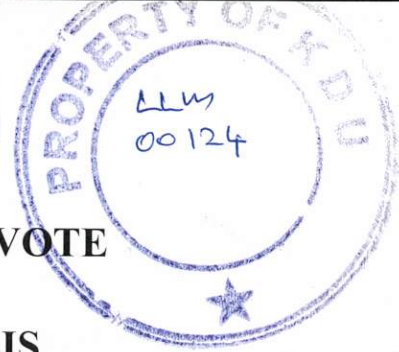


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**SHOULD PRISONERS BE ALLOWED TO VOTE
IN SRI LANKA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

by

A.C. ASSALAARACHCHI

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ABSTRACT

There is a consensus about the existence of right to vote in democratic elections. However, some states disagree about the limits of this right when it comes to the case of prisoners' disenfranchisement. Prisoners' right to vote means if any person is convicted or in remand prison, then he has no right to vote in any election. But imprisonment must remain as a means to an end and not an end in itself. In everywhere throughout the world there are a lot of nations who had given the privilege to detainees to standing their vote. But when it comes to Sri Lanka, fundamental law in Sri Lanka is silent on voting rights of its people. This research proceeds to examine whether there will be a dispute in the society once this right is granted to the prisoners. The main objective of this study is to consider whether prisoners in Sri Lanka, should give voting rights. The researcher will compare the Sri Lankan law along with the jurisdictions of UK and Canada and the international standards. The researcher will consider the pros and cons of granting the voting rights to the prisoners based on the qualitative data. The researcher uses qualitative research method which includes desk research and a comparative analysis. Moreover, this study focuses on the reforms sought to be achieved. Finally, this paper concludes with an emphasis that right to vote of prisoners, is an inalienable human right which is inherent in the democratic roots of this country.

Key words: *Right, Vote, Prisoners, Social Contract, Punishment*