

capital punishment

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Why capital punishment is morally wrong

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Outline

Paragraph 1: Introduction: the death penalty is a controversial issue to many people. Some people argue that it is morally wrong while others feel that is right to execute people. What's the best punishment for criminals who commit high profile crimes like murder and rape?

Thesis: capital punishment is morally wrong and should be abolished in all countries.

Paragraph 2: capital punishment is not a better deterrent of crime than other means.

Paragraph 3: capital punishment does not allow the offender to reform and rehabilitate.

Paragraph 4: The death penalty leads to the execution of innocent people.

Paragraph 5: capital punishment is akin to taking vengeance.

Paragraph 6: Executing people violates the right to life.

Paragraph 7: capital punishment is more expensive than life in prison.

Conclusion: capital punishment is morally wrong because it does not deter crime, it is expensive, violates the right to life, leads to execution of innocents, applied discriminatorily, and is akin to revenge. It should therefore be abolished in all countries.

Essay on capital punishment**Capital punishment is morally wrong**

When a person is convicted of murder, rape or any other high profile offence, what many people think is that such an offender should be killed. In such a way, the victim and the public feel that justice has been served. Many of the criminal justice systems in the world have legalized capital punishment. However, the death penalty is a controversial issue that presents one of the hottest debates in the world. Some people feel that capital punishment is moral and should be legalized while others think the opposite. Many questions arise from this moral dilemma. Does anyone have the right to kill? Is capital punishment a better deterrent of crime than other means? What is the risk of executing innocent people? Does anyone by their actions forfeit their right to life? This text presents an argument against the morality of capital punishment, contending that it should be illegalized in all countries. The paper asserts that there is no moral justification for executing offenders.

One of the reasons why the death penalty should be illegalized is because it does not deter crime. Statistics show that countries that have executed many people continue to kill more. Death penalty should be banned because it is not a better deterrent of crime than other means (Bedau, 1998). The only way capital punishment contributes to the reduction of crime is that it incapacitates the murderer, ensuring that he cannot kill again (he/she has already been killed). There is, however, no evidence that capital punishment deters crime by preventing would-be criminals by scaring or inflicting fear on them (Clark, 2017).

Furthermore, capital punishment does not allow the offender to reform and rehabilitate. According to Waller (2011), the South has carried out more executions than any other part in the

USA (85% of the country's executions) but still has the highest murder rate. According to Amnesty International, "The death penalty is a harsh punishment, but it is not harsh on crime" Countries or states where the death penalty is legalized do not have lower homicide rates. For example, China, which is the world's top executioner, has not recorded a reduction in the number of homicide cases.

Another reason why capital punishment should be abolished is that it leads to the execution of innocent people (Smith, 2004). The criminal justice system is not infallible and innocent people could be executed (Hochkammer, 2017). The worst thing with capital punishment is that once life has been lost, it cannot be restored. There is sufficient evidence to show that indeed innocent people have been wrongly executed. For example, Amnesty International announced that 116 people in death row had been exonerated since 1973 in the US (Bedau, 1998). These people were wrongly convicted and could have been executed for crimes they did not commit. Although there is no evidence that capital punishment is applied unjustly, the risk of executing an innocent person is not zero (Westervelt, Saundra and Cook, 2010). Capital punishment has been used as a political tool to punish political opponents. This has happened in Iran and Sudan.

The death penalty is immoral because it is akin to taking vengeance. Opponents of capital punishment argue the death penalty does not constitute justice; rather, it is a form of taking revenge. Executions are done to please the public, but it is in itself a form of revenge, and it is wrong to take revenge. If we were to permit the death penalty, it would mean that it is right to take revenge even for other little things (Bedau, 1998).

The other reason why capital punishment is wrong is that it violates the right to life. Every human being has an inalienable right to life. Thus, killing someone because they committed murder violates the right to life. This argument is similar to the "value of life" argument, but this one takes the approach of human rights. It means that the death penalty violates the right to life. The death

penalty goes against human rights-the right to life. Human life is valuable, and even the worst murderers should not be deprived of the value of their life. Someone cannot forfeit their right to life under whatever circumstances-not, even killing. Even murderers and other worst criminals have the right to life (Clark, 2017). This means that murderers do not forfeit their right to life even if they committed murder. The right to life should be respected, and thus it is ironical for a state to take away the life of a person instead of protecting it.

Lastly, capital punishment is more expensive than life in prison. This has been one of the hottest debates concerning capital punishment. The opponents of capital punishment argue that capital punishment is more expensive compared to life in prison without parole. For example, according to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), New York spent about \$170 million over nine years and had no executions. Some of the reasons why capital punishment is expensive include longer trials, jury selection, pre-trial costs, legal costs, incarceration, and appeal costs (Clark, 2017). In most cases, the death sentence convicts end up being acquitted. Even when the death sentence is imposed, the most likely outcome is that this decision will be overturned in the courts. Legal costs increase the cost of capital punishment. This happens when the state assigns court-lawyers to represent the accused (the accused may not afford their own attorneys). The state pays these attorneys as well as the cost of prosecution. Pre-trial costs also increase the cost of capital punishment. Capital offences normally take longer to go to trial level as they are more complicated. There is a need to gather solid evidence and examine the mental health and life history of the defendant. The process of selecting the juries is also expensive and time-consuming, which increases the general cost of the death penalty. Death penalty trials are also time-consuming as they can last more than four times longer than the normal cases. This increases the cost of the

death penalty. To avoid the risk of executing the innocents, every prisoner is entitled to a series of appeals. All this evidence shows how expensive it is to execute a person.

In conclusion, there is no moral justification to execute offenders. This means that capital punishment is immoral and hence should be illegalized. Capital punishment does not deter crime; it leads to the execution of innocent people, violates the right to life and is more expensive than life without parole. Furthermore, capital punishment it bears the inherent risk of executing the innocents and that it constitutes retribution (vengeance) and not justice. Criminal justice systems in states that allow capital punishment should consider making changes to the system and abolish the death penalty. Life without parole is a viable option for offenders who have committed felonies, such as murder and rape. The death penalty should be abolished in all countries because it is morally wrong.

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