

John Gramlich <johngramlich@gmail.com>

8/3/2020 4:27 PM

Re: [John Gramlich] Contact

To Alesha Monteiro <alesha.kai@comcast.net>

Hi Alesha,
Thank you for taking the time to e-mail me and for reading my article. I appreciate hearing your perspective.
All the best,
John Gramlich, Pew Research Center

On Sun, Aug 2, 2020 at 11:35 AM Alesha Monteiro <donotreply@wordpress.com> wrote:

Name: Alesha Monteiro

Email: alesha.kai@comcast.net

Comment: Good Morning Mr. Gramlich,

I stumbled upon an article that you wrote back in April of 2019 - "The gap between the number of black and whites in prison is shrinking". I could tell from your article that even with the shrinking of the divide you can still see the very obvious problem of race disparity among the incarcerated population and the very real and a lot of times criminal issues of mass incarceration as a whole system in the United States.

Anyway, I'm not sure if this has been done already or if it's even in your wheelhouse but your story made me think about what is currently going on inside of the prison systems since Coronavirus hit. The incompetence has been unreal. The intentional and very overt cruelty has been confusing. The very discernible, palpable indifference has been nothing short of infuriating. And the only thing worse, is a prison system that is allowed, by law to be at 137.5% capacity (but was at 153% in at least two prisons as recently as two weeks ago) needing desperately to decrease the population and sitting by doing absolutely nothing for no greater reason than politics. They know of the Unger v. Maryland case, they know the outcome of the release of inmates in response to that ruling yet still do everything in their power to keep the public's fear of "lifers" alive and well. Lifers are the most successful when they are released and typically do the most real work on themselves rather than just sitting in prison, mindlessly waiting a few months to a couple of years for their sentence to end so they can get out and pick right up where they left off.

Most people aren't violent by nature. Being the type of person that just walks around angry and ready to really hurt someone is not common among humans, and that includes humans behind bars. Most lifers committed one violent act and no one cares to even find out how or why. Then of course there are the "violent crimes" that one could argue aren't actually violent, where no one got physically hurt but the sentence imposed is still life. And just to tie it all up nicely - let's not forget about over sentencing; another system induced phenomenon that screams racial disparity.

Anyway, I don't normally reach out to writers or editors after reading a story but I have been very deeply and unexpectedly thrown (well I threw myself in) to prison advocacy and i appreciated your article.

Thank you for allowing me to take up a few minutes of your day. Have a wonderful Sunday.

Best Regards,
Alesha Monteiro

Time: August 2, 2020 at 11:35 am

IP Address: 12.237.60.122

Contact Form URL: <https://johngramlich.com/contact/>

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