



**Source 1**

A prison is a place where people who commit serious crimes are sent as a punishment. People in prisons do not have freedom to leave.

A university research group that studies crime and justice reports that about 11 million people are in prison worldwide. Prison population rates are the number of prisoners per 100 000 of the national population. These rates vary between different countries, as shown in the table below.

Country	Prison Population Rate in 2021
USA	629
Rwanda	580
Argentina	243
Finland	50
Japan	37

**Source 2**

<b>Some reasons for imprisonment</b>	
	Protect the public by taking criminals out of the community
	Punish criminals for crimes that cause serious harm
	Deter people from committing crimes by making an example of people who break the law
	Help criminals to become better citizens by providing education and support
	Give victims of crime a sense of justice

### **Source 3: We need more police and prisons**

There is too much crime in our society. Children are not taught about right and wrong at home or in school. Religion has less influence on people now, and we are becoming more selfish. Too many people think, 'If I can get away with stealing or corruption, then crime doesn't matter'.

The only way to stop crime is to catch more criminals and punish them so hard that they will not break the law again. We really need more police and harsher prisons!

If someone is locked away in prison, they cannot commit more crime. It is common sense. We need protection.

I was talking to my local police officer last week and she told me that there are not enough police to catch criminals. This evidence proves my point. The government must employ more police, give them more powers to arrest suspects, and build more prisons.

*From a newspaper in South America, 2020*

### **Source 4: An online discussion – does prison work?**

#### **Pedro**

Prisons do not work. There are better ways to treat offenders and stop crime.

Prisons are schools for crime where offenders teach others to break the law. They are violent places where bullies and gangs threaten others. Prisoners are denied human rights in many parts of the world.

Prisons do not prevent crime. In many countries over 50 per cent of criminals go back to prison again.

Prisons are more about revenge and punishment than real justice. Professor Linna's study in Finland shows that society should respond to harm without causing more harm.

If you go to prison, it is harder to get work and find somewhere to live. It is better to help offenders with community service, guidance from mentors, and employment. This helps criminals to pay back to society and become good citizens. It is also much cheaper. Prisons should be closed. Governments need better ways to restore justice and settle disputes.

#### **Luna**

I agree, Pedro, prisons need to be improved, but we need them because some criminals are dangerous in society. Some crimes are so serious that justice requires severe punishment. Everyone expects sanctions if they break the law.

Closing prisons is not wise. It would be better to improve prisons. My mother works in a prison and says that many prisoners develop good relationships with the prison staff. If there were more staff, then prisoners could be given more attention and counselling.

Overcrowding and poor conditions make life difficult for prisoners. Bigger cells with decent entertainment and the internet would help. More importantly, give prisoners some useful work to earn money. Give prisoners training so that they can get a job when they leave prison. This will give them a place in society. Then they will not need to commit crime again.

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