



CSMUN XVII
CCPCJ
Chair: Gabrielle Castillo



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Letter From The Chair

Dear Delegates,

Hello delegates! My name is Gabriellle Castillo. I am so excited to be your chair for CSMUN XVII's CCPCJ. I am going into my sophomore year, and this will be my second year in Model United Nations, but my first year chairing. Outside of Model UN, I am a part of the soccer team, Philharmonic orchestra, HOSA, and swim guard. I find this committee interesting because there's always something new to expand on, and I'm excited to see what ideas you all will come up with. I think that the mistreatment of criminal inmates should be talked about more.

The Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is a law committee that deals with the treatment of criminals and how to lower the rate of crimes globally. CCPCJ was created on February 6th, 1992, and is a relatively newer addition to the Model United Nations. The purpose of this committee is to prevent transnational organized crime and create a fair and just criminal system. There are 40 involved nations.

In this committee I am looking for creative solutions to these issues and you all to work together peacefully and respectfully. I encourage all delegates to use fun/funny hooks during their speeches and just overall have a great time in CCPCJ. Position Papers are due October 2nd at 11:59 PM via email or a paper copy can be submitted the day of CSMUN XVII. CSMUN XVII is Saturday October 3rd, and I can't wait to see you guys there! Just a reminder, this is a no-tech conference, and this is also a learning conference for the new members of the Model United Nations.

I can't wait to see you all,
Gabrielle Castillo
290165@d230.org



Topic A: Improving Quality of Life in Custody

History and Situation

The quality of life for inmates in custody has changed significantly over time. From 1000 BCE, criminals have been kept in dungeons and castles. These cells were cold, dark and moldy. The criminals were treated terribly, the spaces were overcrowded, and people were being treated like animals. Family members were responsible for food and common necessities instead of the facilities providing them. The punishments were typically physical, including whippings or **mutilation**. Even seemingly insignificant crimes, like petty theft, were treated with extensive amounts of violence. Most punishments involved public humiliation and extreme measures intended to assert law and order. A majority of these detentions involved isolation and severely mentally harmed inmates. Oftentimes these criminals were treated in **inhumane** ways, including public humiliation and death in cruel ways.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, prisons started to change by starting with treatment in the prison. The lawmakers began to argue whether they should focus on **rehabilitation** or punishment. Notably, lawmakers began to clean prisons since there were diseases like typhus, yet prisoners were still suffering from overcrowding. At this time, the inmates being put on trial were being held in a temporary prison, which was filthy and unkept.



When the trial came, inmates weren't getting treated fairly due to existing stereotypes or prejudices such as social status and wealth. In the early ages of prisons, inmate treatments and punishments were based on skin color, race, or class, even if they were innocent. These early justice systems relied heavily on violence and **trial by ordeal**. Unlike the modern process, and instead of ensuing a trial, lawmakers would subject the accused to extreme physical pain to determine innocence or guilt. For example, The Trial of Cold Water; accused was lowered into a river or lake. If they sank, they were proven innocent. If they floated, they were proven guilty. This practice was common because water was viewed as a holy element and would reject a guilty person. This practice was used for centuries until it died out around the 13th century.

Bigger Issue



Sanitation is a very common issue in prisons nationwide. There are often issues with rodent and pest infestations, airborne diseases, and plumage problems. Problems with sanitation and poor hygiene

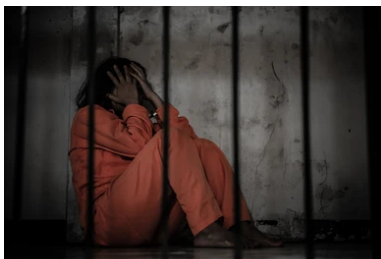


greatly impact inmates' mental and physical health. In overcrowded centers, sanitized living conditions are very uncommon. In these facilities, inmates usually don't have access to necessities like showers, toilets, or personal hygiene products. Without these products, inmates and guards are more prone to diseases, infections, and other illnesses. As a result, prisons with poor maintenance or a minimal cleaning staff can cause buildup of waste, rodent infestations, and disease breakouts. Moreover, a lack of funds makes it harder to maintain a healthy, clean environment for the inmates.

