

Can we Punish the Perpetrators of Atrocities?
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Punishment, properly understood as an exercise in communicative censure, presupposes a certain kind of fellowship between punishers and punished: the offender is answerable to those who would punish him, as fellow members of a suitable community. But to whom are those who perpetrate atrocities answerable? How can we still recognise them as fellow members of a community, with whom we can try to engage in the communicative enterprise of punishment? More particularly, can a strictly secular perspective find room for the kind of fellowship that punishment (on this understanding) requires; or is it possible only from within a specifically religious perspective?

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For more information, cf. <http://www.philosophy.stir.ac.uk/staff/a-duff/duff-page.php>.