

# Will Texas Justice Come To Britain?

By **Alexander Baron** - Oct 16, 2015

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The State of Texas is renowned for its tough justice; it executes more convicted murderers than any other state. But there is another side to Texas justice; the criminal justice system is supposed to punish, deter and rehabilitate. Those working within it worldwide have long realised that prisons are often far from the best form of rehabilitation; men are locked up with other criminals where they learn more bad habits, and when they are released without proper support – as many of them are – it is inevitable that sooner or later, usually sooner, they will be back in front of a judge.

Attempts have been made in some jurisdictions to break this cycle of offending, including Texas. Recently, UK Justice Secretary Michael Gove travelled to the Lone Star State where he saw one form of rehabilitation in action. Special courts that deal with offenders who have drug and alcohol problems; among other things, those who can keep clean are assisted with housing and jobs – the latter can be especially difficult, who wants to employ an unskilled recidivist with substance abuse problems?

If you want to find out how this works, check out the recent *Panorama* documentary *Tough Justice In Britain – Texas Style* which covers Gove's visit, and ponders on how this scheme can be adapted to the UK.

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