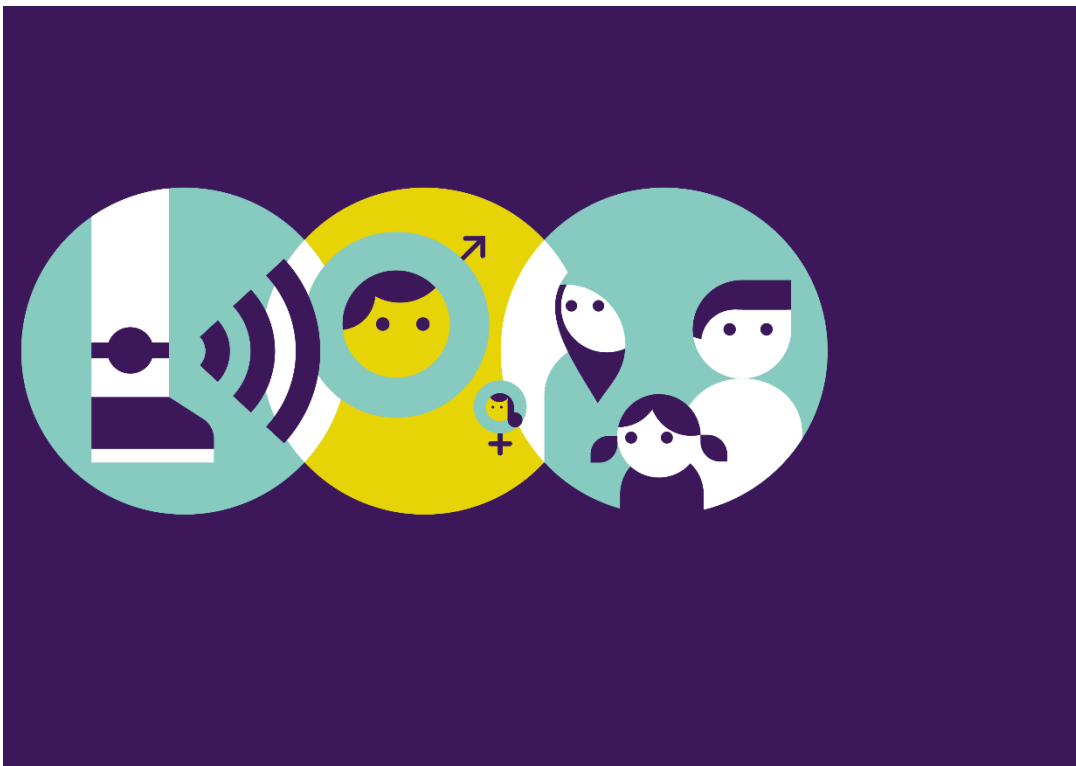




Raad voor  
Strafrechtstoepassing  
en Jeugdbescherming

# Multiannual Programme for 2025-2028





## Thematic lines and advisory topics

### 1. Meaningful application of criminal justice

Even in a time of great pressure on the system, it is important that sentences are implemented in a meaningful and effective way. Sentences that focus in part on resocialisation and rehabilitation are not only in the interest of offenders, but also lead to a safer society in the long term. Within this thematic line, the RSJ looks at where opportunities and possibilities lie for meaningful application of criminal justice, including considering meaningful alternatives.

#### 1.1 *Electronic detention for adults*

Electronic Monitoring of offenders is a subject currently much in the public eye. In addition to the long-standing use of electronic monitoring as a means of ensuring compliance with special conditions, this tool has also been used for several months as an emergency measure to realise the 'capacity leave' of offenders at the end of their prison sentences. Some years ago, the RSJ, in its advice 'A detailed examination of short detentions', pointed out the possibility of electronic detention to replace the short custodial sentence. In October 2024, three members of the House of Representatives took up a citizens' initiative legislative proposal advocating the introduction of electronic detention as an independent main sentence.



In an advice, the RSJ examines the ways in which electronic detention can be applied to adult offenders. Among other things, it looks at the phase in which electronic detention is applied (pre-trial detention, enforcement), the target groups eligible and how electronic detention can best be combined with counselling, daytime activities and care. This is with a view to optimising reintegration, taking into account the interests of victims and the safety of society.

### 2. The offender in focus

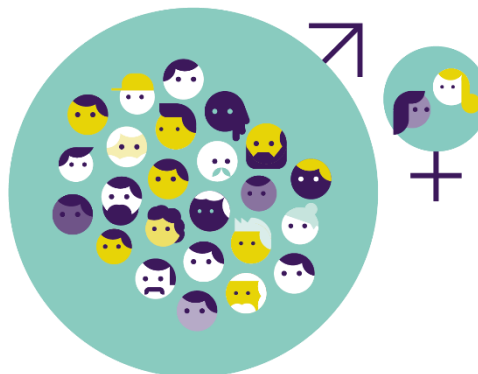
There needs to be a clear picture of all offenders, with attention to humane and fair treatment and the protection of their legal status. This is especially true for vulnerable offenders and offenders whose freedom is severely restricted due to a heavy security regime. The current capacity issues seem to be putting pressure on the ability to deliver customised solutions. The RSJ considers it important to pay more attention to the individual needs and vulnerabilities of offenders, with certain groups deserving special attention. The starting point within this thematic line is a person-centred approach, placing the right offender in the right place.

#### 2.1 *The position of women within the criminal justice system*



Women are a special category within correctional facilities.

They are a minority, which means the justice system is less geared to them. In policy-making, men form the starting point, for example when it comes to the provision of the day programme, security and practical issues. The position of (young) women is often under-addressed in publications and studies related to the justice chain. Several programmes on the position of women have recently been started by the Custodial Institutions Agency. In an advice, the RSJ, in addition to these pathways, pays attention to the specific needs of women and the availability of facilities for them in the prison system, forensic care and young offenders institutions.



### 3. Focus on youth



The rights and interests of youth are an important starting point in family and juvenile law. Complex issues, shortages of appropriate care and conflicting legal frameworks mean that youth dealing with family law, youth care, youth protection and juvenile criminal justice increasingly find themselves in a bind. It therefore remains important to focus on young people. Within this thematic line, areas the RSJ pays attention to include access to and continuity of care and legal protection for young people.

#### 3.1 The rights and interests of children without Dutch nationality

Children living in the Netherlands but who do not have Dutch nationality grow up in very wide-ranging circumstances. There is insufficient insight into how their rights and interests are safeguarded. In an advice, the RSJ examines the safety, welfare and development of these children. Do they have access to youth care and protection when their development is threatened, and is it appropriate? And what are the consequences if they come into contact with the juvenile criminal justice system?

#### Additional subject

The RSJ keeps space for advisory topics that do not fit within any of the three theme lines. These are listed below.

##### *Voting rights of offenders*

Offenders have the right to vote. The Elections Act stipulates that offenders can vote by proxy, thus formally fulfilling their right to vote. In practice,



however, voting by proxy from a correctional facility is fraught with so many administrative and procedural problems that voting is difficult and sometimes impossible for offenders. The RSJ pays attention to this in an advice.

