

Delegate's Handbook

United Nations Human Rights Council
LFM 2024



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Welcome letter:

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity. To impose on them a wretched life of hunger and deprivation is to dehumanise them.”- Nelson Mandela

Dear delegates,

We are honoured by your participation in the Human Rights Committee, one of the seven committees that constitute our model here at the Lycée-Franco-Mexicain of Polanco.

Founded in 2016 by Diana Paz, the Model United Nations hosted by the Lycée Franco Mexicain has become one of the most important among those held in Mexico City at a high school level. The purpose of the Model UN is to raise awareness, teach participants different problems and to find their solutions, that will hopefully lead to peace. Now, seven years later, the 8th edition of the LFMUN is brought to you thanks to the secretariat general: Kenta Hashimito and Salvador Galván, outstanding members of the school alumni.

It is with great pleasure that we've selected two crucial topics to discuss. In which the quality of life of many would benefit from their resolution. **Topic A:** *Strategies for combating the erasure of women and girls from public life in the Middle East.* Tackling these challenges is essential to advance gender equality, sustainable development, and peace in the region. Whereas **topic B:** *Measures to reform punitivist and exclusionary prison systems in order to promote rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts into society.* The current discussion emphasises the immediate necessity of reforming punitive prison systems, prioritising rehabilitation and successful reintegration of convicts.

This handbook will contain the most crucial information about the topics at hand in order for delegates, both experienced and inexperienced, to understand them so as to be able to debate them in the Human Rights Committee. We expect new and eager delegates to find this handbook useful and practical for use in the diplomatic debate of this committee. It is our conviction that the experience of being a delegate is a deeply enriching one; that will help you develop general knowledge of global issues as well as oral expression and argumentation skills.

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Introduction to the Committee:

The Human Rights Committee is an independent entity, formed by the United Nations, composed of 18 independent experts who are elected for a term of four years by States Parties.¹ The experts oversee the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by its States parties.² The committee defines Human rights as “rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.” (ohchr.org)

This committee was established to continue The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in order to promote freedom, equality and justice around the world. All of the States have ratified 1 of the 9 core human rights treaties, plus 1 of the 9 optional protocols. In addition 80% of States have ratified 4 or more treaties. Meaning that States, in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, have to fulfil the duties and obligations under international law:

- The obligation to respect means that all States must not interfere with the enjoyment of human rights.
- The obligation to protect requires States to protect all individuals and groups against violations of human rights
- The obligation to fulfil means that States have an obligation to take positive action in order to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights for everyone.

International human rights law is based on the universality of human rights. This implies that each individual has an equal entitlement to human rights. Numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions reiterate this idea, which was initially highlighted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Human rights are inalienable and shouldn't be taken away unless there are particular circumstances and proper process has been followed. For instance, if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law, their right to liberty may be restricted.³

The entity comprises 47 Member States which meet at least three times per year in Geneva. The Human Rights Committee mandate is to strengthen the global promotion and protection of human rights, and seeks to address the violations and dangerous situations against Human Rights. ⁴

¹ OHCHR. (s. f.). *Human Rights Committee*. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ccpr>

² *Human Rights Committee*. (2021, september 29). International Justice Resource Center. <https://ijrcenter.org/un-treaty-bodies/human-rights-committee/#COMPOSITION>

³ OHCHR. (s. f.-b). What are human rights? <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights>

⁴ *UN Human Rights Council*. (2023, december 20). ISHR. <https://ishr.ch/about-human-rights/who-protects-human-rights/the-united-nations/un-human-ri>

Historical background of the Human Rights Committee

The chaotic state of the world after World War II left the world in need of new reformations in order to prevent the repetition of the massive violent events seen during the period of war. Then, on December 10 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Declaration of Human Rights.⁵

The Human Rights Committee (HRC) was established per Articles 28 to 39 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976.⁶ It monitors the implementation of the ICCPR. Nevertheless this committee works under the conditions and laws established by the Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

UDHR was the first official text outlining fundamental human rights to be universally protected, the UDHR will celebrate its 75th anniversary as the cornerstone of all international human rights law. The tenets and fundamental elements of all present and future human rights conventions, treaties, and other legal documents are laid down in its thirty articles. The Declaration is a 30-article life guide that addresses rights and privileges that are out of reach for some people but realised by millions. The Declaration of Independence upholds the ideals of free speech, privacy, and respect for all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. These include access to healthcare, education, work, fair compensation, voting rights, and more.