Additionally, inmates in custody commonly face challenges with access to proper healthcare. To begin, many prisons don't have enough licensed professionals to provide mental and physical care. Subsequently, most inmates experience long delays before receiving requested medical attention, causing chronic illnesses to worsen over time. Not only is physical healthcare an issue, but many detention centers don't provide mental care. About 40% - 70% of prisoners suffer from some type of mental illness. Common disorders seen in inmates include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Over 66% of inmates who did not receive therapy or **psychiatric** attention had worsened mental health compared to when they entered custody.

Another key issue involves the outbreak of prison fights amidst facilities across the globe. Prison fights occur significantly more in overcrowded prisons because of the tense environment. When fights break out because of gang activity, competition, or personal issues, it creates an insecure and fearful environment, causing mental issues among the inmates. Due to this tense environment, arguments and disagreements are more likely to escalate into physical fights. When fights occur, it often hinders personal development for the inmates and creates difficulties in being reintegrated into society. Moreover, fights make it more dangerous for the prison guards and correctional officers who get involved to try to end the conflict. Overall, these fights create a more tense and violent environment.

The inmate's food situation has not improved enough. Back in 1000 BCE prisons, the



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inmate's family was held responsible for what and how much the inmate ate. It wasn't the prison's priority to take care of the criminals' diet, and even now, it isn't prioritized enough. Although the food is allegedly sustainable for their diet, it is usually preserved, prepackaged, **flash-frozen**, or subpar. When an inmate is constantly eating unsustainable food, it affects their mental and physical health. Without sufficient nutrients, it impairs a prisoner's cognitive function and affects their mood. Insufficient calories can

cause fatigue, hormonal imbalance, **anemia**, and more. Regardless, most prisons no longer fund food because they see the current food situation as just fine.

Recent Updates



To this day, prison overcrowding remains a very relevant issue. Over 60% of prisons worldwide are at or above 100% capacity, with more than a quarter exceeding 150%. These conditions significantly affect inmates' overall quality of life, mindset, and physical health. Along with this, the pre-trial detention rates are higher than ever. Over 3.7 million of the global prison population are held in pre-trial detention. This status significantly lowers the quality of life and restricts the inmates' access to **long-term programming**, social situations, and job opportunities. It is also important to note that inmates' mental health is greatly affected by being held in custody. Increased hopelessness, distress, cortisol levels, and mental health illnesses linger. Individuals held in custody are 3 times more likely to die from suicide than the general public.

Along with this, the American Civil Liberty Union has recorded a significant increase in inmate fatalities. The Kaiser Family Foundation has also reported many detainee deaths caused by medical care failures. Among these deaths, there has been attention brought to systematic issues like staff abuse and toxic environmental conditions. This includes black mold, rodent infestations, pest infestations, and staff abuse. Many of these times, inmates can't tell a higher authority about abuse or mistreatment by guards. Lower-income jails rarely have rehabilitation centers or any type of counselling, so this abuse goes on for years on end.

Possible Solutions

The topic of inmates' quality of life in custody requires a multitude of solutions to be enacted so as to fully address the issue at hand. Staffing plays a major role in keeping jails sanitary and ensuring that the inmates are healthy and safe. Knowing this, it is necessary to hire more staff equipped with the proper training to provide medical care, sanitation of cells and public areas, and cook food with higher quality and nutritional value. When there's a cleaner, healthier environment in these prisons, rates of fights among detainees and recidivism decrease significantly.

Another solution delegates should consider is therapy for criminals. Therapy will help criminals talk about their past and the trauma that led them to go to prison. It will allow inmates to heal and come to a mentally stable situation. With less emotional tension, it creates a lower stress environment. This will help prevent fights from breaking loose, which would also help keep the prison a safe facility for everyone. This will help criminals transition from the experience they had in jail to their normal life and them finding a stable job. In this process, inmates will eventually be able to reintegrate into society with few problems and a lesser chance of reoffending.

Committee Involvement



The Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's efforts to improve inmates' daily lives and health have changed many nations' perspectives on prison standards. The CCPCJ pushes to make prisoners' living style humane, and ensure they have human rights. They push to ensure that inmates still have rights even in custody. The Nelson Mandela rules ensure that the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners establish baselines for sanitation, clothing, access to adequate nutritional food, and necessary medical and dental care. This guarantees that the inmates are healthy and treated with the right medical attention when needed. These rules also push for routine check-ins for prisoners. The Bangkok rules specially address the treatment of women in jails and detention centers, mainly to ensure that women have access to hygiene, care for pregnant women, their children, and good reproductive health. Over time, the CCPCJ has been pushing for expanded access to rehabilitation centers globally. This means more available counselling, therapy, and mental health resources to prevent reoffending.

