**Draft Speech Paper**

Today I will be straightforward, … What if your 10-year-old daughter killed another human?

(Do we turn a blind eye to the reality of juvenile crime or face it head-on by reconsidering the age minimum for juvenile offenders?)

Last week, I heard this story about ….

(And on that, I was wondering what could happen to the killer.)

Turns out the minimum punishment age in Europe is 18. Meaning no judgment or punishment by the court before that. There is the possibility to get penalized under juvenile criminal law depending the case. Which worst case scenario will send you to a re-education camp. And before the age of 12 to 14, even 16 in some countries, you cannot be held criminally responsible for your actions, nor be sentenced to any criminal penalties. This means only your parents are responsible for deciding the consequences of your actions.

So I ask you again, what would you do if your 10-year-old daughter killed another human? …

“No dessert for you tonight honey!” or “no going out for a week, if they even go out at that age”.

The truth is that more and more children are committing serious crimes, including felonies, at younger and younger ages. We cannot continue to ignore this reality, nor hold these children to the same legal standards as adults. Through technology, the internet, and media people mature quicker than they did a few years ago. We must reconsider how we perceive people’s ages and ensure that children who commit felonies are held accountable for their actions in a manner that is appropriate for their age and level of development.

Am I being cruel here? No. It is important to recognize that children who commit felonies are not necessarily bad people. They are often children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, or other adverse experiences that have led them down the wrong path. By providing them with appropriate consequences and support, we can help them turn their lives around and become productive members of society.

There is still a chance for humanity.