

**Submission  
No 10**

**INQUIRY INTO SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND  
MANAGEMENT OF INMATES SENTENCED TO LIFE  
IMPRISONMENT**

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## The "Management of lifers" Legislative Council Inquiry

### Submission to Inquiry

The classification and treatment of lifers based on anything other than security offends many principles of the justice system. This submission to the Inquiry focuses specifically on human rights.

The proposals that life imprisonment means no longer being treated as a human being is a blatant breach of those rights. Our society is based on those rights as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration, to which we are signatory.

Firstly, the rule of law. If the nature of sentencing is changed arbitrarily by parliament it represents a violation of this. Sentencing is determined by the courts. Parliament may and does set guidelines but not along these lines

Secondly, reconciliation has been increasing in its role in criminal proceedings. This proposal goes completely against this process which seeks to find other than punitive solutions for both victims, their families and the community in general.

Thirdly, the prospect of release should always be available. Otherwise there is no hope for the prisoner. This is tantamount to torture.

Fourthly, within the prison system all human beings should have the same right for development and preparation for life in the community. There may be exceptions for specific prisoners who have shown no intention for change but otherwise it should be a principle observed for all even those sentenced to "life".

Eric Snowball

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1. Philosophy of Hope
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3. Reconciliation with Victims and the Community
4. Prospect of release
5. The Right to Development
6. Right to Privacy
7. Security Classification