In addition, the UDHR, with the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights make part of the International Bill of Rights.

Finally, in order to address new human rights concerns, new human rights standards are being developed based on the Universal Declaration, and the corpus of international human rights legislation is still growing today. UN Human Rights has contributed to the 21st century's increased protection of the rights of marginalised populations, including older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTI individuals, and indigenous peoples. Additionally, the Office has highlighted the connection between climate change and human rights.⁷

How does UN Human Rights work?

OHCHR main headquarters are located in Geneva Switzerland, it also has offices all over the globe; in New York City and in other countries like Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Mexico, Niger ...etc.

[ghs-council/#:~:text=It%20is%20comprised%20of%2047,violations%20and%20situations%20of%20concern](#)

⁵ OHCHR. (s. f.-a). *Human Rights 75 Initiative*. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights-75>

⁶ *Doctors Without Borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law*. (s. f.). <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/human-rights-committee/>

⁷ OHCHR. (s. f.-a). *Brief history of UN human rights*. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/brief-history-un-human-rights>

OHCHR offers support to governments to help them implement the international human rights standards to which they have pledged commitment. This support encompasses expertise and technical training in areas such as the administration of justice, legislative reform, and electoral processes. Various actions are undertaken by UN Human Rights, including speaking out objectively against human rights violations worldwide, they establish a platform for identifying, highlighting, and formulating responses to the contemporary human rights challenges and also they serve as the primary focal point for activities related to human rights research, education, public information, and advocacy.

OHCHR promises to support and defend all the different human rights and freedoms mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Numerous actions can be taken to make meaningful contributions, they believe in empowering people through education, research and advocacy so that they can promote and protect all human rights, the primary and crucial areas of focus involve advocating for protection of every single human being. An issue that is very important in today's society. Where not everyone is treated equally, might be because of their sex, race, religion, ethnicity or even political beliefs. The United Nations Human Rights engages with governments and civil society organisations as its approach to extending support to every individual in need.

The OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa concluded its 2019-initiated partnership with the Ntethelelo Foundation, led by Thokozani Ndaba. Using theatre and other interactive techniques, the Foundation addresses gender inequality, poverty, and violence against women. The inclusive program, initially for girls and later welcoming boys, imparts vital lessons on respect and dismantling toxic masculinity. This program will help reduce domestic violence and will promote gender equality in South Africa.

Structure of the committee

The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows: African States (13 seats), Asia-Pacific States (13 seats), Latin American and Caribbean States (8 seats), Western European and other States (7 seats), Eastern European States (6 seats).

Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

With membership on the Council comes a responsibility to uphold high human rights standards. This is a criteria insisted on by States themselves when they adopted resolution 60/251 in March 2006 to create the Human Rights Council.

UN Human Rights Achievements

Since the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 1976, the constant goal has been achieving the dignity, freedom and rights of all human beings. To achieve such a fundamental

goal the human rights committee has established world conferences for human rights , advised governments and supported laws against the violation of human rights all around the globe.

Some of the most important UN Human Rights achievements are as follows :

- 14 human rights components in UN peace missions (June 2014)
- Launching of the Rabat plan of action, involving the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that incites to discrimination, hostility or violence. (2016)
- Appointing of the first Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation. (2008)
- Appointing first Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2000)
- The UN Human Rights Council endorsed Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for implementing the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework. (2011)
- Appointing of a special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children. (2004)
- Recognition of the important role of non-governmental organisations by the World Conference on Human Rights. (1993)
- Appointing a Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. (2001)
- The Human Rights Council adopted the first United Nations resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity. (June 2011)

Topic A:

Strategies for Combating the Erasure of Women and Girls from Public Life in the Middle East

1. Introduction to the Topic

1. I. Important Notions and Definitions**

Erasure: Making people or groups invisible or less important. In this case, it refers to purposely ignoring or downplaying the roles of women and girls in the Middle East.

