



A GLOBAL VIEW OF WOMEN, PRISON, AND AFTERCARE: A CALL FOR REFORM

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■ Excerpted from: Beichner, D. & Hagemann, O. (2022). A global view of women, prison, and aftercare: A call for reform. *Violence Against Women*, 28(8), 1788 – 1808.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*An International and
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Special Issue: Prioritizing the Elimination
of Violence Against Women Worldwide:
Lessons From the 65th Session of the UN
Commission on the Status of Women

Guest Editors: Dawn Beichner,
Rosemary Barberet, and Sheetal Ranjan

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Select Excerpts Kyoto Declaration			
Improving Prison Conditions	Reducing Reoffending Through Rehabilitation and Reintegration	Restorative Justice Processes	Mainstreaming a Gender-Perspective
<p>Improve the detention conditions for both pretrial and post-trial detainees and the capacities of prison, correction and other relevant officers in this regard, including promoting the practical application of relevant provisions of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), as well as the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).</p>	<p>Promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programs based on an individual assessment of the needs and risks of offenders, and provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programs to support them to develop the necessary skills for reintegration;</p>	<p>Facilitate, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, restorative justice processes at relevant stages in criminal justice proceedings in order to assist the recovery of victims and the reintegration of offenders, as well as to prevent crime and recidivism, and assess their usefulness in this regard;</p>	<p>Mainstream a gender perspective into the criminal justice system by promoting gender-responsive measures that address the gender-specific needs of both offenders and victims, including the protection of women and girls from revictimization in criminal justice proceedings.</p>

COVID-19 AND PRISONS ADAPTED FROM BEICHNER, CRAIG & BELL (2021)

Global deaths have
exceeded 2.6 million

USA Prisons – 18% of
COVID-19 cases are
fatal, compared to 3%
fatalities population

Potential death, forced
isolation, suspended
visits, families are not
aware of health and
safety in the prisons

Implications on 2020
incarceration trends

**Gender-specific impacts
(Beichner & Hagemann, 2022)**



Beichner & Hagemann (2022) Gendered Effects of COVID 19 on Incarcerated and Detained Women

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT INCARCERATED WOMEN AND AFTERCARE OR REENTRY

- Women's incarceration is growing at higher rates than men's worldwide
- Women are not only offenders, they are **survivors of abuse and trauma**
- Women are **primary care providers to their children**
- Women are **not violent offenders**



#1: ACKNOWLEDGE AND DISMANTLE SYSTEMIC AND INSTITUTIONALIZED BIASES AND DISCRIMINATION

REPORTS

A/HRC/47/53: Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers

PUBLISHED
09 July 2021

UN SYMBOL
A/HRC/47/53

FOCUS
Racism

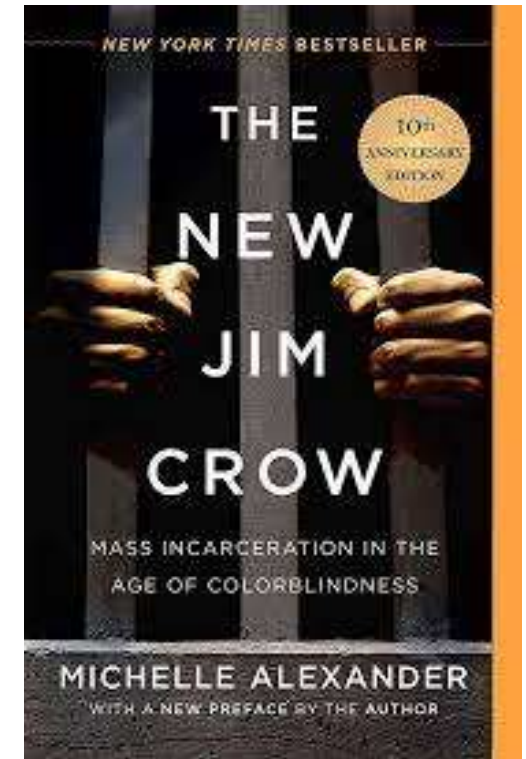
WORLD SOCIETY OF
VICTIMOLOGY



Advancing research, services and
awareness for victims



Fachhochschule Kiel
Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften



- “Incarcerated Women: Their Situation, Their Needs, and Measures for Sustainable Reintegration”
- Presented at the United Nations Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar



**RECOMMENDATIONS (2-4) ADAPTED FROM
BEICHNER & HAGEMANN (2016)**



#2: ABOLITION OF PRISON SENTENCES FOR WOMEN AND NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS

RELATED BANGKOK RULES

Rule 58	Rule 61	Rule 62	Rule 64
Taking into account the provisions of rule 2.3 of the Tokyo Rules, women offenders shall not be separated from their families and communities without due consideration being given to their backgrounds and family ties. Alternative ways of managing women who commit offenses, such as diversionary measures and pretrial and sentencing alternatives , shall be implemented wherever appropriate and possible.	When sentencing women offenders, courts shall have the power to consider mitigating factors such as lack of criminal history and relative non-severity and nature of the criminal conduct, in the light of women's caretaking responsibilities and typical backgrounds.	The provision of gender-sensitive, trauma-informed, women-only substance abuse treatment programs in the community and women's access to such treatment shall be improved , for crime preventions as well as for diversion and alternative sentencing purposes.	Non-custodial sentences for pregnant women and women with dependent children shall be preferred where possible and appropriate, with custodial sentences being considered when the offense is serious or violent or the woman represents a continuing danger , and after taking into account the best interests of the child or children , while ensuring that appropriate provision has been made for the care of the children.



#3 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCEDURES SPECIFIC TO AFTERCARE

- Strengths (over deficits)
- Survivor-victim centered
- Relying on community of care (rather than criminal justice)



#4: MAKING CHILDREN THE PRIORITY

SELECT RELATED BANGKOK RULES (2, 26, & 68 ALSO APPLY)

Rule 33	Rule 42	Rule 49	Rule 51	Rule 52
<p>1. All the staff assigned to work with women prisoners shall receive training related to the gender-specific needs and human rights of women prisoners.</p> <p>3. Where children are allowed to stay with their mothers in prison, awareness-raising on child development and basic training on the health care of the children shall also be provided to prison staff...</p>	<p>2. The regime of the prison shall be flexible enough to respond to the needs of pregnant women, nursing mothers and women with children. Childcare facilities or arrangements shall be provided in prisons in order to enable women prisoners to participate in prison activities.</p> <p>3. Particular efforts shall be made to provide appropriate programs for pregnant women, nursing mothers and women with children in prison.</p>	<p>Decisions to allow children to stay with their mothers in prison shall be based on the best interests of the children. Children in prison with their mothers shall never be treated as prisoners.</p>	<p>2. The environment provided for such children's upbringing shall be as close as possible to that of the child outside prison.</p>	<p>1. Decisions as to when a child is separated from its mother shall be based on individual assessments and the best interests of the child within the scope of relevant national laws.</p> <p>2. The removal of the child from prison shall be undertaken with sensitivity, only when alternative care arrangements ...</p>



MATERNAL INCARCERATION AND FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

- Gendered patterns in the research
- Detrimental impact on children
- Globally, co-habitation is not a right; if available it is a privilege
- Parenting programming – wide variation in availability and intensity
- Examples: Illinois*, German TAKT program, Italy “yellow room”



PRISON NURSERY PROGRAMMING WORLDWIDE* (TIME LIMITS VARY)



- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Columbia
- Cuba
- Democratic Republic Congo
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- New Zealand
- Spain
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America



HOW DOES THE USA COMPARE? WORLD LEADER IN WOMEN'S INCARCERATION

- Only 9 states have a prison nursery program
 - Limit of 2 years
 - Strict criteria



REFORM CAN REDUCE HARM TO INCARCERATED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES





Vocational or Occupational Wellness





Research Lessons & Advice

- Changing the System From Within
- Emotional Challenges & Victim Empathy
- More than a Project
- Scholar Activism & Survivor Activism





YWCA Labyrinth Outreach Services for Women





U.S. EXAMPLE OF WOMEN'S DECARCERATION



Redefining the Narrative

The Women's Justice Task Force of Illinois

Together, We Can #cut50NOW



Chicago Tribune

**'Prison is not where women need to be':
All-female task force wants to cut Illinois' female
prison population in half**

