

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?

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As a physically confined prisoner within the Michigan Department of Corrections, I often find myself wondering, what is the purpose of the criminal justice system? Are there levels to the justice/ rehabilitation system that has demanded that us prisoners that have scarred the eyes of society with our depraved actions be punished continuously? At a point in time in my life, ignorantly, I thought my actions were justified or at least the more reasonable ways to handle situations and confrontations. Still, this whole "Department of Corrections" is a sham. I have come to learn from experience that not only is the MDOC an institution designed to warehouse convicted felons, but it is a double punishment because you are sent here as a punishment and then punished because you are here. So, my next question would be, is this the "justice" that ultimately leads to the road of rehabilitation that is promoted to society to fund these institutions with their tax dollars? *Justice* is defined in Websters Dictionary as the administration of law; fairness. *Rehabilitate* is defined as to reinstate; make good or usable again. Individuals are sentenced to the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections under the belief that they will "create a safer Michigan by holding offenders accountable while promoting their **success.**" (Michigan Department of Correction Mission Statement) this is what is being promoted. When that is the furthest thing from the truth, this institution could genuinely care less about the goal of rehabilitation. Dehumanization, degradation, humiliation, abuse of power, racial inequalities/ bias/ insults, and an extreme lack of accountability are among the levels of mental, physical, and emotional abuse that resides within the chain of command and fuels the staff corruption within this institution .