

Rethinking Justice: Why It's Time to Abolish the Death Penalty

By: Shemari Salkey

The death penalty is one of the most controversial and morally complex themes in criminal law. Throughout history, the use of the death penalty has been firmly established in a number of legal systems, frequently being defended as a way to punish violent crimes or provide justice for horrific crimes. Nonetheless, there is a growing agreement in today's society that the death sentence deserves to be abolished. This opinion is reinforced by various moral and societal factors in addition to being centered solely on emotional or moral reasoning.

One of the most common reasons against the death sentence is that it is final. The possibility of executing an innocent person always exists, even with advancements in forensic science and legal procedures. There have been multiple instances in history of people who were wrongfully convicted and eventually found not guilty, sometimes even after spending years on death row. Because the death penalty is permanent, any injustice cannot be undone, representing the most severe violation of human rights.

Furthermore, the death penalty's intended goal of reducing crime is not achieved. Several studies have demonstrated that the possibility of execution has little effect on the rate of violent crimes. Rather, a lot more factors like education, mental health services access, and financial status have an impact on criminal conduct. Instead of depending on harsh punishments, society can focus on resolving the underlying causes of crime in order to create safer neighborhoods.

Additionally, the death sentence is often used unjustly, with marginalized groups—such as members of racial minorities and those from lower economic status—becoming the primary victims. The prejudices that exist within the criminal justice system create inequality by reducing trust in the fairness and honesty of the judicial system. Abolishing the death penalty is an important step toward fixing these inequalities while building a society with greater equality.

The death sentence raises serious moral problems regarding the meaning of human life and the government's role in enforcing punishment. It contradicts our human rights concepts that protect the inalienable worth of every person and with evolving norms regarding morality. Rather than

encouraging patterns of violence and punishment, as a society we should try to promote principles of kindness, rehabilitation, and redemption.

In conclusion, the elimination of the death penalty serves as a question of justice and a reflection of humanity as a whole. By abolishing this outdated and unjust practice, we demonstrate our commitment to fairness, equality, and the basic worth of all people. It is time for society to embrace different forms of discipline that promote recovery, reconstruction, and healing, paving the way for a more just and humane future.