

## **Humiliation and the Law: Juvenile Imprisonment and its Effects**

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the embodiment of international legal protections owed to children by reason of their status and their special emotional, physical and social needs. The standard ‘in the best interests of the child’ to be applied in all vital decisions affecting children’s lives, ensures the protection of children under international law and ultimately contributes to and is an indicator of a healthy and humane society.

Imprisonment of children in juvenile or adult prisons, judging them on the basis of adult standards and in certain cases executing them, violates the very essence of international standards aimed to protecting children.

This paper will explore the impact of imprisonment on children’s sense of self worth and the prospect of growing up to a healthy adulthood. It will further examine the role of imprisonment in deterring subsequent illegal activity, resulting in a safer society.

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