

Kaylee Beeman
Humanities
Proposal

Summary:

I propose that I call the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and try to create a policy for all private and public prisons that use the same approaches to rehabilitation as the *UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME* (UNODC) in prisons such as the one in Zambia. With this policy I would like to add things that I feel may be missing from the UNODC's approach as well as the BOP's policies that they are currently implementing.

Audience Description:

My audience would be the Federal Bureau of Prisons but I would need to partner with UNODC in order for my approach to reach all prisons in the U.S.

Description of Proposal:

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2016, "Of the 1.5 million people in state and federal prisons in 2016, 8.5 percent, or 128,063, were incarcerated in private prisons." ([Prisoners in 2016](#)) I believe that a big reasoning as to why the prison population has increased so much is because of the lack of rehabilitation infiltrated in prisons. I found women's correctional facilities to be especially interesting to me and wanted to find out why it was so important to have completely separate facilities made for only women. As I researched my topic I found out more and more about the past injustices that female offenders have faced and I have also found a lot of the ones that they are currently still facing today. I believe that by reinforcing and having a very active rehabilitation program, this can decrease many of the problems that these women face and could reduce recidivism rates as well.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has worked to make this idea a reality. There is currently a working program in Zambia that uses things like educational and vocational programs to help rehabilitate their inmates. After reading more about it, inmates said that they felt that prison truly gave them a second chance and that they were very thankful for the programs being used in these prisons because not too many prisons had

them. All though this program does not fix all of the flaws in the prison system it is a huge step to improvement.

As for ways to improve this approach that is where I want to make it my own. I am proposing that the Federal Bureau of Prisons implement more rehabilitation programs like the ones the UNODC is using in Zambia in all Federal, State and privately owned prisons across the nation. These programs should include educational and vocational classes for inmates to at least get their GED and learn valuable life skills. This program should also include things like therapy (ranging in various forms-trauma, cognitive behavioral therapy, etc.) as well as professional drug and alcohol sobriety care. I also believe that by enforcing community service this could help inmates find more of a sense of purpose as well as giving them an opportunity to give back to their community. These are my proposed ideas to help improve our nation's prisons which would in turn improve America by helping to make functioning members of society that are much less likely to reoffend or get rearrested.

As for women's correctional facilities alone, I think it is very important to take gender into account with our prison systems. I purpose that there be at least a room with fully equipt doctors and medical care for women experiencing pregnancy. I propose that we abolish the law that states that women are allowed to be shackled when giving birth because according to [The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) says it puts the health of the mother and baby at risk. If these policies are acted upon I believe that it can improve not only the lives of the inmates but the nation as a whole as well.