



# Healing Inter- and Transgenerational Trauma Among Wrongfully Incarcerated Individuals: Advancing a Psychologically Informed Framework for Reform in Southern Africa's Correctional Services

Gerald Munyoro<sup>1\*</sup> and Mercy Zungunde<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Educational Administration & Leadership, Faculty of Education, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa

Submission: May 12, 2026; Published: May 26, 2026

\*Corresponding author: Gerald Munyoro, Department of Educational Administration & Leadership, Faculty of Education, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

## Abstract

Wrongful incarceration constitutes a severe form of structural violence with enduring psychological, social, and intergenerational consequences. This study examines the nature and transmission of trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals in Southern Africa and advances a psychologically informed, culturally grounded framework for correctional reform. Using a qualitative integrative review design, the study synthesizes interdisciplinary literature published between 2015 and 2025 across psychology, criminology, African studies, and global mental health. A thematic analytic approach was employed to identify patterns related to trauma manifestation, mechanisms of transmission, and existing intervention models within correctional and post-exoneration contexts. Findings indicate that wrongful incarceration produces complex, layered trauma, including post-traumatic stress, moral injury, identity disruption, and profound institutional distrust. These harms extend intergenerationally through disrupted family systems, stigma, and socioeconomic marginalization, and trans-generationally through entrenched structural inequalities rooted in colonial and apartheid legacies. The analysis further reveals that correctional systems in Southern Africa remain predominantly punitive, under-resourced, and insufficiently responsive to trauma, with limited integration of mental health and psychosocial rehabilitation services. Dominant Western individualistic trauma models are found to be inadequate in addressing the collective and culturally embedded dimensions of trauma in African contexts. The study proposes a multi-level conceptual framework integrating trauma-informed care, restorative justice, ecological systems theory, and African relational philosophies. This framework emphasizes institutional accountability, culturally responsive interventions, and sustainable community reintegration mechanisms. The study concludes that meaningful correctional reform requires a paradigm shift toward healing-centred, contextually grounded approaches that address the enduring and multigenerational impacts of wrongful incarceration.

**Keywords:** Wrongful incarceration; Structural violence; Trauma transmission; Southern Africa; intergenerational trauma; Correctional reform; Restorative justice; Culturally grounded interventions

## Introduction

Wrongful incarceration constitutes a profound breach of fundamental human rights and an under-recognised form of structural violence with enduring psychological, social, and institutional consequences Campbell & Denov [1]; Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Norris [6]. While global evidence demonstrates that exonees experience disproportionately high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and social dislocation, these harms are often magnified in resource-constrained contexts Grounds [7]; Wildeman [8-13]. In Southern Africa, wrongful convictions remain insufficiently documented despite persistent

systemic challenges, including investigative limitations, constrained forensic capacity, and procedural inequities embedded within criminal justice systems Muntingh [14-21]; Sloth-Nielsen [22]; Sarkin [23-30]. Reports by organizations such as Amnesty International and Penal Reform International highlight how overcrowding, prolonged pre-trial detention, and inadequate legal representation exacerbate the vulnerability of accused persons, increasing the risk of miscarriages of justice Amnesty International, [31]; PRI [32]. Within correctional systems such as those of South Africa and Zimbabwe, the absence of structured post-exoneration support further compounds

the psychological and socio-economic harms experienced by wrongfully incarcerated individuals Sloth-Nielsen [22]; Sarkin [23-30].

Incarceration itself is intrinsically linked to psychological trauma; however, wrongful incarceration produces particularly complex and layered forms of injury, including moral trauma, identity disruption, and institutional betrayal Grounds [7]; Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Norris [6]. Empirical studies across global and African contexts indicate that prison environments, often characterised by overcrowding, violence, and limited access to mental health care, intensify distress and erode coping mechanisms Haney [33-36]; Muntingh [14-21]. In Southern Africa, correctional institutions shaped by colonial and apartheid-era legacies continue to prioritise containment and control over rehabilitation Dissel & Ellis [37-42]; Ndlovu-Gatsheni [43-46]. This institutional orientation neglects the psychological needs of inmates and fails to recognise the distinct trauma profiles of those wrongfully convicted Haney [33-36]; Sarkin [23-30]. Consequently, individuals exiting the system frequently encounter compounded challenges, including stigma, fractured identities, and diminished trust in state institutions Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Wildeman [8-13].

