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Should America make their jail system more human to rehabilitate their inmates?

***“Treat people like dirt and they will be dirty, but treat them like human beings and they will act like human beings.*** by Alexander, Michelle. “Our Failed Prison System Is Exactly the One We Chose.” *Washington Post,*

In the film “Where to Invade Next by Michael Moore”, Michael Moore explores and Invades the foreign soil of Norway. Where in Norway their jail system treat’s their inmate more humane and respectful, by providing a hotel/resort environment to aid rehabilitating.

Just imagine going through the jail house doors going through intake, and as you look around you see modern art hanging on the walls. Then as they escort you to your cell, they give you a key. And you may say, what is this for? the guard’s replies “It is for your cell. As you enter the room/ loft like setting your turn to your left an see your own personal shower and bathroom.

So you explore the room with more excitement and you open a closet, as you see fresh towels and wash clothes. Also hangers to put your clothes on as well as a laundry bin. Now you say to yourself, what do to do in my cell to entertain myself while I do my time. Well as you scan the room you look over in the corner you see, a flat screen TV and an Xbox game console with all the games. These are some types of the amenities that are part of the humane jail system. Hence for instance as described in the Business Insider article by Christina Sterbenz.

*Norway’s incarceration rate is just 75 per 100,00 people, compared to 707 people for every 100,00 people in the U.S.*

So with just one of the numerous facts of why the system works, American should make their jail system more humane to rehabilitate their inmates. Another key factor with using this humane jail system component, which is the recidivism rate. Now you may say, what’ s that mean? Recidivism means the behavior of a repeat or habitual criminal.

A measurement of the rate at which offenders commit other crimes, either by arrest or conviction baselines, after being released from jail. So for instance the recidivism rate in Norway is the lowest in the world at 20%, but for American it’s one of the highest rates at 76.6% with about 56% of repeat offenders returning back to jail within 5 years. 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 when you rehabilitate someone you should repair the harm caused by the crime the offender did, instead of punishing them.

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)

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. Because the core pillar of the humane system are rehabilitation instead of punishment. This humane system also helps with the inmate’s sense of purpose.

Some insight on why the conditions are so relax and stress free, is because it’s meant to duplicate the conditions of the outside world that the inmates will be integrated into after their release. Also adding to their comfort and well-being, is that the guards don’t carry guns. Instead they talk to the inmates and build a relationship with them to better understand how they assist in their rehabilitation. Rather than unlike in American where the guards have guns that adds to the inmate’s stress and where the guards can care less about building a relationship.

What also contribute to the humane system rehabilitation model, is allowing the inmates to be out their cells from 7:30am to 8:30pm and 1 hour in cells to give the guards a break. And as for the American jails their inmates spend 23 hours in and 1 hour out the cell. See with all the non-stressful and non-intimidating conditions it makes the inmates soft in attitude and easier to be integrated back in society. And on the other hand being in them intensely stressful and massively intimidating conditions it makes the inmates hard in attitude and harder to integrated back in society.

Are people that get arrested for murders, rape and drug related charges not meant to get rehabilitated and be place back into society to become a productive once again. Should they be forever stained by the bad decision making and uneducated minds. Or should they be treated humanely with dignity, respect and love. Sometimes that is the real reasons why they committed a crimes or make bad decision, was be they weren’t being treated with dignity, respect and love. So is American jail system truly for rehabilitating the inmate so they can be put back in society or are they for the punishment and brutality of the inmates to brainwash them in coming back to jail.

My prediction is that this humane jail system won’t work in American is because their too many people in jail and difficult to manager. American jail system isn’t in business to keep people out, but to keep people coming back. If they can release in worsen conditions in which you first arrived in. That can insure them that you will be a repeat offender and continue to aid their capitalist system.

But in order for the human jail system in American it would have to be done with small amounts of inmates to insure the best results for rehabilitation. However, the humane system without a shadow of doubt will rehabilitate and keep offenders out for jail for good. Providing them with respect, dignity, love and sense of purpose.

Work Citied Web Page

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