

CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY

The increasing rate of crime in the community is a matter of concern to myself and my family, as I am sure it is to the community. I hope my comments will be of assistance to the committee in addressing these issues. We do not wish to turn our homes into fortresses nor do we wish to bring up our children in a state of fear and with reduced freedom.

The present system of imprisonment of criminals, I feel, fails to deter criminals, reduce crime and is too expensive to society. In other words, it is totally ineffective. I also feel that criminals are leaving our prison system as more hardened criminals rather than reformed persons.

I also have concerns about imprisoning people unless they have committed major crimes. Life is too precious to be wasted and as we only have one life to live, we as a caring society should assist everyone to live it in a responsible and enjoyable way.

I think more could be achieved through counselling and community work for first time offenders. Repeat offenders, depending on the nature of the offence, should have their liberty curtailed through strict surveillance, maybe via a micro chip imbedded on the person, while the counselling and community work continues. Should this fail to rehabilitate the person then, only as a last resort, should imprisonment be considered as an option.

The use of micro chips imbedded in a persons body may seem draconian, but I

feel strongly that we have more chance of rehabilitating a person while they are out and about in the community. They may appreciate what they could lose, should they fail to change their habits.

I would also like to have electronic devices that can read the micro chips fitted at every business premise and homes. These units will pick up the signal of an offender, but only the police will have the means of identifying the person. This would be a means of placing existing offenders at a scene of crime.

My comments and suggestions on the following crimes are:

Vandalism - I think the main culprits of vandalism are juveniles and is the first step towards a life of disrespect for other peoples rights and property. I think parents should be made fully responsible for the behaviour of their underage children. If a vandal is apprehended then he/she/they and their parents need to pay for the cost of damage(over a period of time, if needed) and also work with community workers/counsellors to resolve any issues that are the cause of such behaviours.

Burglary/theft- First time offenders should be offered counselling and made to undertake community work. Repeat offenders should be placed under strict surveillance by having a micro chip imbedded on their person while the rehabilitation work continues.

If the cause of burglary/theft is to support their drug habit then the offender should be placed in a drug rehabilitation program and only released when they have recovered from their drug habit.

I believe it is a persons right to choose whether they wish to take drugs, but when they commit a crime to maintain their habit then they lose their freedom of choice. Their habit becomes a danger to society and they need to be rehabilitated.

Paedophiles- Should be placed under surveillance immediately, by imbedding a micro chip on their person while they undergo counselling. We cannot afford to take the risk of them reoffending while they are being rehabilitated. Our childrens lives are too precious to be destroyed by these sick persons.

Murderers and Drug Dealers- To me, they are in the same category, they both destroy lives and as such they forfeit the basic human right to freedom. They should be locked up until we are absolutely sure that they will not destroy any more lives.

I haven't had much time to think through the issues in depth as I am already late with my submission. I sincerely hope my thoughts will be of value to the Committee.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our viewpoint.

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