

Approaches to Criminal Justice: A Global Perspective

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Itinerary:

Empangeni, South Africa:
Empangeni Women's Prison/Phoenix
Zululand program

The Hague, the Netherlands:
Salvation Army Reclassering
Services

Berlin, Germany:
Gangway

Halden, Norway:
Halden Prison



Project Information

Global Independent Study: This study was conducted as a global independent study. Along with the help of a colleague and professor, contacts were made with individuals and organizations working overseas within the criminal justice field. Through the study, a colleague and I learned about programs international organizations and governments are using to support individuals impacted by the criminal justice system (during and after incarceration), as well as what one organization does preventatively

Community Partners

Phoenix Zululand supports individuals who are currently incarcerated through a series of restorative justice-oriented workshops, as well as supporting reentry.

Salvation Army provided comprehensive probation/parole services following or in lieu of incarceration

Gangway utilizes a street social work approach to reach youth who may be at risk of interacting with the criminal justice system, as well as those who already have

Halden Prison is the newest prison in Norway and was designed to support recent progressive legislative changes to prison operation

Outcomes

Through this project, I gained a deeper understanding of how criminal justice can be used as an opportunity to restore people's humanity

Competencies Developed

Critical Thinking: Through synthesizing what I learned across four countries and applying to US criminal justice and education systems

Social & Economic Justice: By examining how criminal justice can be executed in a more humane way

Social Policy: By understanding how policies shaped practice (Norway)

Classroom Connections

The courses that prepared me for this study were SW 530 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy and Practices and SW 560 Introduction to Community Organizing, Management, Policy and Practice. These courses prepared me to consider the macro-level factors that shape criminal justice policy and programming

Lessons Learned

In reflecting upon my experience, I have applied what I learned to the US educational system. I gleaned 4 major takeaways:

1. Narrative is a powerful and therapeutic tool
2. "Justice" systems reflect who is marginalized by society or a community
3. Preventative measures are critical
4. Justice systems as opportunities for restoring humanity



Career Connections

This experience has helped shape my views on justice. As I intend to work in a school, I will draw on my lessons learned to advocate for school policies that are just and restorative

Advice

1. Take advantage of this opportunity! This was one of the greatest experiences of my life!
2. Don't be afraid to make your own connections and develop your own program.
3. Find a supportive faculty member who can guide you through the process

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