

Does the capital punishment have a role in civilized society?

Name:

Institution:

Course:

Tutor:

Date:

Does the capital punishment have a role in civilized society?

Introduction

Capital crimes, such as murder or robbery with violence, in most cases attract capital punishment where the person that is found guilty of such a crime is sentenced to death. This type of punishment has been around for many years, but there has been a debate in recent years on whether capital punishment is still relevant in the modern civilized society or not. In fact, this type of sentence has already been abolished in most developed nations, but there are still many arguments in support or against the death penalty (Lifestyle.iloveindia.com 2015). Currently, there are only 58 countries in the world that still practice capital punishment and this is a clear indication that it is no longer popular (Lee 2013). This paper supports the argument that capital punishment does not have a role in the civilized society and hence it should be abolished.

Argument

The fact that a person has committed a crime does not necessarily mean that he or she should be denied his basic human rights like life. The world has made some serious steps towards promoting human rights and therefore capital punishment is the greatest impediment to these efforts (Neumayer 2008, p. 8). According to Neumayer (2008, p. 8), there is a need for the penal system to be humanized and the only way to achieve that is through the abolition of the death penalty. Death penalty denies a person their human dignity and right to life. In addition, the accused person may turn out to be innocent after he or she has already been executed and it is therefore sad to know that the mistake cannot be corrected (Lee, 2013). There is also a possibility that some judges may decide the penalty based on religion and race. Moreover, a recent survey

revealed that countries where the death penalty is still practiced have high capital crime rates as compared to countries that have abolished this type of penalty.

Counterargument

The death penalty may appear to be inhumane and barbaric, but there are families that lose their loved ones while other victims remain tied in hospital beds because of capital crimes, and it is not fair for the perpetrators to remain continue enjoying their lives. For instance, the ‘revenge psychology’ in countries like China can only be dealt with by retaining the death penalty (Hood & Deva 2013, p. 193). Mere rehabilitation and a few years of imprisonment are not enough punishment for a person that has completely ruined other people’s lives. According to Lee (2013), a murderer has no value to the society and therefore a death penalty is of great benefit to the society. By claiming that capital punishment is barbaric, anti-death penalty activists are equating capital crimes like murder to civilization. Capital punishment helps a great deal in reducing crime in the society and at the same time ensures that the victims of capital offenses get justice (Carter 2013).

Rebuttal:

Even though the supporters of death penalty may view it as the best retribution to the offended person, it is worth noting that two wrongs do not make a right. Therefore, regardless of the offence, death penalty has no place in the modern civilized society. There is a need to uphold the value of life by advocating other punishments as well that entail corrective measures that can make a society better. In essence, the abolition of the death penalty in most countries is a clear indication of their realization that capital punishment does not any role in the civilized society.

Conclusion

Capital punishment should be abolished because it has no role in the modern civilized society. The victims of capital crimes may feel a lot of pain, but there are alternative forms of punishments such as life imprisonment. The world has made some resinous steps towards promoting human rights and therefore capital punishment is the greatest impediment to this process. Death penalties are costly to the prosecution side because the process can take many years before coming to a full conclusion. The punishment is also irreversible and therefore any mistakes made cannot be corrected.

Bibliography

- Carter, H. 2013. *The advantages and disadvantages of capital punishment*. [Online]
https://prezi.com/u7ipxcb8ns_v/the-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-capital-punishment/[Accessed on January 21, 2016]
- Hood, R. & Deva, S. 2013. *Confronting Capital Punishment in Asia: Human Rights, Politics and Public*. London: OUP Oxford.
- Lee, J. 2013. *Advantages and Disadvantages of the Death Penalty*. [Online]
<http://www.finanacecareonline.com/2013/07/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-death.html>[Accessed on January 21, 2016].
- Lifestyle.iloveindia.com, 2015. *Pros and Cons of Death Penalty*. [Online]
<http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/pros-and-cons-of-death-penalty-7039.html>
[Accessed on January 21, 2016]
- Neumayer, E. 2008. Death penalty: The political foundations of the global trend toward abolition. *Human Rights Review*, 9 (2): 241-268.