Thus, the impact of wrongful incarceration extends beyond the individual, permeating family systems and communities through processes of inter- and transgenerational trauma Murray [47-52]; Comfort [53-55]. Intergenerational trauma manifests in disrupted attachment relationships, economic instability, and social stigma affecting children and dependents of incarcerated individuals Murray [47-52]; Turney [56-59]. In Southern Africa, these dynamics are further shaped by historical and structural inequalities rooted in colonialism and apartheid, which continue to influence patterns of marginalisation and institutional distrust Seekings & Nattrass [60]; Ndlovu-Gatsheni [43-46]. Transgenerational trauma, in this context, becomes embedded within collective memory and socio-political structures, reinforcing cycles of disadvantage and vulnerability Yehuda & Lehrner [61-64]; Danieli [65]. Comparative scholarship has drawn parallels between incarceration-related trauma and other forms of historical trauma, underscoring the cumulative and enduring nature of these harms Yehuda & Lehrner [61-64].

Despite the scale and complexity of these challenges, existing correctional frameworks in Southern Africa remain largely deficient in trauma-informed and psychologically grounded approaches Muntingh [14-21]; Sarkin [23-30]. Current models emphasise behavioural management and security, with limited integration of culturally responsive mental health interventions or restorative justice practices Dissel & Ellis [37-42]; Sloth-Nielsen [22]. This gap underscores the urgent need for a paradigm shift toward holistic, trauma-informed correctional reform that addresses both individual and systemic dimensions of harm Haney [33-36]; PRI [32]. Accordingly, this study seeks to examine

the mechanisms through which inter- and transgenerational trauma manifest among wrongfully incarcerated individuals, critically evaluate the limitations of prevailing psychological and correctional models, and advance a culturally grounded, psychologically informed framework for reform within Southern Africa's correctional services. By situating wrongful incarceration within broader socio-historical and institutional contexts, this research contributes to emerging scholarship advocating for justice systems that prioritise healing, accountability, and human dignity.

### Literature Review

#### Conceptualizing Trauma in Carceral Contexts

Trauma within carceral environments has increasingly been conceptualized as extending beyond individual psychological pathology to encompass institutional, structural, and systemic dimensions Haney [33-36]; Judith Herman [66]. The notion of "carceral trauma" captures the cumulative psychological harm arising from prolonged exposure to coercive control, deprivation of autonomy, and institutional violence inherent in correctional settings Haney [33-36]. This framework highlights how prisons function not only as sites of punishment but also as environments that reproduce and intensify trauma through overcrowding, abuse, uncertainty, and limited access to mental health services PRI [67]; WHO [68,69]; Chihobvu [70,71]; Munyoro [72-75]. In Southern Africa, these conditions are often exacerbated by resource constraints, colonial legacies embedded in penal systems, and inadequate oversight mechanisms Muntingh [14-21]; Sarkin [23-30]. Consequently, trauma in these contexts is not episodic but chronic, shaping inmates' identities, coping strategies, and post-release adjustment Herman [66]; UNODC [76-78].

#### Wrongful Incarceration and Psychological Harm

Wrongful incarceration represents a particularly severe form of carceral trauma, producing complex and enduring psychological consequences Innocence Project [79]; NRE [80]. Individuals who have been wrongfully imprisoned frequently exhibit symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and moral injury, often compounded by the loss of social identity, stigma, and institutional mistrust Grounds [7]; Wildeman [8-13]. Empirical studies from global contexts indicate that the unpredictability and perceived injustice of wrongful conviction intensify trauma, as individuals struggle to reconcile their experiences with expectations of fairness and legal protection Campbell & Denov [81,82]. In African contexts, where legal redress mechanisms may be slow or inaccessible, the psychological burden is further aggravated by limited reintegration support, economic marginalization, and social stigma Sarkin [23-30]; ACHPR [83]. These dynamics underscore the need for trauma-informed legal and correctional reforms that address both the psychological and structural harms of wrongful incarceration PRI [67]; UNODC [76-78].

