

THE NIGHTMARES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS .

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Worldwide, the criminal justice system plays a universal role in ensuring that the universe hasn’t shredded into tiny pieces. It does so by maintaining order in the society, solving disputes among community members, trying to ensure equality, shaping the moral standards that the society requires and ensuring peace in the society.

Despite the goodness that the criminal justice system has brought to the world, it still has its challenges that is trying to conquer contemporarily. The most itching challenge that the criminal justice system faces is the issue of inequality. Some people in this world find themselves to be above the law in society today while some other parts of society think that they are superior to others due to race, environment, ethnicity and even others are defined by the size of their pockets.

The aim of this essay is to point out this challenge from its main source and to find possible solutions to tackle and rectify this problem making the criminal justice system as efficient as possible.

According to the black’s Law Dictionary, inequality means in simple terms receiving unequal treatment based solely on factors such as gender, race, and background. Global inequality has been an issue in the world since the start of the Industrial Revolution whereby some countries developed faster than others bringing a large gap between first-world countries and third-world countries.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Inequality simply starts from the core whereby some people are immune to the policies that are granted to the citizens and some people are deemed to be untouchable as they form part of the authority, or their pockets are full to the brim.

Research done by experts in the National Library of Medicine shows that race and ethnicity are among the major factors that determine one's chance of being caught on the wrong side of the law. Statistics show that the rates of black people and white Hispanic people who are locked up in jail are higher than the rates of white people who are rotting in jail.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Moreover, studies show that there is a large gap in treatment ratio between the minority and the majority population putting the good treatment in favour of the white people. The minority and vagrant people of society receive harsher policies and punishments and even strict measures are placed with the objective of catching them on the wrong.[[3]](#footnote-3)

A real-life example is George Floyd who was recently killed in 2020 by a white police officer in Minneapolis just because he was black by pressing on his neck for around nine minutes just because he was suspected of holding a 20$ counterfeit bill. Does anyone in the world really deserve to die with their last words being ‘’I can’t breathe?’’[[4]](#footnote-4)

Factors leading to inequality in the world criminal justice system according to the United Nations are determined by gender, age, origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class, and religion.[[5]](#footnote-5)

However, I believe that every problem has a solution or at least a preventive approach that can be used in the same way diseases have cures and regulating measures. I’ve come up with a few strategies that I believe can reduce the rate of inequality in the world and at least bring up a positive change.

The first step is to reform the authorities that oversee maintaining law and order in the world that is the police. The civilians and the police in the world tend to have a bad relationship that was formed due to the trauma caused by past experiences. This was due to racial discrimination and gross misconduct conducted by the police leading to loss of trust by the civilians who now fear for their lives.

To tackle this challenge, I suggest that training facilities be built with the sole purpose of training police officers on sensitive topics that happen in our society today such as cultural sensitivity, de-escalation techniques and even on preventing implicit bias.

Furthermore, Independent institutions with no political aim should be formed with the aim of investigating police officers and public officers against any claims of gross misconduct, lack of integrity and accountability. Those found to be wrong side of the law receive a severe punishment as a form of deterrence to serve as an example to the rest.

Another strategy that can be used is the power of education making people aware of the things that can lead to an equitable environment by helping to close the doors that lead to inequality in the criminal justice system.

By developing educational seminars and campaigns, we enable people to understand their historical background from the scratch to understand the factors that lead to inequality in the system. Furthermore , this type of education and awareness can make conservatism to reduce to liberalism by making people understand that we are equal in the society despite our race , gender.

By doing so , the notion that the white people are superior to the black people and the Hispanic people can come to an end. No one really deserves to be judged based on their history or based on the environment they reside in.

The use of education and awareness can also help to educate people on their rights, and this even empowers the disadvantaged that live in the remote areas to be able to demand justice and fight for their rights. It also helps to shape future leaders in the society by cultivating in them good moral values.

Another strategy that can be used to solve inequality in the society is by ensuring that everyone has equal access to a fair trial in a court of law and right to a quality lawyer despite their background.

Lastly, the criminal justice system should sit down and discuss on how to provide leniency in terms of sentencing to punishment for crimes committed. Some countries have already developed this, but the global south seems to not have adopted alternative methods like community service , mental health care hospitals to provide rehabilitation to the deranged and even use of restorative practices to ensure justice.

In conclusion, I believe that if we follow this strategies set we can be able to tackle this inequality and maybe even put a stop to it once and for all. We just need to pull our efforts together to ensure justice in the criminal justice system.

1. https://thelawdictionary.org/?s=Inequality [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Harris, C. T., Steffensmeier, D., Ulmer, J. T., & Painter-Davis, N. (2009). Are Blacks and Hispanics Disproportionately Incarcerated Relative to Their Arrests? Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality Between Arrest and Incarceration. *Race and Social Problems*, *1*(4), 187. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-009-9019-x [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Harris, C. T., Steffensmeier, D., Ulmer, J. T., & Painter-Davis, N. (2009). Are Blacks and Hispanics Disproportionately Incarcerated Relative to Their Arrests? Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality Between Arrest and Incarceration. *Race and Social Problems*, *1*(4), 187. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-009-9019-x [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html [↑](#footnote-ref-5)