Richard Randolph

ENG 100

Dr. Sabatino Mangini

15 April 2018

Should America implement the jail system of Norway and treat their inmates more humane?

I am writing this research paper inspired by events in the film by Michael Moore called “What to Invade Next”. My paper will be talking about why it would be best to implement the jail system of Norway and housing and treat inmates humanely with dignity. And by using this Humane model it was rehabilitate, cure and save inmates of a life of crime and drugs. Through showing love, affection and kindness an inmate thinking patterns and attitude towards society will make 180 degree turn for the good. By also rethinking the way you look at punishment, and the punishment is having their freedom taking away. My goal of this paper is to give new thoughts about how to rehabilitate a person and to use an alternative way to achieve reform by treating people more humanely with dignity.

 Some people might say, What’s is the point of treating a criminals or murders humane? Well the point is that, the inmate can get rehabilitated. In the film [Where to Invade Next Transcript](https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/movie_script.php?movie=where-to-invade-next), inmates were house on Bastoy prison island in Norway. It’s a prison where it is a new way of rehabilitation, and it’s being executed. *Writer Erwin James in the article in “The Guardian”* said some key points about this humane jail is that, Norway has no death penalty or life sentences, the max time a criminal can get is 21 years unless the inmate isn’t rehabilitated, and also the punishment is that you lose your freedom.

 This whole concept of a humane jail is and will be the revolution of rehabilitation. The main focus is on rehabilitation instead of punishment. Because Norway said that if treat someone like animal, then they will start acting like an animal. Like for example in the article from Gentleman, Amelia. “Inside Halden, the Most Humane Prison in the World.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 18 May 2012, 16:48, [www.theguardian.com/society/2012/may/18/halden-most-humane-prison-in-world](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/may/18/halden-most-humane-prison-in-world).

“Every Halden cell has a flatscreen television, its own toilet (which, unlike standard UK prison cells, also has a door) and a shower, which comes with large, soft, whitee towels. Prisoners have their own fridges, cupboards and desks in bright new pine, white magnetic pin boards and huge, unbarred windows overlooking mossy forest scenery.”

These details for a jail cell is something that you would see in hotel. This Norwegian model has reduced their recidivism rate to 20% meanwhile the U.S had 60% recidivism rate as state the article by Nilsen, Arne Kvernvik. “Punish with Dignity.” *New Scientist. 9/17/2016, Vol. 231 Issue 3091, p20-21. 2p. 1 Color Photograph. Subject Terms:*2016. DCCC Library Search Engine. So there has to be something about this human jail system that keeps people from not coming back.

The governor of the jail not warden said and I quote from article by Alexander, Michelle. “Our Failed Prison System Is Exactly the One We Chose.” *Washington Post,*18 Mar. 2016. *DCCC Library Search Engine*.

***“Treat people like dirt and they will be dirty, but treat them like human being and the will act like human beings.***

It makes sense once you really think about it, because these men are still human beings that made so bad or wrong decision and who gives you the right to take their humanity away. Sometimes people forget what it means to be a human being, to show some love, kindness and affection. Maybe these are the tools that have been missing in our jail system. Also other pillars of this humane jail system is having inmates develop respect and self-esteem and also giving them back their dignity and humanity. Because this humane system is in place to build you back into a strong and positive being, not break you down mentally, physically and financially.

 So I know you may be thinking, why treat somebody good after that did something bad, you’re not supposed be to getting rewarded for wrong doings. That maybe right but, the Norwegian model understand that taking away someone’s freedom and taking them away from friends and family is enough of a punishment. So as they rehab you to be able to be placed back in society that you will be productive and add value to society, rather them make someone suffer in prison then return to their neighborhood as bigger threat.

So to make this rehabilitation effective is to not have any prison uniforms and wear regular clothes like in the outside world, the guards not having guns, give the inmates a recording studio to relieve stress in a positive way, there are no bars on windows, instead they want to give you sunlight, allowing inmates spend their time running, fishing, swimming, play basketball and riding bikes, they have keys to their own rooms, personal showers, Xbox game console and they can vote once their released. Sterbenz, Christina, and Pamela Engel. “Why Norway's Prison System Is so Successful.” *BusinessInsider.com*, 11 Dec. 2014. Is because for the 5 million people that live in Norway only 4,000 are behind bars. For the U.S for every 100,000 people 707 are behind bars. The U.S has a whopping 76.6% of the prisoners are re-arrested within 5 years.

 So you see when you treat people like animals that just come back to prison because that is where they feel comfortable at for a lack of words. Because they don’t fit nowhere else after you strip them of their human rights, dignity, humanity, respect and self-esteem. In conclusion would it be so bad to try people humanely with dignity. Or is it not fair because a person it a drug user or murder. This new concept has been proving to work and reduce the recidivism rate to 20%. Maybe treating people like animals and keeping them in cages is the wrong way to rehab someone.

 What if love, Kindness and affection is solution to all the jail issues in American and behind? We will never know because jails in America make a lot of money for people in them. I hope in the near future that we can adopt some of Norway’s method and values, because a lot of people family member are coming home broken and changed for the worst. So is this the price you have to paid for crime? Can anyone come home from jail in American not mentally, physically and financial broken without having their human rights and dignity compromised? If so when….

Work Citied Web Page

Nilsen, Arne Kvernvik. “Punish with Dignity.” *New Scientist. 9/17/2016, Vol. 231 Issue 3091, p20-21. 2p. 1 Color Photograph. Subject Terms:*2016. DCCC Library Search Engine

Alexander, Michelle. “Our Failed Prison System Is Exactly the One We Chose.” *Washington Post,*18 Mar. 2016. *DCCC Library Search Engine*.

Sterbenz, Christina, and Pamela Engel. “Why Norway's Prison System Is so Successful.” *BusinessInsider.com*, 11 Dec. 2014.

Moore, Michael, and Michael Moore. *What to Invade Next*. *What to Invade Next*, 1 Dec. 2015.

O'Neill, Marine. “Norway Has the Most Luxurious and Humane Prisons in the World.” *Newscomau Australias 1 News Site*, 16 Mar. 2015, 7:16 pm, [www.news.com.au/](http://www.news.com.au/).

Gentleman, Amelia. “Inside Halden, the Most Humane Prison in the World.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 18 May 2012, 16:48, www.theguardian.com/society/2012/may/18/halden-most-humane-prison-in-world.