

## Life imprisonment

Life imprisonment - "Is any sentence of imprisonment for a crime under which convicted persons are to remain in prison either for their natural life or until pardoned..." Should this be the case though, you would believe that if an individual were sentenced for life it would be 'for life' right?

Unfortunately, this is not the case and is disgraceful to all who believe the same!

An individual will be 'sentenced to life' if they commit a crime such as murder or even treason (disloyalty to a state/nation), and they will spend a default non-parole term of 30 years. 30 years unless a court considers it not in the interest of justice to set such a term. In my eyes, this is absolutely disgraceful! If an 18 year old is sentenced for life without parole they will be let out of jail at the age of 48, at this age it is possible for you to get a job, have a wife, have children, many other things in life including learning another language and even travel anywhere. They still get a chance at living life to the fullest and making something about themselves. That's good you may say, but how is good for the person that's been buried for 30 years? The life that has been ended and the murderer to be living life to the best he/she can. How is that fair on the victim's family, on the victim, on themselves. The convicted murderer's punishment should be having to live with what he/her did every single day of their life, and have to be forced to be reminded about their disgusting actions for the rest of their days. How must we achieve this? Easy, actually abide by the name 'life imprisonment'.

Although I am supporting Life Imprisonment to actually wear it's name, I'm also a strong believer in bringing back the death penalty/the argument a life for a life. Now I know that this is a large topic and is not to be messed around with but I do have some solid opinions on why it should be brought back to Australia.

A guy by the name of Robert Veen served the longest amount of time in prison in Australia. He had served more than 42 years in prison and received life sentences on two occasions, both separate counts of manslaughter. The story of Robert Veen is rather messed up, but that didn't stop him from stabbing a 20 year old man in 1975. He served only 8 years for this, and only 9 months later history repeated itself and he was charged with manslaughter. Just from this information here, we can see that if he had of been sentenced to life (forever) he would not of had the opportunity to once again claim another life. It is shocking to think that some people will still have the opinion/thought of, "it's only one life" but think of it in the perspective of that one person being your best friend, your mother or father, one of your closest family members/sibling. I can almost guarantee that you have taken back your first perception. He was released in 2015 and passed away 2 years later of a heart attack. In the end he only got 18 months of freedom, however that is not always the case.

I know my opinion won't be taken as seriously because I'm a 15 year old kid, though I strongly believe that this is more of a reason to have this topic to be considered and thought about. There is

beyond a lot for me to still learn in this world and defiantly about this topic. It's very hard to have a point to be explained in only 750 words, which is why I'm trying to pull the guts out of it and to be taken seriously, as I feel determined and passionate to get my point across.

Obviously, this is an enormous matter and is not to be taken lightly. I had sat back and thought about this topic before I wrote this essay and had my own rebuttal's and arguments etc. However, I thought of as I grow up, how am I meant to be sure that I'm going to live in a safe and positive world. The answer is simple... I really can't. Everything in today's world is now a risk, and to help minimise this to the best of our ability I strongly agree that 'Life Imprisonment' should mean, Life Imprisonment.

**Jake Partridge 10A**