Women and girls: Female people of all ages. Here, we're discussing their experiences, rights, and how they're perceived in the Middle East.

Public life: Everything that people can see or take part in together, such as politics, education, employment, media, and social interactions.

The Middle East: A region that includes countries in Western Asia and North Africa. It's a mix of different cultures, societies, and politics, where women's rights and equality may be perceived differently.

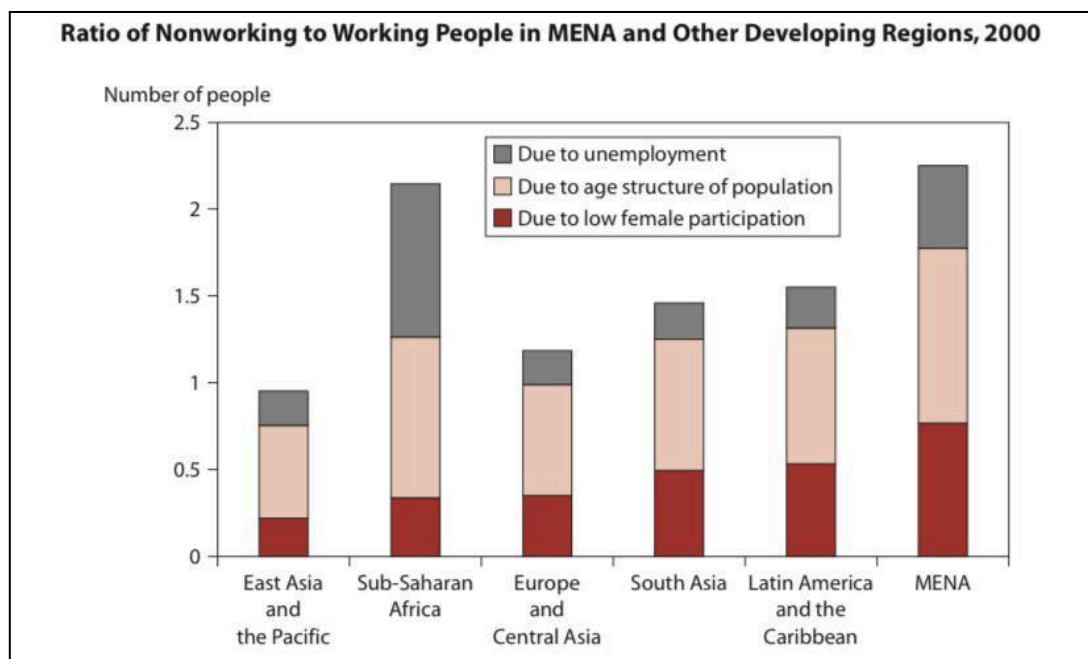
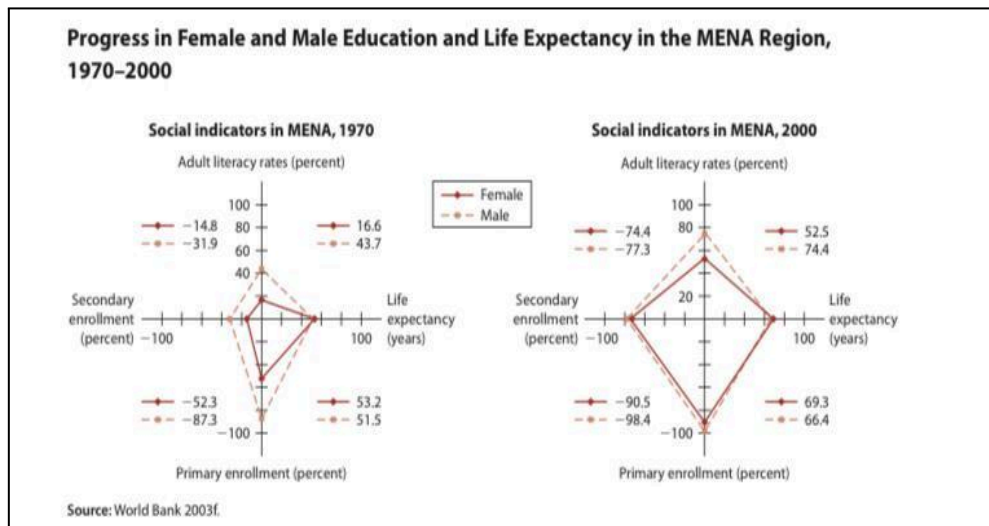
II. Background and Context