### Trauma in Correctional Settings

Correctional environments are characterized by chronic exposure to stressors such as violence, overcrowding, and institutional neglect, all of which contribute to significant psychological harm for both inmates and correctional staff WHO [68,69]; UNODC [76-78]. Research in South Africa and the broader Southern African region indicates high levels of trauma exposure among incarcerated populations, often linked to pre-existing vulnerabilities and compounded by the prison environment Dissel & Ellis [37-42]; Muntingh [14-21]. Correctional officers similarly experience secondary or vicarious trauma, which can impair their well-being and professional functioning Sarkin [23-30]. Despite these realities, institutional responses to trauma remain limited, with mental health services often under-resourced and fragmented PRI [67]; WHO [68,69]. The absence of systematic trauma-informed care contributes to cycles of violence, recidivism, and unresolved psychological distress, highlighting the urgent need for integrated mental health interventions within correctional systems [76-78]; HRW [84].

### Intergenerational Effects of Incarceration

The impact of incarceration extends beyond individuals to affect families and communities, particularly children of incarcerated persons Murray [47-52]; UNICEF, 2023. These children face elevated risks of mental health disorders, educational disruption, behavioural challenges, and social exclusion Turney [56-59]; Wildeman [8-13]. In the context of wrongful incarceration, these effects may be intensified by the stigma and economic instability associated with unjust detention. Studies across African contexts suggest that family structures are deeply interconnected, meaning that the incarceration of one member disrupts broader kinship networks and caregiving systems Cluver [85,86]. Over time, these disruptions can contribute to cycles of disadvantage and trauma transmission across generations, reinforcing social inequalities and undermining community resilience WHO [68,69]; UNICEF, 2023).

### African Contexts of Trauma and Justice

In Southern Africa, contemporary experiences of trauma within justice systems are deeply embedded in historical legacies of colonialism, apartheid, and systemic violence Ratele [87-90]; Mamdani [91,92]. These histories have shaped institutional practices, public perceptions of justice, and patterns of social inequality. Trauma in this context is therefore not only individual but collective, reflecting shared experiences of dispossession, discrimination, and structural violence Herman [66]. Correctional systems often mirror these historical dynamics, perpetuating inequalities and marginalization Sarkin [23-30]; PRI [67]. Understanding trauma in Southern Africa thus requires a socio-historical lens that acknowledges how past injustices continue to influence present-day legal and correctional frameworks Mamdani [91,92].

### Psychological Pathways of Trauma Transmission

Inter- and transgenerational trauma is transmitted through multiple psychological and social pathways, including disrupted attachment relationships, chronic stress exposure, stigma, and socio-economic deprivation. Yehuda and Lehrner [61-64] emphasize the role of both biological and environmental mechanisms, including epigenetic changes and learned behavioural patterns, in the transmission of trauma across generations. In the context of incarceration, parental absence, caregiver instability, and community stigma further exacerbate these processes Turney [56-59]; WHO [68,69]. African scholarship highlights the importance of relational and communal factors in shaping these pathways, suggesting that trauma transmission is deeply embedded in social networks and cultural contexts Mugumbate & Chereni [93-96].

### Cultural and Community Dimensions of Trauma

African perspectives on trauma emphasize its collective nature, viewing individual suffering as interconnected with family and community well-being. Concepts such as Ubuntu foreground relational identity, mutual care, and social harmony, suggesting that healing must occur within communal contexts rather than solely at the individual level Mugumbate & Chereni [93-96]. Incarceration therefore disrupts these relational networks, creating ripple effects that extend beyond the individual to affect entire communities (UNICEF, 2023; WHO [68,69]). Consequently, trauma-informed interventions in Southern Africa must integrate cultural values and community-based approaches to effectively address the broader social impact of incarceration PRI [67]; UNODC [76-78].

