Youth Justice in Israel

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Abstract and Keywords

Policies in Israel retain the traditional view that juvenile delinquents should be treated and rehabilitated. These policies are driven by changing rationalities, norms, and values, which are socially and culturally contextualized. There has been an overarching ideology characterizing the sociolegal response to juvenile delinquency in Israel over time, with a welfare orientation that has been modified according to ideological influences and practical considerations. At the same time, informal, needs-oriented, and child-centered principles have continued to be adopted. This essay provides a review of the organization and operation of the system with regard to juvenile delinquency in Israel. It locates policy developments taking place in Israel within a wider sociopolitical context.

Keywords: Israel, welfare state ideology, nation-building process, modified welfare model

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