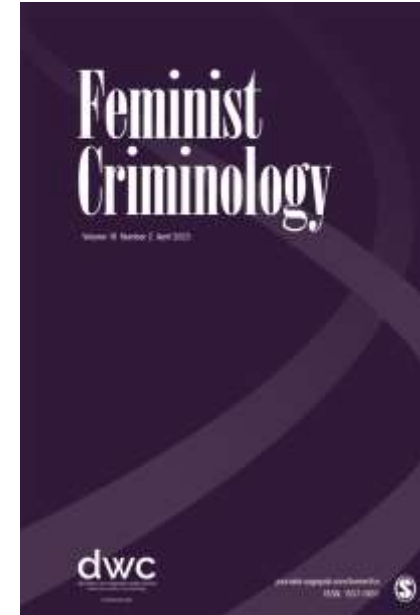
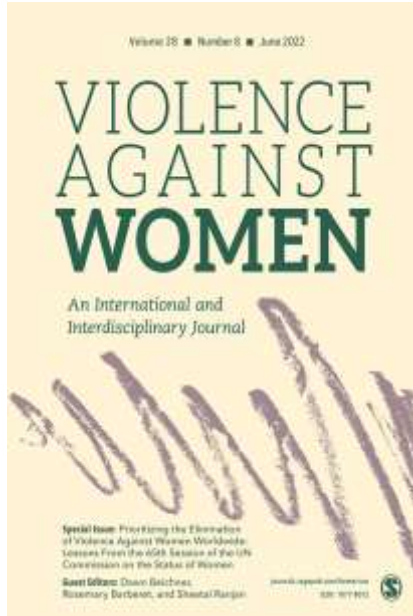