### Indigenous and Community-Based Healing Approaches

Indigenous African healing practices offer valuable frameworks for addressing trauma, emphasizing spirituality, communal restoration, and holistic well-being. Practices such as storytelling, ritual cleansing, and community reconciliation ceremonies play a central role in restoring social harmony and individual dignity Mkhize [97]; Nwoye [97-100]. These approaches align with restorative justice principles, which prioritize healing, accountability, and reintegration over punitive measures UNODC [76-78]. In the context of wrongful incarceration, integrating indigenous healing practices into correctional and post-release programmes may enhance psychological recovery and social reintegration, particularly when combined with formal mental health services PRI [67]; WHO [68,69].

### Rehabilitation and Systemic Gaps

Despite growing recognition of the need for rehabilitation, correctional systems in Southern Africa continue to face significant systemic gaps, including policy fragmentation, inadequate resources, and limited coordination across justice sectors Dissel & Ellis [37-42]; Muntingh [14-21]. Rehabilitation programmes often lack a trauma-informed framework and fail to

address the complex needs of wrongfully incarcerated individuals WHO [68,69]; UNODC [76,78]. Moreover, reintegration support is frequently insufficient, leaving individuals vulnerable to social exclusion and economic hardship PRI [67]; HRW [84]. Addressing these gaps requires comprehensive reform that integrates mental health, legal, and social services within a cohesive, psychologically informed framework.

### Gaps in Correctional Mental Health Research

There remains a notable lack of empirical research on wrongful incarceration and intergenerational trauma within African correctional systems. Existing studies tend to focus on general prison conditions or recidivism, with limited attention to the specific experiences of wrongfully incarcerated individuals and their families Sarkin [23-30]; PRI [67]. This gap constrains the development of evidence-based policies and interventions tailored to the African context. Future research should prioritize longitudinal and community-based studies that explore the psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of trauma, as well as the effectiveness of indigenous and trauma-informed interventions WHO [68,69]; UNODC [76,78].

### Conceptual Framework

#### Trauma-Informed Care

Trauma-informed care provides a foundational lens for understanding the pervasive psychological harm experienced by wrongfully incarcerated individuals, particularly within Southern African correctional systems where overcrowding, violence, and systemic inequities persist Muntingh & Ballard [14-21]; Sarkin [23-30]. This approach acknowledges that exposure to wrongful conviction, prolonged detention, and institutional abuse constitutes complex trauma with enduring cognitive, emotional, and physiological effects DeVylder [101,102]; Levenson [103-106]. It emphasises principles of safety, trustworthiness, empowerment, and cultural responsiveness in institutional reform SAMHSA [107,108]. Recent African scholarship highlights that incarcerated populations in countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe frequently experience compounded trauma linked to structural violence, poverty, and colonial legacies Muntingh & Ballard [14-21]; Dlamini [109,110]. Embedding trauma-informed practices within correctional services such as staff training, therapeutic programming, and victim-sensitive policies has been shown globally to reduce recidivism and improve psychological outcomes Miller & Najavits [111]; Levenson [103-106]. Thus, trauma-informed care serves as a critical entry point for addressing both individual and systemic harm in wrongful incarceration contexts Sarkin & Koenig [23-30].

#### Restorative Justice

Restorative justice offers a complementary framework centred on healing, accountability, and reconciliation, aligning strongly with African communitarian values Skelton [112-115]; Batley [116,117]. Unlike retributive justice systems, restorative

approaches seek to repair harm through dialogue among affected parties, including exonerees, families, and communities Zehr [118]; Braithwaite [119]. In Southern Africa, restorative justice has gained traction in post-conflict and community justice settings, notably in South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and community-based diversion programmes Skelton [112-115]; Batley [116,117]. For wrongfully incarcerated individuals, restorative processes can facilitate acknowledgment of harm, reintegration, and restoration of dignity, which are often absent in formal legal exoneration processes Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Grounds [120-122]. Empirical studies from Rwanda's Gacaca courts and community justice initiatives in Namibia demonstrate that culturally grounded restorative practices can promote collective healing and social cohesion Clark [123]; Winterdyk & Antonopoulos [124,125]. Integrating restorative justice within correctional reform therefore addresses both interpersonal and societal dimensions of trauma recovery.