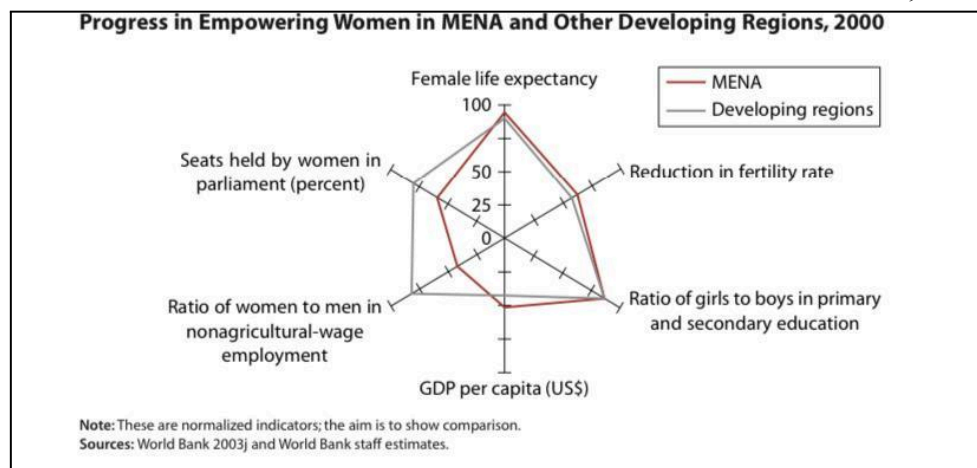
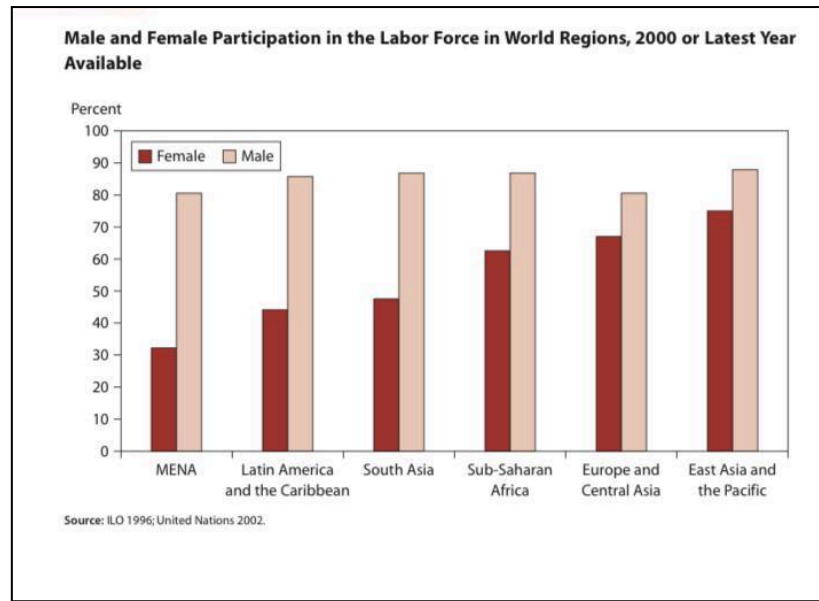
The issue of combating the erasure of women and girls from public life in the Middle East arises from deeply established social norms, cultural practices, and laws that consistently minimise and exclude them from participating in various aspects of public life. Women and girls in the Middle East face daily challenges due to their gender, encountering discrimination from restrictive social norms and patriarchal structures that limit their rights to education, employment opportunities, political participation, and other basic human rights. These injustices are often reinforced by traditional gender roles and stereotypes deeply rooted in their culture, as well as laws and policies that encourage inequality and restrict women's rights.

