EDUCATION BEHIND BARS: JUVENILE JUSTICE AND THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
HISTORY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
Globally, progress is also being made against some of the worst violations of children’s rights.

- In the past decade, 25 million child marriages have been prevented, according to UNICEF, the U.N. children’s agency.

- The U.N. also reports that since 2000, more than 115,000 children have been released from armed forces and groups. Still, nearly 250 million children are living in countries affected by conflict, and many are at risk of being recruited as child soldiers.

- Child labor and female genital mutilation are also declining, but progress against the practices vary greatly in different countries.
CIVIL RIGHTS & FREEDOMS
FAMILY ENVIRONMENT & ALTERNATIVE CARE
HEALTH & WELFARE
EDUCATION, LEISURE & CULTURE
SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

+ emergency situations
+ justice systems
+ child exploitation
+ minority groups
The right to live with a family
The right to a stable, loving, nurturing environment
The right to healthcare and nutrition
The right to clean water and electric power
The right to a quality education
The right to equal opportunities

The right to guidance from a caring adult
The right to be heard and participate in decisions that affect them
The right to be prepared for active and responsible citizenship
The right to protection from abuse and neglect
The right to live in conditions of dignity and freedom
The right to spiritual development
How many youths are locked up in the United States?

Every day, nearly 53,000 youths are held in facilities away from home as a result of juvenile or criminal justice involvement.
African-American youth are 9 TIMES and Latino youth are 4 TIMES more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence for the SAME CRIME.

FACTS ABOUT INCARCERATED YOUTH

70K+
The number of U.S. juvenile offenders kept from their families every week.

2/3
Portion of youths held for nonviolent charges — some of which wouldn’t be illegal if they weren’t minors.

10K
The number of children held in adult jails and prisons.

30% v. 17%
Black youths are over-represented at all levels; figures show percentage of those arrested who are black versus black youths’ percentage of the general population.

PUBLIC OPINION

3 OUT OF 4
Americans support requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the system.
About 80 percent of youth convicted in adult criminal court will reoffend later in life.
AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL TO JUVENILE COURT

- 10 and under: 23%
- 11 years: 21%
- 12 years: 14%
- 13 years: 12%
- 14 years: 6%
- 15 years: 3%
- 16 years: 2%
- 17 years: 19%
- 18 years: 2%
CASE EXAMPLES:

1. Delhi Rape Case 2012
2. Bard Prison Initiative
Has there been any improvement?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c2CALjAv2g
Rapist is a RAPIST...
BE it a JUVENILE...
HANG THEM...
HANG THEM...

Age is no CRITERIA
If CRIME Is RAPE
General Comment No. 24 (201x), replacing General Comment No. 10 (2007)

Children’s rights in juvenile justice
Juvenile Processing

Right to Treatment

True purpose of juvenile justice system is rehabilitation. Practices not consistent with this goal violate due process guarantees.

No

- Solitary confinement
- Strip cells
- Withholding education
- Corporal punishment

Must have

- Sufficient lighting, clothing, bedding, hygiene supplies
- Change of underwear and socks everyday
- Writing materials, glasses, reading material, ability to correspond
- Daily showers
- Access to medical and psychiatric care
How UN helped enhance my perspective
How maximum security inmates took on Cambridge in a debate about nuclear weapons — and won

Warner Bros To Make Film On Bard Prison Initiative Debate Team That Beat Harvard
Partner Universities
Based at Bard College in New York and at the BPI Chicago Office in Illinois, BPI’s National Projects stretch across 12 states. All partners make a fundamental commitment to liberal arts learning that aims to transform individual lives and the institutions of criminal justice by putting academics first.

- Wesleyan University CPE (CT)
- Grinnell College LAPP (IA)
- Goucher College GPEP (MD)
- Notre Dame & Holy Cross MCI (IN)
- Freedom Education Project of Puget Sound (WA)
- Washington University in St. Louis PEP (MO)
- Bennington College PEI (VT/NY)
- University of Vermont LAPP (VT)
- Dwight Hall at Yale University YPEI (CT)
- Emerson College EPI (MA)
- Villanova University (PA)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8ec3QpnaiU
WHAT CAN BE DONE?
"You can read that part on your own at home"
CHART 3  Attitude towards mental illness

- People with mental illnesses should not be given any responsibility: 68%
- One of the main causes of mental illness is the lack of self-discipline and will-power: 60%
- Mentally unhealthy people should have their own groups – healthy people need not be contaminated by them: 60%
- Most women who were once patients in a mental hospital cannot be trusted as babysitters: 49%
- One should keep safe a distance from someone who is depressed: 46%
- People suffering from mental illness are always violent: 44%
- Sitting with / talking to a mentally unhealthy person could deteriorate the mental health of a healthy person: 41%
- It is frightening to think that people with mental problems live in our neighborhoods: 40%

Base: All: 3556
• The need of the hour is to sensitize and educate individuals about the signs and symptoms of mental illness while normalizing the idea of seeking support for themselves and their loved ones.

• There needs to be more open discussion and dialogue with the general public, and not just experts on this subject, which will in turn help create a more inclusive environment for people with mental illness.
HOW I CAN HELP