Questions to Consider

1. *How can we ensure that prison staff are not being biased to certain detainees?*
2. *How can we guarantee that inmates will use their access to new resources responsibly?*
3. *How can we ensure that smaller, lower-income countries can fund the newer, available resources for inmates?*
4. *How can we measure how well the new programs and improvements of older programs are benefiting the detainees?*
5. *What current laws and rules are available in your country to positively affect inmates and their day-to-day life, and what new agreements can be made to improve them?*
6. *To what extent can new resources and services benefit inmates' daily lives and set them up for success in life after prison?*

Vocabulary

Anemia – Is a common blood condition where your body lacks enough healthy red blood cells or hemoglobin to carry adequate oxygen to your tissues. It frequently causes symptoms like fatigue, weakness, and shortness of breath, and is typically diagnosed through a routine Complete Blood Count (CBC).

Flash Frozen – An industrial or culinary technique that rapidly solidifies products by subjecting them to extremely low temperatures, often using cryogenic gases like liquid nitrogen. By



freezing items instantly, it prevents large ice crystals from forming, which preserves cellular structure and locks in natural flavor, moisture, and nutritional value.

Inhumane – The adjective *inhumane* means cruel and heartless. Use it to describe terrible things, such as your neighbor's inhumane treatment of his hound dogs, which he leaves tied up in the yard in all kinds of weather.

Long-Term Programming – The practice of building sustainable skills, maintaining code health, and managing physical and mental well-being over a multi-year career.

Mutilation – Refers to the severe, permanent damage, alteration, or removal of a body part that impairs its normal function or disfigures the individual. The term is used across legal, medical, and human rights contexts to describe actions that compromise a person's physical integrity without medical justification.

Psychiatric – Relates to psychiatry, the branch of medicine focused on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who assesses both the mental and physical aspects of psychological conditions.

Rehabilitation – Rehabilitation is care that can help you regain, maintain, or improve abilities needed for daily life. These abilities may be physical, mental, and/or cognitive (thinking and learning).

Reoffending – Is the act of committing a new crime after having previously been convicted or punished for a prior offense. In criminology, it is often referred to as recidivism.

Trial by Ordeal – An ancient and medieval legal practice used to determine guilt or innocence by subjecting the accused to extreme physical danger or pain. It operated on the belief that God would intervene to protect the innocent through a miracle.

Suggested Sources

[What a Day in Prison is Really Like](#) - this website shows what a prisoner goes through on a daily basis- so we can better understand what they struggle with.

[Caring for Those In Custody | National Institute of Justice](#) - this article tells us what we can do to benefit the inmates, and what we have already done.

[Prison Conditions](#) - this website gives us a bigger idea of the conditions that the prisoners live in



Public health - this article explains the standards for health- helpful for comparison of jail standards to public area standard

Overall quality of life and emotional regulation among inmates - this article explains the overall mental health of inmates and their hardships with them

Living Conditions in Prison - This website just shows inmates living conditions further in depth

The Psychological Impact of Incarceration - HHS ASPE - this article describes how jail time can affect an inmate

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Topic B: Supplying Available Resources for Inmates

History and Situation

In the early ages of prisons, inmates did not have access to anything besides food. Before they were reformed, prisons were based heavily on isolation, and that prevented inmates from having any personal belongings. The majority of early prisons relied on extreme punishment, heavy labor, and no justice. The amount of belongings that a prisoner might be able to obtain depended on their wealth. The wealthy could pay jailers for clothes, warm hearths, better food, alcohol, and private cells. The **impoverished** often lacked proper bedding, clothing, and food. Their food was commonly rotten or stale, but they didn't have other options.



