

Crime:

- *In what ways have the media contributed to the increase in crime rate?*

Due to poor laws and regulations in Vietnam with respect to TV program's contents, a lot of children are exposed to violent and pornographic contents at a young age. This can be a factor that pushes them to criminal activities, such as rape and violent assaults. In addition to this, the media is convicted of creating moral panics, which are wrong pictures of reality about crimes. For example, the Vietnamese media usually pays a lot of attention to drunk people and refer to them as the culprits of road accidents.

- *What do you think of death penalty?*

I am totally against death penalty which is currently available in a number of countries in the world such as the US, Vietnam, China and Singapore. Although I am non-religious, I strongly believe that no institutions have the right to take away people's life, which is their basic right as a human. Instead, I suggest that a combination of prison sentences and in-prison education is much better as economies can efficiently use prisoners after their sentences.

- *Do you think the world today is more dangerous than in the past?*

No I do not think so. Although civil wars still take place in certain parts of the world such as the Middle East and North Africa, I believe that the world these days is much safer than in the past. Most big wars, either cold ones or military-based ones, have come to an end. The efficient operation of international organisations such as the United Nations have made sure that people around the world have the right to live safely without any fear of war and violence.

- *Do you think that poverty is the answer to crime?*

Yes and no. For some people, the simple link is that if you are poor, you have no money and therefore you need to commit crimes to afford a living. However, in my opinion, it is the lack of working incentives and sufficient education that push people to criminal activities. A lot of people live in poverty but because they are well-educated and realise that the harder they work, the better they become, they do not commit crimes. In many countries, the government provides the poor with benefits. Therefore, poverty is not always a reasonable justification for committing crimes.

- *Why do cities generally have a higher rate of crime than rural areas?*

The first reason is that economic growth and levels of wealth in cities are higher than rural areas. Therefore, profit-motivated crimes such as cyber-crimes, bank robbery and stealing material possessions are so popular. The second reason is the stress of life and the need to be rich in a competitive economy. If a person is unable to do so, they then have to commit crimes to satisfy themselves, for example by committing shop-lifting to feed their children.