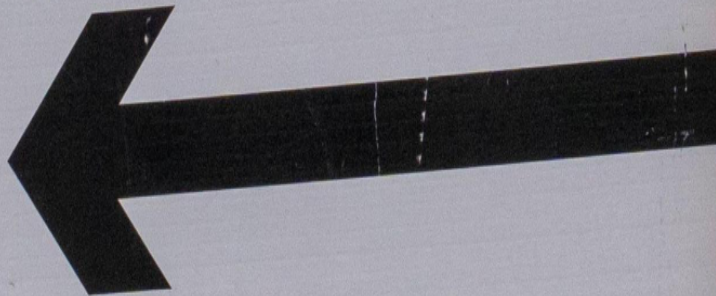


Research Report

Human Rights Committee

Should all prisoners have the right to vote?

**POLLING
STATION**



Model
United Nations

Forum:	Human Rights Committee
Issue:	Should all prisoners have the right to vote?
Author:	Ben L
Position:	Chair

Introduction:

The issue of prisoners' rights, particularly their right to vote in elections and government decisions, is a complex and contentious topic that has sparked debates around the globe. It intersects with multiple facets of law, human rights, and political philosophy, raising fundamental questions about justice, rehabilitation, and the nature of citizenship. In this discussion there are lots of factors to include and consider (as stated above) which are crucial in creating a successful and targeted resolution, however although the treatment of prisoners etc are large controversial topics, in this debate focus needs to be on the main question of 'whether prisoners should have the right to vote', however please do further consider these wider issues that may add strength or versatility to your resolution and debate.

UN definitions regarding this topic:

Prisoner:

Prisoners are people who are forcefully detained and deprived of their liberty, after a lawful criminal justice process. In other words, people who are put in prisons, correctional premises or similar institutions under that countries official criminal justice system. Prisoners also include people who are detained before the final verdict in a court of law, charged with a criminal offence. Note the difference from being detained (arrest, jail) during a criminal investigation before being formally charged; and detained for other reasons, such as investigation of immigration status.

Prison: Specialised premises who are forcefully detained and deprived of their liberty are housed. This "housing" of a prisoner such as the conditions etc vary across countries.

Liberty: The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behaviour, or political views.

Vote: A formal indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action, expressed typically through a ballot or a show of hands.

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Human Right: rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.

Justice: the ethical, philosophical idea that people are to be treated impartially, fairly, properly, and reasonably by the law and by arbiters of the law.

Current general Human Rights that apply to prisoners:

The UN have key points regarding this topic that should be applied to all member states. Some of them to consider are as follows:

- There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.

British laws on Prisoner's ability to vote:

Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended, prevents convicted individuals detained in prison and mental health hospitals from registering to vote in UK Parliament and English, Welsh and Northern Irish local elections.

This excludes unconvicted prisoners or those who are serving their sentence in the community... so these prisoners are able to vote:

- those held on remand awaiting trial/ sentencing
 - civil prisoners– normally those in prison for failure to pay fines or debts or contempt
 - offenders on home detention curfew or released on temporary licence.
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References from Research (Bibliography) :

- [United Nations Human Rights on Prisoners](#)
- [House of Commons Library](#)
- [Cambridge Dictionary](#)