Although efforts have been made to address gender equality and women's assertion of their rights in the region, a persistent gap remains, lacking representation and visibility for women and girls in public life. Therefore, strategies aimed at combating this erasure must address cultural attitudes and the overcoming of obstacles while promoting inclusive policies

and initiatives to ensure the full participation and recognition of women and girls in public life, helping them reclaim their human rights and providing them with the opportunities they deserve.

III. Statistics and facts:





It is also essential to truly grasp what this topic is about, that the following facts be assimilated, as mentioned before hand in the graphics:

If we start off with the subject of women's health in middle eastern countries, it is an aspect that has improved, for example in the last two decades maternal mortality has gone down by 60% in Arab countries but even if it is a remarkable decrease in the overall maternal mortality ratio, maternity mortality rates are st high in Djibouti and Yemen. To illustrate this point as of 2013, there were 78 deaths out of 100 000 births.

Taking a political approach, a factor that calls to action is that women's participation in the workforce in Arabian countries is rather low, at 25 %. This pourcentage is half of the global average for women in the labour force.

⁸ El-Swais, M. (2024, March 16). Ten facts you didn't know about women in the Arab world. *world bank*. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/arabvoices/ten-facts-about-women-arab-world>

I. Current situation:

In many Middle Eastern states, the situation of women and girls is not yet resolved. Women still lack proper rights and representation in all or most areas, for example the percentage of women in the labour force in Arab States is only 26% , while globally it is 52% . This means that they have the lowest percentage of women in the labour force in the world.

Historically speaking women and girls' participation and leadership in the middle eastern states has always been disrupted. However, during the last decade a lot of progress has been made to transgress the limits that have been placed around women and girls' participation in public life. There are still many challenges, the Covid -19 pandemic made the gap between men and women wider, regarding employment , family obligations, etc.. This has made women's access to the public sphere even more troubled . Alas, that does not mean that efforts to ensure women and girls participation in the public sphere have ended , on the contrary; movements and protests and even reforms are still being carried out to ensure womens full and equal participation in the political and economic area which is fundamental to democracy and justice.

II. Measures taken:

The measures taken to combat the erasure of women and girls from public life are varied. Firstly it is important to increase the prominence of civil, political and economic rights of women in national visions and strategies in the Middle Eastern region. In addition it is crucial to embed international gender equality into national gender equality perspectives such as those specified in the CEDAW. Furthermore it is key to implement gender equality visions by developing the necessary skills and knowledge, raising awareness on the high-level objectives and providing necessary resources. Moreover it is essential to create a safe environment for women to participate and actively engage in peace processes. Subsequently it is crucial to adopt legislations and policies that facilitate women's political participation.

All of these measures are pertinent for combating the erasure of women and girls from public spaces in the middle east.

Conclusion:

To conclude, the exclusion of women and girls from public life in middle eastern states is a longstanding issue that needs to be resolved urgently. The measures to combat the erasure of women and girls from public life are being implemented daily . Many protests and uprisings by women all over the middle eastern states who are fighting to implement

women's participation and leadership in public life have raised awareness about this issue and thus have pushed towards the creation of more reforms and legislations that protect women's and girls' participation in public life. Ensuring women's equal participation in public life is vital for accurately addressing their policy priorities and needs in laws, institutions and regulations.