### Ecological Systems Theory

Grounded in Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, this framework situates trauma within nested and interacting systems, individual, familial, community, institutional, and societal Bronfenbrenner [126,127]. Wrongful incarceration disrupts each of these levels, producing cascading effects such as family disintegration, community stigma, and institutional mistrust Murray [47-52]; Grounds [120-122]. In the Southern African context, these impacts are intensified by socio-economic disparities and historical injustices rooted in colonial and apartheid-era systems (Seekings & Nattrass, 2019). Contemporary research in African criminology underscores the importance of multi-level interventions that address not only individual psychological distress but also structural determinants such as legal reform, social services, and community reintegration Artz & Smythe [128]; Sarkin [129]. By adopting an ecological perspective, this conceptual framework highlights the need for coordinated, cross-sectoral responses that recognise trauma as both a personal and systemic phenomenon Denov & Shevell [130-134].

### African Relational Ontologies (Ubuntu)

African relational ontologies, particularly the philosophy of Ubuntu, provide a culturally grounded foundation for understanding healing as a collective and relational process Mugumbate & Chereni [93,96]; Chigangaidze & Chinyenze [135-138]. Ubuntu, often encapsulated in the phrase "I am because we are," emphasises interconnectedness, dignity, and mutual care Mugumbate [139,140]. Within the context of wrongful incarceration, Ubuntu reframes trauma not solely as an individual pathology but as a disruption of social harmony requiring communal restoration Mugumbate & Nyanguru [141]; Chigangaidze & Chinyenze [135-138]. Southern African scholarship demonstrates that integrating Ubuntu into social work, mental health, and justice practices enhances culturally relevant interventions and promotes collective resilience Mugumbate [139,140]; Chigangaidze & Chinyenze [135-138].

This perspective is particularly significant in addressing inter- and transgenerational trauma, as it recognises the role of family and community networks in both the transmission and healing of trauma Denov & Shevell [130-134]. Incorporating Ubuntu into correctional reform thus ensures that interventions are contextually appropriate and aligned with indigenous knowledge systems Mugumbate [139,140].

### Justice-Oriented Psychological Frameworks

Justice-oriented psychological frameworks integrate trauma-informed care with restorative justice principles to address both psychological harm and systemic injustice DeVlyder [101,102]; Levenson [103-106]. These frameworks emphasise the intersection of mental health and human rights, advocating for policies that recognise wrongful incarceration as a form of state-inflicted trauma Sarkin & Koenig [23-30]. In African contexts, emerging research highlights the need for psychologically informed legal processes, including trauma-sensitive interviewing, compensation mechanisms, and post-release support Sarkin [129]; Artz & Smythe [128]. Globally, exoneree support programmes in countries such as the United States and Canada illustrate the importance of combining psychological services with legal and social reintegration support Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Grounds [120-122]. By integrating justice and psychology, this framework advances a holistic approach to reform that addresses both the causes and consequences of wrongful incarceration.

### Multidimensional Trauma Transmission Model

The multidimensional trauma transmission model conceptualises trauma as transmitted across generations through interconnected psychosocial, cultural, and structural pathways Kellermann [142]; Denov & Shevell [130-134]. Research on intergenerational trauma in African contexts, particularly in relation to colonialism, apartheid, and political violence, demonstrates how unresolved trauma can manifest in subsequent generations through behavioural patterns, social inequalities, and epigenetic changes Ratele [87,90]; Denov & Shevell [130-134]. For families of wrongfully incarcerated individuals, trauma may be transmitted through stigma, economic hardship, and disrupted caregiving structures Murray [47-52]; Cluver [85,86]. Studies in South Africa and Kenya highlight how children of incarcerated parents experience increased vulnerability to mental health challenges and social exclusion Murray [47-52]; Cluver [85,86]. This model underscores the necessity of interventions that extend beyond the individual to include family and community-based healing strategies.