In these prisons there was no plumbing, heating, or modern medicines. Even the wealthy were only given chamber pots and buckets of water. This lack of sanitation made these spaces host fatal, airborne diseases. Around 1000 BCE, there was a lack of space for the housing of criminals. Since there were not many prisons during these times, they were often crowded and common, and fatal diseases spread very quickly. Most inmates had cheap bedding made out of damp straw directly on the ground, and the small spaces held many people for long periods of time. The common spaces often built up filth over time and carried many diseases. Along with these inhumane conditions, they were often tied up with chains in handcuffs because of the lack of security.

The treatment and labor of the prisoners were heavily based on their wealth. Wealthier inmates have significantly less labor and punishment than the impoverished. The harsh environment was even used as a punishment as many died from starvation, cold, or disease. Depending on their offense, some prisoners were locked in damp, cold, dark dungeons, as the jailers believed that isolation demonstrated law and order.

Bigger Issue

Overcrowding remains a growing problem. It increases the speed at which diseases spread and creates an **accumulation** of waste. The filth then becomes a breeding ground for bacteria, mold, and the growth of other diseases. These conditions also increase the amount of



self-harm and violence. The unhealthy environment often causes officers to quit, and that leads to severe understaffing. Most of the time when violence breaks out, the victim inmates don't have anything to do or anyone to talk to. This causes mental conflict and can also lead to violence or self-harm. When there is conflict between guards and detainees, there could be abuse involved. In these situations, inmates often don't have anyone to talk to, so the abuse goes unnoticed for years on end.

Many detention centers deal with **underfunding**. Facilities like these typically offer bare minimum, or below minimum, resources for inmates due to tight budgeting. There is rarely medical staff or chefs, or sometimes shortages of correctional guards. Many underfunded facilities provide little to no access to showers, toilets, or personal hygiene products. Prisons like these also tend to have poorly kept cells. These cells usually have black mold, old mattresses, dirty bedding, or plumbing issues. Living conditions like this deteriorate an inmate's mental and physical health. However, prisons often overlook these conditions as they pass inspections with the bare minimum.

Another common issue among prisons is access to communication devices. In some facilities they completely restrict any communication between inmates and their families. Many facilities believe that access to out-of-prison communication will lead to suspicious activity. When these detainees can't afford these opportunities, it leads to isolation and worsened mental conditions. If they do have access to calling, those calls are usually monitored and unconfidential. Instead of in-person or live communication, many inmates resort to using mail. However, before these letters are sent out, they are scanned and sometimes censored. Most prisoners' families believe that these scans defeat the purpose of those inmates sending sincere letters to their families. The prisons enforcing these scans believe that it ensures that there isn't any suspicious behavior among detainees and their families.



Re-entry support is another important process that many jails fail to provide to inmates. Many inmates often are in debt after their jail time and are usually released with little to no gate money, which causes financial problems once they are released. This makes it harder to find stable housing, especially with landlords refusing to sell because of discrimination. Due to the refusal of housing, many ex-inmates resort to homelessness. Along with this, there is a lot of stigma against former inmates. This **discrimination** makes it much harder than usual for these people to find stable jobs to earn sustainable money. Due to this, only 50% of inmates get a secure job after release.

Recent Updates



Currently, many prisons are trying to implement more digital resources for inmates' use. Initiatives like the **JSTOR** Access in Prison program expand standard academic content to jails, allowing inmates to work toward degrees and certifications. Along with this, UNESCO's

Institute for Lifelong Learning actively supports treating prison education as a fundamental human right to support their reintegration. Furthermore, international watchdogs ensure the implementation of the **Nelson Mandela rules** and the **Bangkok rules** so that prisons worldwide demonstrate human rights. With nearly a third of the global prison population held in pre-trial detention, the World Prison Brief has collaborated with the UN Human Rights



Council to promote community-based, rights-compliant alternative measures to pre-trial detention.

More healthcare opinions are becoming available for inmates. The Global Prisons Infectious Diseases Network leads global research and advocacy to slow the spread of infectious diseases in these facilities. As a result of recent federal legal changes, eligible inmates can now have pre-release services and care as early as 90 days before their release from prison or jail. This program aims for improved continuity of care, trying to reduce post-release substance-related deaths, medical emergencies, and hospitalization.

