

An open letter addressing the Parties and Members of Parliament:

Monday the 15th of May 2017

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karl Nuku, and I am currently a Prisoner at Auckland's Paremoremo Prison, and this is an **open letter** to the Parties and Members of Parliament [M.P], regarding my Petition to the House of Representatives on the issue of *organ, blood and seminal-donations by Prisoners*.

It has been espoused that 'as this is an Election-year, no M.P will touch this issue with a barge-pole' – (and if that is true) then that can only be taken as indicative of the Executive's stance towards upholding and promoting the Dignity and Human Rights of the Country's most lowest Socio-Economical group [Prisoners], which in turn reflects on Society as a whole.

Therefore, as this is an Election-year, this should be an important topic that each Party and Member thereto, ought to consider with great compassion and thought, as we move towards our Future.

Prisoners are an 'Organ of Society,' and therein deserve not to be treated with indignity merely for their stature, and attributable crimes – we ought to be extended the *olive branch* of redemption, and the means in which to attain it.

The *concept* of Rehabilitation and Reintegration demands it.

The blanket-term 'Prisoners' – brings in and of itself, negative connotations, which do nothing but dehumanise and disenfranchise us as an 'Organ of Society'.

As a whole, our Country needs to focus on removing that disenfranchisement encompassing the Penal system (and those therein), and move towards focusing on the Rehabilitative and Re-integrative aspect thereto¹.

We need to remove the stigma that is attached to the term *Prisoner*, and remember that at base-level, irrespective of our backgrounds and where we come from – we are all human-beings, and need to strive towards the advancement of Human Dignity and Rights in our Country, and the support of our Communities.

This cause is not just about me, but about every prisoner in a NZ Penal Institution, and recognising and promoting the Rights of our lowest-class of Citizens.

¹ This is a pivotal aspect of the Corrections Act 2004, at ss 5 (1) (c), and 6 (1) (c) (i)