

Aracê – Human Rights in Review – issue 6

Abstract

1. This issue will feature a special dossier on **Resocialization and Culture**, dedicating special attention to articles on this theme.
2. Articles on other themes will be welcomed.
3. The deadline for submitting articles for issue 06 of the magazine is **October 31, 2017**.

Resocialization and Culture Dossier

The possibilities and conditions for social reintegration of male and female inmates in Brazil remain uncertain and challenging. Life in prison typically takes away from the prisoners not only any chances of having a job and an education, but also their time for and access to cultural and economic goods that would otherwise allow for continued personal improvement and for sociability conditions to exist which would extend beyond the disciplinary, where not oppressive, rules and norms of most correctional facilities in the country.

Against that backdrop, cultural manifestations, work done with art, and the action of people, institutions, universities and businesses have proved more efficient than State initiatives towards resocializing male and female inmates. Many of these initiatives begin when those sentenced are still deprived of their freedom, serving their sentences or awaiting judgment. The resocialization and social reinsertion of inmates often start when the convicts are still imprisoned and do not know when they will win their freedom.

Standing out from the actions and efforts that are known to have been successful within the Brazilian prison system are those which afford male and female prisoners and juvenile offenders the possibility of accessing, discussing and engaging in cultural practices that correctional facilities are unable to provide, such as book clubs, reading workshops, plastic arts, music, photography, and video.

Inside the prison, many either come into contact with cultural and artistic productions they did not know before or enjoy the possibility to resume the habit of reading, studying, creating, and discovering and developing their own talents.

The *Aracê* magazine's **Resocialization and Culture Dossier** aims to introduce social reinsertion practices and programs for male and female prisoners, and to reflect on the achievements and challenges of cultural practices in prison environments and/or on the resocialization work carried out after completion of prison time. The magazine will be receiving proposed articles introducing resocialization programs that are centered on cultural manifestations, practices and productions by prisoners or delinquent youths, in

prisons or juvenile detention centers, and propose reflections on the benefits of such practices and the aesthetical, ethical and social character of such production.

It is desirable that the articles be informative and reflective, describing specific actions and initiatives, and pointing to theoretical, methodological and practical issues facing the players involved in the proposed resocialization programs, whether promoted by individuals, businesses, NGOs, academic or Human Resources institutions or any other government agencies.

Accordingly, the following points are highlighted which may raise theoretical or reflective developments:

1. What are the main cultural areas implicated by the resocialization and social reinsertion idea? How can literature, music and the arts be worked at with the prison population or male and female ex-convicts.
2. How does one go about choosing the areas or fields of culture and art that best fit a certain correctional facility or municipality (for male and female ex-convicts)?
3. How does one go about choosing and selecting the literary, artistic, cultural or musical repertoire with which to work with the prison population and ex-convicts taking into consideration the significant educational differences between educators and inmates?
4. How does one work the resocialization or social reinsertion idea while the convicts are incarcerated, serving sentences, and often do not know when they will be set free again?
5. How does one continue, and follow up on the developments of, work initiated in prison once the inmate is released?
6. How does one expand the possibilities to use cultural productions as a tool for remission of sentence? In what way does one escape the pragmatic logic of dedication to work, to study and to artistic practices as a tool for remission of sentence without disregarding, however, the positive impact of such initiatives towards reducing the time served in correctional institutions?
7. How does one deal with the persistent prejudice against male and female ex-convicts in a society which stigmatizes them and uses crime and prison time as an exclusion mechanism?

Accepted languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, and Italian.