good reason; young offenders are a good example of this. Young offenders are different from adults, they haven’t developed to the same extent and any intervention in their lives is going to have much more serious consequences. So criminal justice systems around the world treat young offenders very differently, many people do not understand the importance of that.

6. The criminal law of course applies equally to everyone, but the criminal justice system pays more attention to some individuals and groups in society than others. Visible minorities and Western nations are far more likely to be stopped by the police, are far more likely to account for prison admissions and this is one of the most important and pressing problems confronting Western criminal justice.

7. Criminal justice systems impose enormously different ways of punishing offenders, so for example if you are convicted of a serious crime in Germany, resulting in say one year in prison that same crime, that same criminal conduct would probably get you ten years in prison in the US.

8. Many people think that prisons are the answer to crime and for certain offenders it is almost be, but placing somebody in prison for a year costs about the same as placing them in a nice London hotel, so we have to be very careful in who we send to prison and for how long simply because it costs so much money.

9. It is an unfortunate reality that prisons in Western societies generally make people worse; they go to prison, they are deprived of their families, they lose their employment and we are not very good at retraining them and rehabilitating them.

10. When people are sent to prison in some countries they serve every day of the prison sentence inside; this does not work very well, the best prison regimes are those that allow offenders to apply for and to serve the last portion of their sentence in the community where they can be assisted and supervised to ensure