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Topic B:

Measures to reform punitive and exclusionary prison systems in order to promote rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts into society

I. Introduction to the topic:

The topic at hand puts priority on the need to reform punitive and exclusionary prison systems in order to evolve into more rehabilitating and a successful reintegration of convicts into society in order to reduce recidivism rates and create safer and more just communities.

Important notions and definitions:

Punitive justice: a type of justice based on punishment. This system aims to hold criminals incarcerated responsible for their crimes through penalties plus the infliction of pain. This system asserts that enforcing punishment impartially helps safeguard societal interests by compelling criminals to comply with and uphold the law.

Exclusionary practices: these practices take action within the criminal justice system, and they refer to policies, procedures, or even attitudes that provoke isolation and/or the marginalisation of individuals inside the system. The exclusion caused by these practices doesn't particularly take place only in time of incarceration, but can also occur at various stages, including during arrest, trial, sentencing, and post-release reintegration into society.

Prison reform: prison reform is an ongoing current process that requires the collaboration among policymakers, criminal justice professionals, advocacy groups, and communities in order to address the complex challenges associated with incarceration to promote a more humane and effective approach to punishment and rehabilitation.⁹

Recidivism: the tendency for ex-convicts to re-engage after their liberation in illegal activities that leads them back to prison or be once again involved in the criminal justice system (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2020).

Community-based corrections: variety of programs and interventions with a goal of supervision and rehabilitation of individuals who have been convicted of crimes in the past while allowing them to remain a member of their community rather than serving time in jail or prison (Clear et al., 2016). These programs often include alternatives to incarceration, such as probation, parole, electronic monitoring, community service, drug treatment, mental health counselling, and education or job training (National Institute of Justice, n.d.).

⁹ The Sentencing Project. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>
Prison Policy Initiative. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/>

Rehabilitation: the process of assisting individuals who have been previously engaged in criminal behaviour and have been convicted in order to detect the factors that lead to their illegal actions and to incite the development of useful social skills, and the successful reintegration of them into society ¹⁰. Rehabilitation uses a diverse combination of planned interventions like education, and substance abuse treatment for example. These methods aim to reduce the likelihood of these individuals to re engage in unlawful behaviour and to promote a positive behavioural change.

Reintegration: the process of creating and facilitating a successful return to society of troubled individuals who have been previously involved in the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on those who have spent time incarcerated into their old communities. This process takes place by offering emotional and economic support and opportunities that seek to help these individuals overcome the many challenges they most probably face once reintegrating into society. (Braithwaite & Mugford, 1994).

II. Background and context:

The topic at hand has gained its urgency from questioning the judgement and efficiency of the criminal justice system. The system has been heavily criticised for its lack of effectiveness, fairness and overall humanness in its way of approaching punitive reforms to punish convicted and incarcerated individuals.

Historically, most criminal justice systems around the world engage in punitive justice in order to control convicts which often results in high rates of incarceration, overcrowded prisons, and improperly harsh penalties; particularly for marginalised and minority populations (ACLU, n.d.; Clear et al., 2016).

In recent years, there has been an increase of conscience in the lack of humanity inside the criminal justice system and their punitive prison reforms. This reaction has led to a request to shift the focus of the system towards a restorative justice system where the focus lays on rehabilitation and community-based alternatives to incarceration (The Sentencing Project, n.d.; Prison Policy Initiative, n.d.). This alternative is driven by past research that demonstrates how interventions aimed at addressing the underlying factors contributing to criminal behaviour, providing support and resources to individuals upon their release from prison, and involving communities in the reintegration process can lead to better outcomes in terms of reduced recidivism, improved public safety, and greater social cohesion (Gendreau et al., 2002; Umbreit & Armour, 2011).

Efforts to reform punitive and exclusionary prison systems often involve a combination of policy changes, legislative reforms, and grassroots advocacy aimed at

¹⁰ Gendreau, P., Goggin, C., & Smith, P. (2002). Is the Pessimism About Correctional Treatment Justified? A Meta-Analytic Study of Treatment Outcomes. *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 6(3), 19–43.

promoting evidence-based practices, reducing barriers to reentry, expanding access to education and treatment programs, addressing systemic inequalities within the criminal justice system, and fostering collaboration between criminal justice agencies, community organisations, and other stakeholders (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2020; National Institute of Justice, n.d.).

