

This House Would Introduce a Curfew for under- sixteens

Fact: A curfew is a rule stopping young people going on to the streets or being outside their houses after a certain time.

Fact: There are usually exceptions for children accompanied by parents or guardians, and for religious services.

Fact: The punishments for breaking the curfew range from small fines or detentions at school to imprisonment.

Fact: Curfews are widespread in the USA, with over 300 American towns and cities adopting the measure. Most recently, the City of Philadelphia adopted such a measure.

Fact: At present in the UK, curfews can be given to young people convicted of certain crimes, but are not imposed on all young people.

- Would curfews help prevent crime? In gangs of young people, would keeping them off the streets stop them meeting altogether?
- Are curfews fair on kids? What if they want to hang out with their friends after dark, or go to parties?
- Shouldn't the imposition of harsh curfews remain a punishment for specific wrongs rather than a general measure against all young people?
- Would curfews prevent problems with drinking in the streets, noise and other anti-social behaviour?
- Could curfews be used to help clean up neighbourhoods with problems of bad behaviour?
- Would curfews help the police do their jobs?
- Would it be easier to crack down on young criminals if they could be arrested just for breaching the curfew rather than needing them to commit a crime?
- Is a curfew practical? Wouldn't everyone just ignore it?
- Wouldn't curfews make young people angry at adults being unreasonable?