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Sex Offenders Registry

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Sex Offenders Registry

The sex offender registry was created to offer guidance and assistance in over 50 fifty states in the United States and not to punish sex offenders. Every sex offender after probation or serving time in jail needs to register in the National Public Sex Offender Registry website in every state they move in (Human Rights Watch, 2013). Their pictures, full names and details are publicly displayed on this website permanently for parents to be on the lookout and protect their children. The registry reduces recidivism because the offenders are known, and law enforcement in a particular state knows their whereabouts. The only disadvantage to the registry is if an offender does not register, then sex offenses will be on the rise because the predators are not known (Wilson & Petersilia, 2011).

South Korea enacted its sex offender registration law in the year 2000. It has a public notification system and registry website (NCRJS, 2006). The offenders in this website are posted for more than five years, depending on the sentence they received. The required information for the registry is a photograph, full names in both Korean and Chinese characters, ID number, physical description, and occupation. The scope of this registry is that it covers any sexual offense against a child only, and it does not cater to rape. Also, it does not allow any international sex offender into their country. In the United States, the registry has the same requirements when it comes to posting personal details and having a public notification system. A registered sex offender in the United States can travel to other places, unlike in South Korea. They both protect children only from sexual predators. ⁴ I believe the use of public registries is an effective crime control policy. Notably, it helps to protect and prevent sexual predators from preying on children because it is handled by law enforcement. Additionally, it helps to track and monitor registered offenders after their release into the community to reduce recidivism.

References

- ¹ Human Rights Watch. (2013). *Raised on the registry: The irreparable harm of placing children on sex offender registries in the U.S.*
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/us0513_ForUpload_1.pdf
- ² NCJRS. (2006). *PUBLICATIONS*. Korean Version of the Notification Policy on Sexual Offenders: Did It Enhance Public Awareness of Sexual Crimes Against Minors?
⁶ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=210600>.
- ³ Wilson, J. Q., & Petersilia, J. (2011). *Crime and public policy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Chapter 12, "Sex Offenders and Sex Offender Policy" (pp. 345–367)

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