Overall, the topic reflects a broader societal conversation about the goals and values of the criminal justice system and the need to balance the demands for accountability and public safety with the principles of fairness, rehabilitation, and human rights.

III. Statistics and facts:

- As of 2022, the countries with the highest prison population rate (that is, the number of prisoners per 100,000 of the national population) are the United States with 629 per 100,000, followed by Rwanda with 580, Turkmenistan with 576, El Salvador with 564, Cuba with 510, Palau with 478, British Virgin Islands with 447, Panama with 436, St Kitts & Nevis with 423, Grenada with 413, Thailand with 412, U.S. Virgin Islands with 394, Bahamas with 392, Uruguay with 383 and Brazil with 381.
- There are considerable differences between the continents. The total prison population in Oceania has increased by 82%, that in the Americas by 43%, that in Asia by 38% and that in Africa by 32%; in Europe, by contrast, the total prison population has decreased by 27%.¹¹
- Once an individual reenters society after spending time in prison, their likelihood of becoming a contributing member of their community is dependent on whether they can secure meaningful employment, find a place to live, and have the education and skills necessary to advance in life.¹²
- Results: Recidivism data from 2023 found for 33 countries show that released prisoners had 2-year reconviction rates between 18% and 55%, while individuals given community sentences had rates between 10% and 47%. Recidivism rates varied based on proportions of index offences.¹³
- Imprisonment disproportionately affects individuals and their families living in poverty. The impact can be especially severe in less developed countries where the state does not provide financial assistance to the convicted and where it is not unusual for one single working member to financially support an extended family network.
- Mass imprisonment produces a deep social transformation in families and communities. Imprisonment disrupts relationships and weakens social

¹¹ 7

¹² Admin. (2023, August 6). Why Reentry Programs are Important - Hope for Prisoners. *HOPE for Prisoners*. <https://hopeforprisoners.org/why-reentry-programs-are-important/>

¹³ Yukhnenko, D. (2023). Criminal recidivism rates globally: A 6-year systematic review update. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 88(5), 102115. doi:10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2023.102115

cohesion, since the maintenance of such cohesion is based on long-term relationships.¹⁴

IV. History of the issue:

Punitivist and exclusionary approaches have been the major approach used in worldwide prison systems since the XVIth century. Emphasising punishment over rehabilitation, then progressively, the penitentiary system of the XIXth and early XXth centuries have focused mainly on isolation and harsh labour as the main source of punishment (Garland, 2001). Nevertheless, The 1970s saw a major shift in these systems towards more strict punitive measures, especially in the United States of America, that established notorious policies like the “War on Drugs” and an increase of mandatory minimum sentences leading to a significant augmentation in incarceration rates (Alexander, 2010).

It has been heavily criticised that punitivist approaches fail to address the underlying and principal causes of criminal behaviour and instead promote recidivism (Clear, 2007). In addition, Exclusionary policies create the barriers of an efficient and effective reintegration, making it difficult for former convicts to find employment, housing, and social support, which are the key to erasing permanently **recidivism** (Travis, 2005)

Current situation:¹⁵

Current prison system is overcrowded, inefficient and costly to maintain. Many prisoners are serving long prison sentences for minor offences and by the time of their release it is unlikely that they can be effectively reinserted into society. Furthermore, the yearly cost to taxpayers can be equivalent to that of paying for the education of several university students, for example.

Some governments have tried to reduce the number of absurdly long prison systems and not seek the longest penalties for non violent offences. However politicians will often seek to be seen tough on crime by doing exactly the opposite.