Possible Solutions

One solution that may be helpful is making common necessities accessible and cheaper for the inmates, so they can prevent diseases from spreading and maintain good hygiene. Advisors will start giving the inmates a certain amount of products, but once that product runs out, inmates can buy replacements with their own money. If these inmates lack or are running low on money, they could work cleaning or cleaning to earn replacements

Another solution is to start a new re-entry program for the inmates. By creating this program, it will help the inmates rebuild their lives and start a better lifestyle than they once had. This program will make sure that the inmates will find a stable job that can support themselves and their families. Not only would this program help the inmates, but it would also help keep track of the inmates' files for both the inmates and the prison. It would hold the institution accountable for the inmates' documents so that when the inmates are able to leave prison, all of their documents are on file and accessible to them. This ensures that the files are organized so there is no confusion of identity across inmates.



Committee Involvement



The Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice pushes to ensure that prisoners' basic needs are met and makes access to necessities mandatory for inmates. The CCPCJ works closely with UNODC to shape international standards. They closely follow the Nelson Mandela rules, which establish minimum standards for inmate treatment. This guarantees inmate access to nutritional food, safe water, daily exercise, and proper physical and mental health care. These commissions also try to implement rehabilitation centers for inmates, which provide mental support and guidance when they get released from prison. Not only does rehabilitation provide mental help, they also provide substance abuse guidance and focuses on family visits. When the time comes for the inmates to leave prison, the Kyoto Declaration guides them for reintegration into society. This declaration ensures that these centers are following the law and that they provide for the legal aid and economic needs of inmates.

Questions to Consider

1. *How can we ensure that prisons around the globe have equitable access to healthcare?*
2. *How can we hold the inmate accountable when using digital resources and ensure all nations have access to these technological advancements?*
3. *How can smaller, low income countries fundraise enough for the implementation of devices in prison environments?*
4. *What ethical considerations should guide technologies used in inmate education?*
5. *How can we ensure that human rights in detention centers nationwide uphold basic human rights, not based on gender, religion, wealth, race, etcetera?*
6. *What risks come with allowing inmates more freedom in communication with family members?*

Vocabulary



Accumulation – is the gradual gathering, collecting, or amassing of something over time. It refers either to the action of building something up (like snow piling up or wealth growing) or the resulting amount (like a large collection of items).

Bangkok Rules – are a set of 70 United Nations guidelines adopted in 2010 to address the specific needs, rights, and vulnerabilities of female offenders and prisoners. They serve as a gender-sensitive supplement to global prison standards, focusing on alternatives to incarceration and humane conditions.

Discrimination – the unfair or prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups based on characteristics like race, gender, age, religion, or disability, often depriving them of their human or legal rights.

Impoverished – describes a person, community, or country that has been reduced to extreme poverty. It indicates a severe lack of money or basic necessities. More broadly, it can mean something has been depleted of its strength, richness.

JSTOR – is a massive digital library used primarily by students, researchers, and scholars. It provides access to millions of academic journal articles, books, images, and primary sources across more than 75 disciplines.

Nelson Mandela Rules – (formally the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners) are a universally acknowledged blueprint for prison management. First adopted in 1955 and updated in 2015, they establish minimum humane conditions for all incarcerated persons and protect their inherent human dignity.

Re-entry Support – refers to the comprehensive programs, services, and resources provided to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully transition from jail or prison back into society. The primary goals are to promote stability, improve overall well-being, and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Underfunding – the chronic or temporary state of an organization, project, or system receiving less financial support than it requires to function properly or meet its baseline obligations.

Suggested Sources

[UNODC](#) - This article shows the current policies for the UNODC and CCPCJ

[Criminal Justice System Resources](#) - This article also shows criminal justice resources, but expands deeper into them



[Resources for Returning Citizens](#) - This article shows how reentry support works and how it benefits inmates that are no longer in custody

[National Reentry Resource center](#)- this article dives a little deeper into how reentry support benefits inmates.

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Position List

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3. Norway
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5. Phillipines
6. Australia
7. Chile
8. Ivory Coast
9. France
10. Ireland
11. Lebanon
12. Portugal
13. Czechia
14. Iraq
15. Ghana
16. Nigeria
17. Kazakhstan
18. Kyrgyzstan
19. Tajikistan
20. Tunisia
21. Uganda
22. Greece
23. Argentina
24. Bahamas
25. Bolivia
26. Brazil
27. United States of America
28. Finland
29. Georgia



- 30. Iceland
- 31. Indonesia
- 32. Italy