### Integrated Healing Framework

The integrated healing framework proposed in this study synthesises clinical, restorative, ecological, and indigenous approaches to trauma recovery. It advocates for hybrid interventions that combine evidence-based psychological therapies, such as cognitive behavioural therapy and narrative

therapy, with culturally embedded practices such as community rituals, storytelling, and traditional healing Gone [143,144]; Wessells [145,147]. In Southern Africa, examples of such integration include community-based psychosocial support programmes in Zimbabwe and traditional court systems in Botswana that incorporate reconciliation and healing practices Chibanda [148]; Molokomme [149]. This framework emphasises collaboration among correctional services, mental health professionals, community leaders, and policymakers to create sustainable and contextually relevant solutions. By bridging global best practices with local knowledge systems, the integrated framework offers a comprehensive model for addressing inter- and transgenerational trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals.

### Conceptual Framework Diagram (Figure 1)

**Structural Level (Policy, Justice Systems, Inequality):** At the structural level, wrongful incarceration and its enduring harms are shaped by systemic inequalities embedded within Southern Africa's justice systems, including legacies of colonialism and apartheid that continue to produce racialised and socio-economic disparities in sentencing, policing, and access to justice Alexander [150]; Seekings & Natrass [60]. Contemporary scholarship emphasises that without addressing structural injustice such as unequal legal representation, poverty, and institutional bias, efforts at healing remain partial and unsustainable Wakefield & Uggen [151]; Liebling & Maruna [152]. A psychologically informed framework therefore situates trauma within these macro-level conditions, recognising that wrongful incarceration constitutes a form of structural violence that perpetuates intergenerational harm and social exclusion Galtung [153]; Farmer [154]. Integrating restorative justice at this level requires policy reforms that prioritise dignity, accountability, and inclusivity while acknowledging historical trauma and its ongoing psychosocial effects Peacock [155,156]; Gobodo-Madikizela [157,158].

**Institutional Level (Correctional Services):** At the institutional level, correctional services act as both sites of harm and potential sites of healing, depending on their orientation toward punishment or rehabilitation Sarkin [159]; Jewkes & Bennett [160]. Traditional punitive models in Southern Africa have historically reinforced trauma, whereas emerging reforms emphasise trauma-informed care, rehabilitation, and reintegration Dissel & Ellis [137-142]; UNODC [161,162]. Evidence suggests that correctional environments that incorporate psychological services, spiritual care, and restorative practices can transform incarceration experiences into opportunities for recovery and identity reconstruction Miller & Najavits [111]; Haney [33-36]. However, institutional resistance, overcrowding, and limited resources often constrain such reforms, underscoring the need for systemic restructuring of correctional policies to embed trauma-informed and restorative principles into everyday practice Mashau [163,164].

