

Are Sex Offenders Okay?

by

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8 September 2020

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Abstracts

Social theory insists sex offenders (abbreviated SOs) are not okay. In contrast, new theories assert SOs are human, with a unique (if rather deviant) sexuality. Public perceptions hamper new theories by reliance upon labeling, prejudices, and maintaining fear and anger. These have led to vigilantes, hatred, and denial of equal opportunities for SOs. Promotion of hostilities continue oppressions. A new theory, however, includes therapies to help each SO manage their deviances. Conversely, treatment of SOs includes placement upon a sex offender registry, polygraphs, and other monitoring that is now facing challenges by new theories, which see these old actions as punitive and counter-productive.

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He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself.

-Thomas Paine

Are sex offenders okay? The question is **not** asking whether sex offenses are okay. Violations against another person remains detestable. The point-- I am not condoning abusive behaviors against anyone, at anytime. The focus centers upon the person behind the sexual offenses. Experiencing first hand the damages and dangers of sex offenses, I realize this topic remains taboo. It meets with tensions. However, having endured negative attitudes within society's theory that propagates that sex offenders (abbreviated as SOs) are not okay it is time to dispel prejudices, oppressions, ignorance and the dehumanization of the SO. New theories advocate that 1) old social theories are draconian and outdate, 2) SOs face punitive courses of actions beyond prison, and 3) SOs can become productive members of society and be "okay".

Broaching any sexual offense topic creates painful and uncomfortable feelings. It also stirs up anger and hatred. Nevertheless open and honest discussion remains the only path for society and SOs to find healing and prevention. First and foremost, my intent does **not** dismiss negative consequences upon victims of sexual abuse. However, to answer whether SOs are okay takes truth, scientific evidence, and a willingness to venture into the uncomfortable world each SO faces. Then, and only then, can we reach fair sentencing, a registry without punitive consequences, productive therapy, safety for all members of society, prevention and the reform of SOs. Through comprehension by exploring 1) the SO in their humanity and