



YOUTH RISE

Human rights, young people and
policing across the world: what
can we learn?

MORGANA DANIELE

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Human
rights
violations
from
across
the world



Ways to
improve

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Pakistan: “Physical violence by police to people who use drugs is considered normal and questioned neither by police themselves, nor by society”.

Ukraine: “Physical violence against young people who use drugs is a way of “teaching a lesson they should not “misbehave” with drugs but listen to authorities instead”.

Physical violence as normalised way of “educating” children and youth

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Lithuania: “Intimidation is present at all cases of detention. And this is despite the mental health burden: 40% of 15-29 year olds show signs of suicidal behaviour”

EU average: 4,57* among 15–19 year-olds.

Lithuania: 15,12. The highest in European Union.

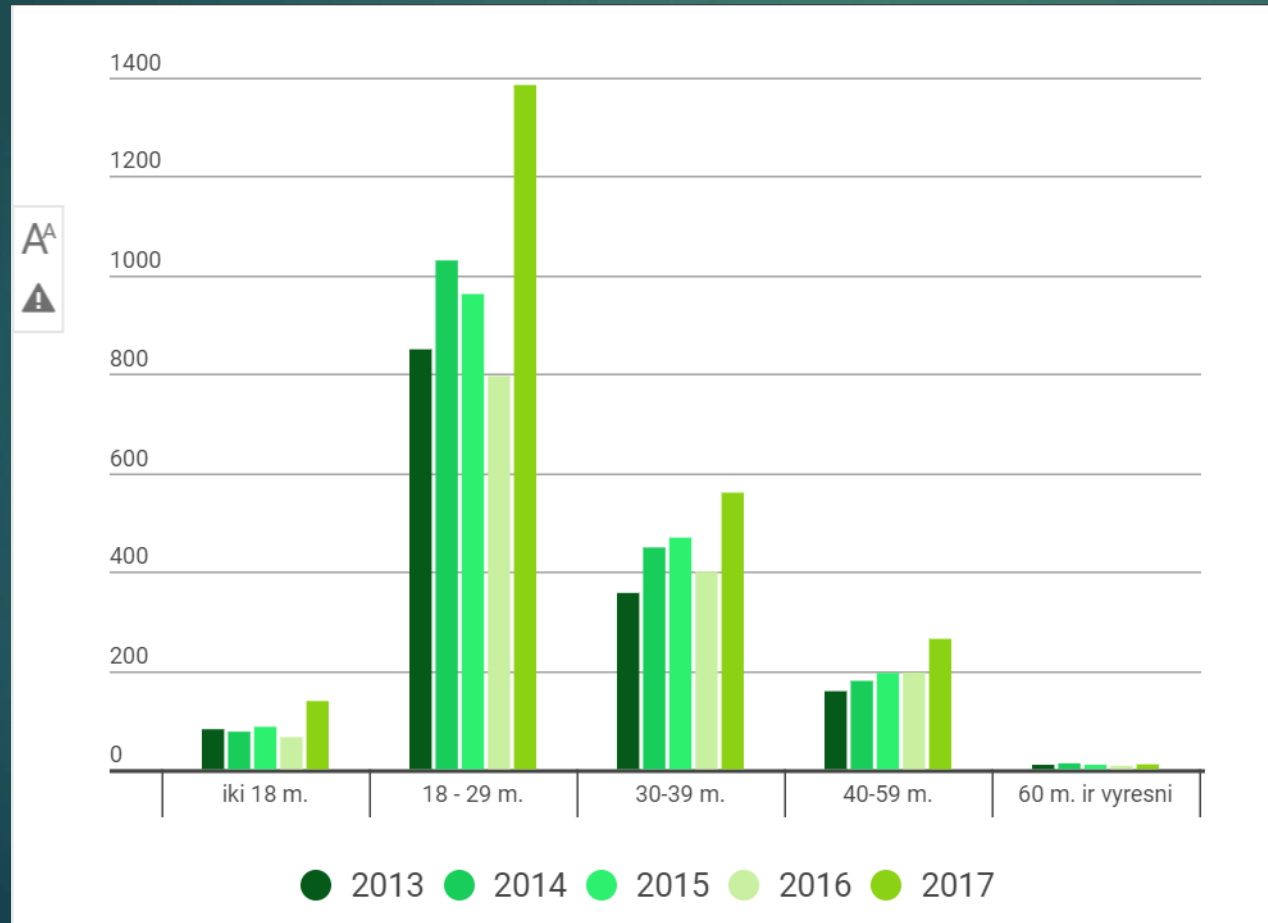
*per 100 000 inhabitants.



Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Youth detained for possession for personal use, 2017, Lithuania



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Nepal: “I have not used drugs since my rehabilitation 5 years ago. Nevertheless, our district male police officers have been stopping me “to search”, touched me and harassed me sexually, humiliated with words for all these years.”




Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Indonesia: “Young people are targeted and detained. Then their future is used as a weapon for money extortion from families and families are ready to pay whatever they can to save their youth. Paying money means escaping trial. The cost can be from 1000 to 3000 USD, which is a huge amount for Indonesian family”





Attempts to “solve” often low risk, recreational drug use of young people by using:

- physical violence as means of “education”
- intimidation
- age profiling: detention and money extortion

Police and youth: good practice

- ▶ Police cooperate with harm reduction NGOs: festivals in Lithuania.
- ▶ Trauma-informed policing and training police school students (IE and LT)
- ▶ Attending open discussions (CZ)
- ▶ Applying diversion programmes (USA, Ireland)