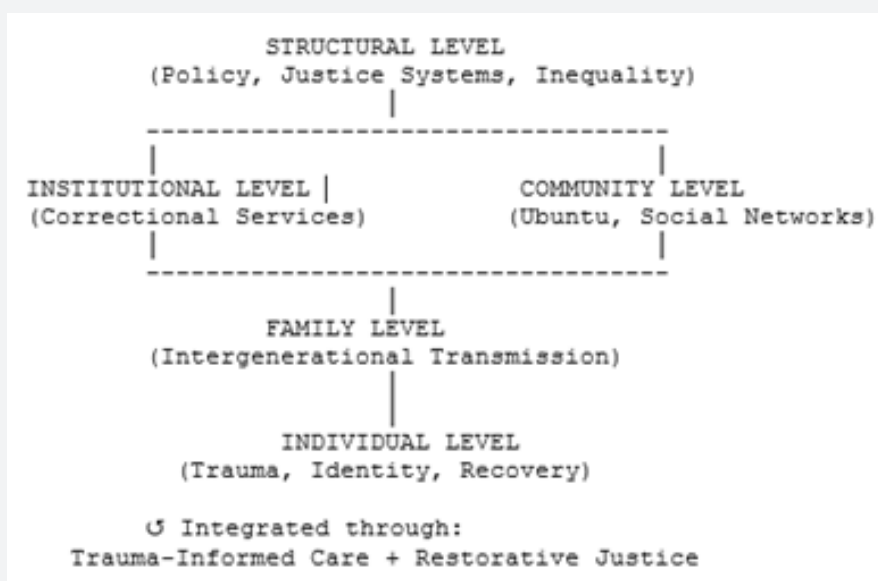


Figure: 1

**Community Level (Ubuntu, Social Networks):** At the community level, the African philosophy of Ubuntu, emphasising interconnectedness, collective responsibility, and restoration of social harmony, provides a culturally grounded framework for healing trauma Tutu [165]; Metz [166]. Restorative justice practices rooted in Ubuntu prioritise dialogue, reconciliation, and reintegration of individuals into their communities, thereby addressing stigma and social fragmentation associated with wrongful incarceration Llewellyn & Howse, [167]; Skelton [168]. Community networks, including faith-based organisations and social support systems, play a critical role in facilitating belonging, reducing recidivism, and supporting psychosocial recovery Clear [169]; Visher & Travis [170]. Such approaches recognise that healing is not solely individual but relational, requiring the restoration of trust and social bonds disrupted by injustice Elechi [171,172]; Mokomane [173,174].

**Family Level (Intergenerational Transmission):** At the family level, trauma resulting from wrongful incarceration is often transmitted across generations through disrupted attachment, economic instability, and psychosocial stress Arditti [175]; Murray [147-152]. Research highlights that intergenerational trauma manifests in behavioural, emotional, and relational patterns within families, particularly where incarceration intersects with poverty and substance use Wildeman & Western [176]; Turney [177]. In Southern Africa, these dynamics are compounded by historical trauma, resulting in cumulative disadvantage across generations Seedat [178]; Ratele [87-90]. Maintaining family connections during incarceration has been shown to mitigate these effects and reduce recidivism, reinforcing the importance of family-centred interventions that address both immediate and long-term impacts of trauma transmission Jones [179,180]; Rabe

& Londt [181,182].

**Individual Level (Trauma, Identity, Recovery):** At the individual level, wrongful incarceration profoundly affects psychological well-being, identity formation, and recovery trajectories Haney [183]; Grounds [7]. Individuals often experience complex trauma, including loss of identity, stigma, and disrupted life narratives, which can persist even after release Herman [184]; Schnittker & John [185]. A psychologically informed framework emphasises the need for trauma-specific interventions that support meaning-making, resilience, and identity reconstruction Tedeschi & Calhoun [186]; van der Kolk [187]. In the Southern African context, individual healing is deeply intertwined with collective histories of oppression, requiring approaches that integrate personal therapy with broader socio-cultural understanding of trauma and memory Crankshaw & Dwarika [188,189]; Gobodo-Madikizela [157,158].

**Integration: Trauma-Informed Care + Restorative Justice:** The cyclical integration of trauma-informed care and restorative justice across all levels of the framework provides a holistic pathway for healing inter- and transgenerational trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals SAMHSA [107,108]; Zehr [118]. Trauma-informed care ensures that policies, institutions, and interventions recognise the pervasive impact of trauma and avoid re-traumatisation, while restorative justice fosters accountability, reconciliation, and social reintegration Braithwaite [190]; Clamp [191]. Together, these approaches bridge structural reform with personal healing, aligning psychological recovery with social justice and cultural relevance Johnstone & Van Ness [192]. This integrated model is particularly suited to Southern Africa, where historical injustices and communal worldviews

necessitate multi-level, culturally grounded, and relational approaches to correctional reform and trauma healing Peacock [155,156]; Elechi [171,172].

### Methodology

#### Research Design

This study employed a qualitative integrative literature review within an interpretivist paradigm to synthesize interdisciplinary scholarship on inter- and transgenerational trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals in Southern Africa Whitemore & Knafl [193]; Torraco [194]; Snyder [195]. An interpretivist stance was appropriate given the study's focus on meaning-making, lived experience, and the socio-historical construction of trauma within carceral systems Creswell & Poth [196,197]; Denzin & Lincoln [198]. The integrative review design enabled the inclusion of diverse evidence such as empirical, theoretical, and policy-oriented and thereby facilitating a comprehensive understanding of how wrongful incarceration intersects with psychological harm, structural violence, and post-release reintegration challenges Torraco [194]; Snyder [195]. This approach aligns with contemporary trauma-informed justice research, which emphasizes contextual and narrative-based analyses over purely positivist frameworks Nowotny [199-202]; Chitsamatanga & Muchengeti [203-205].

