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Prison System in America

A prison is a secure facility that houses people who have been

convicted of a misdemeanour criminal offense and are serving a sentence. But let’s refer prison to a correctional facility, because the intention of

imprisoning criminals is to rehabilitate and correct them of their wrongs.

Therefore, the real meaning of incarceration is taking away their freedom and focusing on less ways to punish, but to focus more on rebuilding the wrongdoer. So, for what reason is America still struggling with rehabilitating their criminals? Throughout the film, *“Where to Invade Next”* by Michael Moore, one of the places he visited was Norway to learn more about the prison systems. When he visited Norway he quickly contrasted the differences of the separate methods of prison between America and Norway. But one main difference that I, as an audience member, noticed was that Norway’s way of punishing the lawbreaker is simply taking away their freedom and mainly focuses on rehabilitation, while Americans, have harsher punishments and there is little to no reformation. Should the American Government revise and change the prison system by following the steps of the Norway’s model of rehabilitating and recidivism?

Norway’s approach is  more successful since Norway’s incarceration rate is just a mere 75 per 100,000 people, compared to 707 people per 100,000 in the U.S. These are simply the results of the big distinction between the two very dissimilar systems with rehabilitating and pure punishment Norway’s prison system shows how restoring the prisoners, having resent on the criminal actions that they’ve done, and teaching them a better way to live a good life is more successful than locking prisoners up in cells with bars. Furthermore, Norway helps them

practice living a morally correct way of life by giving the prisoners individual

living spaces with kitchens fully equipped with sharp objects, and

friendships between the guards and other inmates. They don’t believe in

cruel and unusual punishment, the eighth amendment in our own constitution. The article even says “The country relies on a concept called

‘restorative justice,’ which aims to repair the harm caused by crime rather

than punish people.” Maybe it’s time to turn prisons into rehabilitation

Centers.

Vincent Schiraldi, the founder and president of the Justice Policy

Institute mostly talked about how our prison’s goal should be turning

people's lives around, which he believes that we are not achieving any

Improvement, which is shocking on how we still debate on this today when this article was made around 20 years ago.Vincent Schiraldi’s claim on why we should focus more on rebuilding the criminals is “If people spend their whole time in prison just bottling up that pain and watching TV, chances are when they come out, they are going to burst”. But, member of National Board of Trustees for Parents of Murdered Children, Jean Lewis,  disagrees. She believes that “The murderer deserves to be segregated from society, not only as a penalty (punishment) but for the safety of the rest of us… my personal opinion (and that of many survivors) is that violent offenders should not be shown leniency." There are obviously two completely different arguments and it shows why the U.S is still indecisive of this choice. (Perhaps) the other side agree with making a lot changes to the prison system from prisoner`s perspective.

Ari Moses , the author of the article, gave really good points and spoke about how this issue should be taken more seriously. She also wrote about everything from being tough on prisoners to believing in allowing prisoners achieving their education and GED. In general, Ari Moses was consistently writing about how this matter should be taken way more seriously than it is. For example, Moses wrote “The issue of recidivism and prison rehabilitation also needs to take a larger platform in our nation’s discourse on crime and law-enforcement. In the last presidential election, the issue of recidivism and rehabilitation measures in prisons was not even mentioned in any of the prime-time debates or the Republican primary. “ She also gave lots of statistics about recidivism, the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend, and giving specific examples of cases and prisoners.

In conclusion, this whole topic is a controversial debate on whether to keep the same laws of injustice and have higher crime and recidivism rates or to make a change in our society and rehabilitate criminals to make our world  genuinely happy place. I believe that the choice starts with the people in our civilization.