

How Does Personal Experience Expose Flaws in the Prison System?

Seeing the prison system from the outside is very different from living inside it. Reports, studies, and statistics only go so far. Real understanding comes from the people who experience it firsthand. Iranian-American author Hassan Nemazee spent nine years behind bars and later shared those experiences in his memoir *Persia, Politics & Prison*. The [book by Hassan Nemazee](#) offers readers a clear view of how everyday prison life exposes flaws that most outsiders never notice.

Prison walls do not discriminate. They hold everyone equally, but they also reveal truths outsiders rarely witness. Firsthand experience highlights problems that often go unnoticed. Small details, such as how programs are run or how rules are enforced, expose deeper issues in the system's foundation.

One of the most striking discoveries is the lack of proper training among prison staff. Programs like RDAP, intended to help inmates, often suffer under poorly qualified instructors. Instead of therapy, prisoners encounter verbal abuse or indifference. Addiction and mental health are misunderstood, yet these instructors wield power over whether inmates receive sentence reductions. Rather than healing, many learn to “work the system,” undermining the very purpose of rehabilitation.

Technology presents another major barrier. While the outside world advances, prisoners remain frozen in time. Many are released without even basic digital skills. Tasks as simple as opening a bank account or applying for a job become overwhelming. Obtaining identification can take months. Entering a world driven by smartphones and online systems, they face failure before they have a fair chance to start again.

Arbitrary and outdated rules add to the challenge. Good time credits are calculated in confusing ways. Elderly inmates, many of whom pose no risk, languish in costly facilities instead of spending their final years with family. Too often, staff seem more focused on routine paychecks than on rehabilitation or meaningful reform.

The biggest flaw, however, is how the system sets people up to fail. It promises rehabilitation but rarely delivers real tools for success. With inadequate preparation, many return to their communities unprepared for modern life, fueling the cycle of recidivism.

Personal experience cuts through the bureaucracy. It shows what research and reports cannot: the human cost of broken policies. Those who live it understand not just the rules but their consequences. Their stories become roadmaps for change.

To explore these insights further, visit Hassan Nemazee's website. His journey from privilege to prison offers powerful lessons about justice, reform, and redemption, conversations that remain vital for fixing a broken system.