Prisons are important for keeping public safety and dangerous criminals that are serving time cannot commit crimes. The threat of jail time can be effective in preventing people from committing crimes. However, more incarceration is not always better. There is no doubt that the most dangerous

¹⁴ *Prison reform Background*. (n.d.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime.
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/justice-and-prison-reform/prison-reform-gloz85-background.html>

¹⁵ The Economist. (2017, 26 mayo). America’s prisons are failing. Here’s how to make them work. The Economist.
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2017/05/27/americas-prisons-are-failing-heres-how-to-make-them-work>
The role of community leaders in the reintegration of ex-prisoners: UNODC promotes dialogue in North East Nigeria. (s. f.). United Nations : Office On Drugs And Crime.
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-prison-reform/news/the-role-of-community-leaders-in-the-reintegration-of-ex-prisoners-unodc-promotes-dialogue-in-north-east-nigeria.html>

criminals such as murderers and rapists should be imprisoned, but prisons are expensive. For some types of crime, the cost of incarceration may outweigh the benefits. Money that is spent on building prisons, paying guards and feeding prisoners might be better used for hiring more police or improving school systems in poor neighbourhoods. People that are in prison do not work, pay tax or support their families. Minor offenders can even become more dangerous by learning from other prisoners from the inside.

Measures taken : ¹⁶

In order to deal with the problems in the operation of current prison systems, a number of measures have been applied with varying degrees of success:

Education: Incorporating educational programs and vocational training in prisons could prepare prisoners to acquire jobs after reentry. These may be programs like adult literacy classes for improvement, and training in trades such as carpentry, plumbing, and computer skills, among others.

Counselling and Mental Health Services: Ensure counselling and mental help services that assist the disadvantaged prisoners. Such issues may involve individual therapy, group counselling, substance abuse treatment, and service for special needs such as mental illness.

Work Release Programs: Introducing work release initiatives would enable inmates to secure employment and gradually reintegrate into society while still serving their sentences. This approach could assist them in retaining job skills, achieving financial stability, and maintaining social connections.

Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs: Implementing rehabilitation programs within communities would provide support and supervision for individuals transitioning from incarceration to society. Such programs may include halfway houses, mentorship schemes, and support groups.

Restorative Justice Practices: Adopting restorative justice strategies would prioritize repairing the harm caused by criminal actions. This might involve facilitating dialogue between victims and offenders, ensuring restitution for victims, and engaging in community service projects.

Reentry Planning and Support Services: Developing comprehensive reentry plans for each inmate before their release, which address housing, employment, healthcare, and

social support needs, is essential. Additionally, providing ongoing support services post-release would aid individuals in navigating the challenges of reintegrating into society.

Promoting Family and Community Bonds: Building connections between prisoners and their families and communities is key. This could involve programs that allow visits, therapy sessions for families, and initiatives to help prisoners reintegrate into their communities. Having strong support networks can really help with successful reintegration.

Encouraging Participation in Rehabilitation: Providing rewards for taking part in rehabilitation programs can motivate prisoners. These rewards could be things like reducing their sentence, getting special privileges in prison, or accessing extra services.

Training Staff and Changing Prison Culture: Giving prison staff training on rehabilitation ideas and creating a culture in prisons that focuses on rehabilitation and positive changes in behaviour, rather than just punishment, is important.

Conclusion:

Excessively punitive prison systems are generally inefficient, and costly, and they do not promote the reinsertion of people that have completed their prison sentences into society. Statistics show that countries can both lower their incarceration rates and the probability of recidivism by implementing innovative strategies and policies, such as: reduced sentences for minor offences, therapy and rehabilitation programs, education and vocational training, and generally promoting greater family and community bonds.

These types of measures are more humane, can help make society safer, and allow for governments to reorient public spending towards other important areas such as health and education.

Guide questions:

- How can community-based programs play a major role in the successful reintegration of convicts into society?
- How can a restorative justice system be incorporated into the current prison reform initiatives in order to encourage healing and reconciliation between offenders and victims?
- What steps can be taken to make prison less of a school of crime and more of a path towards effective and productive citizenship?

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