Just recently, a bill proposing of lowering the age of the individuals that can be imprisoned be dropped from 15 years old to 12 years has popped out in the Philippine television. Of course, it has tickled many internal senses of justice and injustice in the sight of many. Thousands agreed while some others opposes.

Lawmakers did propose such age lowering scheme for they have seen that adult criminals purposely use the youth in committing heinous crimes since the latter will not be held accountable of whatever they do for they are termed to as ‘innocent’ by the law. This is very evident in the country knowing the concept of syndicates where some youngsters are being threatened to be hurt or be harassed in case they would not follow orders however, there are a lot of circumstances which state otherwise.

A policy and research officer from the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act insisted that children may be liable of the crimes they have committed but the current jails’ state will just harm them and will just worsen the situation. Jail congestion is very visible since just few months ago; various reports showed the congestion struggles of the Filipino prisoners.

According to Researcher Jackilou Bagadiong of the JJWA, Philippine jail settings are like schools of crime that once a child enters it, he will have the passes in connection with the criminals outside that he or she may use once freed (Tomacruz, 2018).

Presently, there exists Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice Law of 2006 which sets the minimum age of criminal liability at 15 years old. In the news, there really are very
few being arrested for they always contest that those are minors that they may not be accountable of what they do. But if reasons are to be considered, at this point, arresting minors should not bear a twice of thinking as the youth of today are really aware of what they are actually doing. If one does it, age must never be an opposing factor for holding an individual accountable of his actions.

There is gender equality because the nation is aware of the roles of women and men in the society as well as their abilities. Criminals, even at a very old age are being imprisoned and this sounds debatable but came out as not. A certain 94-year-old woman was arrested and was kept in jail due to parricide a few years ago and that must serve as the call for the people to pose acceptance that in crimes and liabilities, no one must be exempted. One more thing is that parents and guardians must also be reprimanded over this issue as they are the ones responsible of their own children and if their offsprings have committed a crime that would just mean that they are losing grip on what the society call as sense of responsibility. Being busy will never be an excuse. No one must think twice in implementing the rules and laws for they exist as they are. If a minor did not consider his or her age in committing a crime, then authorities must not consider it as well.

References: