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**Private Prisons, Solitary Confinement and Sex Offenders**

Name

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Instructor

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Date

## **Private Prisons, Solitary Confinement and Sex Offenders**

### **Assignment 1**

More than 1.5 million individuals are incarcerated making the US second country with most incarcerations after Seychelles (Trilling, 2017). With the rising numbers of prisoners, most countries hold other inmates in prisons privately owned. Normally, such types of prisons are much cheaper compared to the regular ones. However, inmate rights and business ethics are a concern. Private firms do coordinate dungeons for both 29 states and the federal government. This constitutes about 8 percent of incarcerated individuals around the United States (Trilling, 2017). According to figures gathered by the US government, this figure has been increasing over recent years. Additionally, numerous immigrants who do not have their documents go through these privately owned detention facilities annually.

In the final years of Obama administration, Department of Justice realized the privately ran prisons were not sufficient to reform its inmates compared to the facilities that the government were in charge of. Therefore, after deliberating for over a year, the government decided to phase them out. However, when Trump assumed office, this decision was reversed. After the argument that the Obama administration's directive blurred the Federal Bureau of Prisons to deliver on future federal correctional system needs (Trilling, 2017).

One of the most apparent strength even stated above that private prisons have over government ones is that it is cheap to run. Private prisons intend to help governments save money by placing inmates in a contracted facility making the facility responsible for operating costs. Another strength is the control of the population. Private facilities control the inmate population better than government facilities (Trilling, 2017). One of the most significant weaknesses associated with private prisons is that there is a violation of inmate rights. This is as

a result of them being turned into commodities the reason being they are cheaper compared to the public facilities.

### **Reference**

Trilling, D. (2017). *Private Prisons: Research, Data and Controversies*. Journalist's Resource.

HAVARD Kennedy School, Shorenstein Centre on Media, Politics and Public Policy.

<https://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/private-prisons-research-data-lobbying/>

### **Assignment 2**

Almost every prison has a solitary confinement unit where inmates are placed with little or no contact between them and other inmates (Haney, 2018). This type of room is unique for disruptive inmates who may be a security threat to their fellow inmates. Usually, this applies to inmates who are incredibly violent toward others, senior gang members included. The use of the solitary confinement has a tremendous psychological effect. The outcome of the impact is the limitation of using these solitary confinements across the United States. This was done to reduce the number of mental health cases associated with inmates who are placed in these solitary confinements (Reiter et al., 2020).

Like every other type of confinements, solitary confinement has its advantages and disadvantages. The main advantage is that it ensures the prison's safety. This type of room is built to limit threats that may come from others. Therefore, isolating such individuals is very important in terms of the prison's safety. Also, this type of confinement can be able to reform an inmate. When left alone with their thoughts, an inmate could engage in their self-reflection, tap into their conscience and acknowledge their wrongdoings. Lastly, solitary confinement offers an

alternative method of punishing inmates. Thus, controlling negative behavior is easy by incorporating solitary confinement as one of the punishments for such actions (Haney, 2018).

On the other hand, solitary confinement can have drastic adverse effects on an individual. Mainly, it can damage an individual's mental health. Through isolation, most inmates experience hallucinations and delusions. These form part of the significant contributions of mental health problems. Anxiety, paranoia, claustrophobia among others may arise since solitary confinement makes individuals lose touch with reality (Reiter et al., 2020). For that reason, most confined inmates end up harming themselves in need to be in control of their environment.

In my opinion, having seen the damage solitary confinement can do to an individual's mental and physical health, I would not recommend it at all. There should be better ways of dealing with the inmates that are a threat to others than solitary confinement. Imagine the effect such detention would have especially to those who are already mentally ill. What would solitary confinement do to them if it is capable of damaging an utterly healthy individual?

### **References**

Haney, C. (2018). *Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement*. Annual Review of Criminology, 1, 285-310.

Reiter, K., Ventura, J., Lovell, D., Augustine, D., Barragan, M., Blair, T., ... & Strong, J. (2020). *Psychological Distress in Solitary Confinement: Symptoms, Severity, and Prevalence in the United States, 2017–2018*. American Journal of Public Health, 110(S1), S56-S62.

### **Assignment 3**

The sex offender's reasoning implicates that because he did not force himself onto the victim, it was not a sexual offence at all. He acts as if he was the guardian angel of the victim; therefore, whatever he did was to the victim's best interest.

I would like to know if the offender was involved in a similar relationship with another minor before the current victim. This is to check whether the offender has a pattern to get the advantage of little girls. This would help determine whether the offender has a behavioral issue or not.

First, the offender should understand that dealing with a minor is a serious matter (Pyles, 2019). It does not matter whether they were in love or not. Buying gifts for the victim is grooming, which the offender denies. Simply because he understands what sex offenders do and finesse his way around it does not exclude him as one.

I would like to hear from the offender, whether he had the victim's best interest in mind. This would determine if the offender was doing all the things he was doing for the victim with lousy intension. All in all, whatever he did does not make his behavior acceptable.

Alternatively, refer to the offender indirectly. For example, I ask questions related to the offence through other individuals and later came back to the offender to get his opinion. Questions such as 'If it was you, male speaker, what would you have done instead of buying gifts?' This removes attention from the offender and enables him to see his behavior in other people's perspective.

The best treatment is by giving the offender an example of the same incidents using his daughter with another person (Pyles, 2019). If the offender can be okay with this, it would be unfortunate because it will not make him see the bigger picture. However, giving such examples are necessary to paint the whole picture to the offender.

#### **Reference**

Pyles, V. D. (2019). *Theological Responses to Sex Offenders: How the Faith-Based Community Can Assist in the Reduction of Sex Offender Recidivism* (Doctoral dissertation, Drew University).

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