

Death Penalty

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The death penalty is a subject continually criticized from various parts of the world, including the United States of America. Different people and groups have varying opinions on whether capital punishment should be allowed or abolished from society and worldwide. Some countries have managed to end capital punishment, even on capital crimes ultimately. However, other nations still practice the death penalty for various reasons. Research from Amnesty International suggests close to 142 countries have abolished the death penalty from their criminal justice systems. These countries decision to eliminate the death penalty had an immediate impact on the governments' efforts of doing away with criminal activities. Regardless of the various reasons that have been raised by the countries that abolish capital punishment, other nations still have reasons for keeping the practice.

The main reason raised by the nations that advocate for the death penalty is that the practice helps protect the citizens from criminal activities that occur. Through the use of capital punishment, some individuals believe that it will be viewed as a threat to the lives of many individuals who engage in criminal activities and hence reduce or deter the individuals from involving themselves in crime-related activities. When researching whether capital punishment should be allowed or not, the researcher is bound to collect various opinions from the respondents. In the United States of America, capital punishment has its history, which can be used for reference when a decision is required urgently. The *Gregg v Georgia* decision reinstated capital punishment within the U.S. in 1976 (Sethuraju et al., 2016). However, some states that

had already abolished capital punishment still maintained their position regardless of the *Gregg* decision. The example issued before illustrates how there exist variant opinions and conclusions over the issue of capital punishment.

The advocates of capital punishment argue that individuals who commit capital crimes such as murder should be subjected to capital punishment, which matches the crime they have committed. For instance, if a given person is found guilty of having committed a criminal offense that is not rated as a capital offense, the latter should face the type of punishment that resonates with the crime committed. The latter statement says that capital crime should be subject to capital punishment since the individuals are worth the penalty. Taking someone's life in criminal acts is an element that should not be condoned at any given cost (Waldo & Myers, 2019). Human life is precious and should be protected by all means. The primary goal of every criminal justice system within any given country is to ensure that illegal activities are prevented from occurring. Individuals who advocate against capital punishment in scenarios where the offender has killed an innocent life seem to value the criminal's life more than that of the victim. However, many researchers have managed to identify that capital punishment does not entirely end the capital crimes within the society; the use of death penalties is worth to be existing within the community for it matches the capital crimes committed.

As discussed earlier, many arguments are raised on the effectiveness and the moral uprightness of capital punishment on criminals found guilty as charged. For instance, "there have been claims that executions 'brutalize' the society because government agencies diminish respect for life when the death penalty is applied" (Berk, 2021). The value of life is of great concern when anti-capital punishments argue. However, as discussed before, they fail to see the value of life on the victims who succumbed to death due to criminal-related activities. Whenever one is

found guilty within a court of justice, the latter should be subjected to capital punishment—any other existing criminal witnesses how serious the act is if found and proved guilty. The latter method will be operating on threats where criminals are threatened with death whenever they think of engaging themselves in the heinous acts of taking the lives of innocent citizens.

Justice for the families of victims is another aspect that should be considered when making decisions on whether to end capital punishments or not. The families of the victims who die in the hands of criminals will demand justice to be served on their loved ones. Having someone sentenced to life imprisonment, whereas the victim is gone entirely, does not seem to be justice to many people. Therefore, the best remedy to a scenario such as the one mentioned above is exercising capital punishment. However, in the United States of America, the imposing of the death penalty is restricted in various ways. For instance, in a scenario where the offender is a mentally ill individual, the latter cannot be subjected to capital punishment. Additionally, capital punishment cannot be exercised on individuals below 18 years of age and in scenarios where the victim of the crime did not die (Sethuraju et al., 2016). However, the death penalty can be imposed on the people as a way of serving justice to the families and the victim of the crime.

Reference List

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