

Abstract

Exploring Incarcerated Women's Barriers to Reintegration: A Comparison to the Bangkok Rules

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Over the past 20 years, there has been a noticeable increase in the imprisonment of women in Canada. Utilizing an understanding of colonialism, patriarchy, and human rights the purpose of this research was to explore how women's experiences of incarceration affect reintegration and compared the experiences to the minimum rules and standards laid out in the Bangkok Rules. Five interviews were conducted with individuals who work directly with incarcerated women or women on release. A feminist intersectional human rights lens was used to explore how gender inequalities, embedded in historical and sociopolitical contexts, influenced women's experiences while incarcerated and their eventual reintegration. The findings of this study described how criminalized women experience societal stigma, fractured connections, inadequate institutional programming, and inadequate social supports upon release and trauma. The narratives were then compared to specific guidelines described in the Bangkok Rules.