UN Commission on the Status of Women: Feminist Approaches to Justice

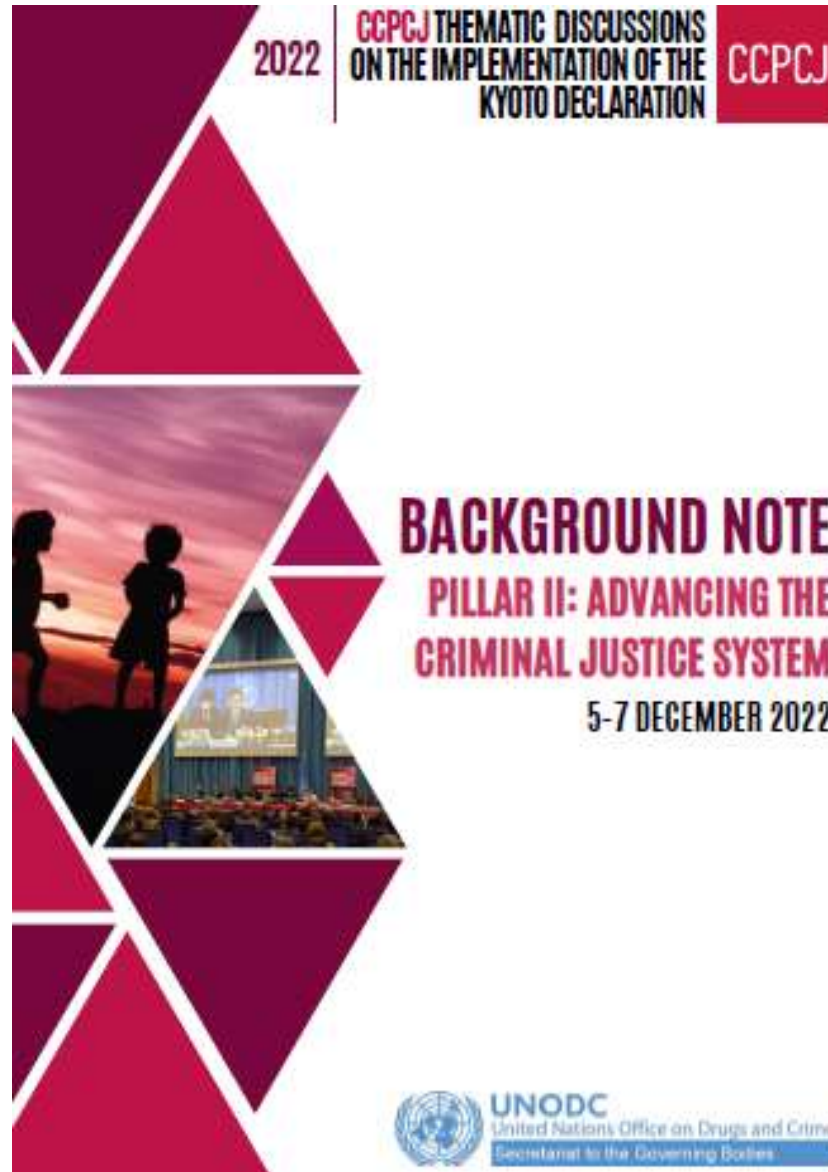


International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy



**SPECIAL ISSUES OF JOURNALS SHOWCASING
UN Commission on the Status of Women:
Feminist Approaches to Justice**





INVITED STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE WSV



Reducing *Women's* Reoffending Through Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Dawn Beichner-Thomas, PhD
Chair UN Liaison Committee



World Society of Victimology (WSV)

Special Category consultative status with the Economic Social Council of the UN and the Council of Europe.

Works to

- ❖ advance victimological research and practices around the world
- ❖ encourage interdisciplinary and comparative work
- ❖ research in the field of victimology and advance cooperation between agencies

Next symposium will be held in 2024 at the National Forensic Sciences University in India



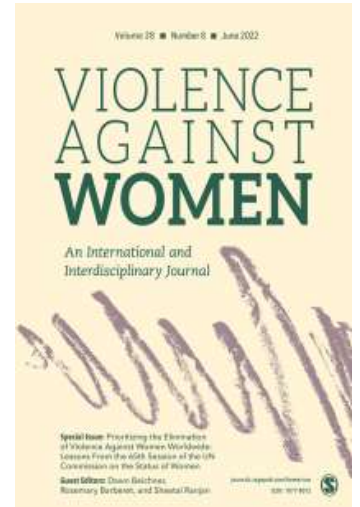
Reducing *Women's* Reoffending Through Rehabilitation and Reintegration

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A Call for Reform:

- ❖ Acknowledging and Dismantling Systemic and Institutionalized Discrimination and Biases
- ❖ Abolition of Prison Sentences for Non-Violent Offenses
- ❖ Restorative Approaches to Aftercare
- ❖ Making Children the Priority

Related Publications — shared on desktop

Maedzenge, P. & Beichner-Thomas, D. A thematic analysis of parenting experiences of women in prison. *Forthcoming in the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*.

Beichner, D. & Hagemann, O. (2022a). A global view of women, prison, and aftercare: A call for reform. *Violence Against Women*, 28(8), 1788-1808.

Beichner, D. & Hagemann, O. (2022b). Frauengefängnisse abschaffen: Aktuelle international gesichtspunkte. *Forum Strafvollzug*, 1(22), 42-49.

Beichner, D., Craig, M.O., & Bell, C. (2021). Racialized mass incarceration in the U.S.A. as a form of macro victimization. In Varona, G. (Ed.), *Macrovictimización, abuso de poder y victimología: Impactos intergeneracionales* (pp. 375-415). Cizur Mayor, Spain: Aranzadi.



Related Publications Continued

Rodda, J. & Beichner, D. (2017). Identifying programming needs of women detainees in a jail environment. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 56(6): 373-393.

Beichner, D. & Hagemann, O. (2016). The management and inclusion in society of prisoner released offenders. In *Women and Children as Victims and Offenders: Background-Prevention-Reintegration: Suggestions for Succeeding Generations*. Edited by Helmut Kury, Slawomir Redo, and Evelyn Shea (Editors). United Nations.

Beichner, D. & Rabe-Hemp, C. (2014). "I don't want to go back to that town:" Incarcerated mothers and their return home to rural communities. *Critical Criminology*, 22(4), 527-543.



What will *you* do?



ENJOY EVERY MOMENT