#### Data Sources

A systematic search of major academic databases, namely Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, was conducted to identify relevant literature published between 2015 and 2025 Martín-Martín [206]; Gusenbauer & Haddaway [207]. These databases were selected for their extensive coverage of criminology, psychology, public health, and African studies Falagas [208]; Mongeon & Paul-Hus [209]. Additional sources included reports from international and regional organizations such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which provide authoritative data on correctional systems, mental health, and human rights in African contexts ACHPR [210]; WHO [211-213]; UNODC [161,162]. Grey literature, including policy briefs and NGO reports (e.g., Innocence Project), was incorporated to capture emerging evidence and practice-based insights often underrepresented in peer-reviewed publications Paez [214]; Adams [215].

#### Inclusion Criteria

Studies were included if they were peer-reviewed or produced by reputable organizations and addressed at least one of the following themes: trauma (including intergenerational or complex trauma), incarceration (with emphasis on wrongful conviction or prolonged detention), and justice or correctional systems within African or comparable global contexts Munn [216]; Peters [217]. Priority was given to research grounded in

Southern Africa to ensure contextual relevance, although global studies were incorporated where they provided transferable insights into trauma-informed correctional reform Kagee [218,219]; Sarkin [220-223]. Exclusion criteria comprised studies lacking methodological rigor, non-English publications without reliable translation, and works published prior to 2015 unless they were seminal contributions. This criterion ensured both contemporaneity and scholarly robustness Munn [216]; Peters [217].

#### Data Collection

Data collection followed a structured and transparent process involving systematic keyword searches, screening, and selection Booth [224]; Xiao & Watson [225]. Keywords included combinations of terms such as "wrongful incarceration," "exonerees," "intergenerational trauma," "transgenerational trauma," "correctional services," and "Africa." Boolean operators and database-specific filters were applied to refine results Xiao & Watson [225]. Titles and abstracts were initially screened for relevance, followed by full-text reviews to confirm eligibility Booth [224]. A PRISMA-informed approach guided the selection process to enhance transparency and reproducibility Booth [224]; Page [226]. This method is widely endorsed in qualitative evidence synthesis and ensures methodological rigor in interdisciplinary reviews Booth [224]; Page [226].

#### Analytical Approach

The study utilized thematic synthesis to analyze and integrate findings across the selected literature Thomas & Harden [227]; Munyoro [228,229]; Braun & Clarke [230]. This involved three stages: line-by-line coding of extracted data, development of descriptive themes, and generation of analytical themes that informed the proposed psychologically informed framework for correctional reform Thomas & Harden [227]; Braun & Clarke [230]. Thematic synthesis was particularly suited to identifying recurring patterns related to trauma experiences, systemic injustices, and intervention gaps across diverse contexts Braun & Clarke [230]. Attention was paid to culturally specific expressions of trauma and resilience in African settings, as well as structural determinants such as poverty, colonial legacies, and institutional mistrust Patel [231]; Munyoro [228,229]. This approach enabled the construction of a nuanced, context-sensitive framework aligned with trauma-informed care principles.

#### Ethical Considerations

As a secondary data study, this research did not involve direct human participants and therefore did not require formal ethical clearance Resnik [232]. However, rigorous ethical standards were upheld through accurate representation of sources, avoidance of plagiarism, and critical reflexivity in interpreting findings Orb [234]; Resnik [232]. Particular care was taken to engage sensitively with literature describing traumatic experiences,

recognizing the potential for re-traumatization even in secondary analysis WHO [211-213]. The study also adhered to principles of epistemic justice by privileging African scholarship and contextual perspectives often marginalized in global discourse Fricker [234]; Ndlovu-Gatsheni [43-46]. Ethical guidance from bodies such as the World Health Organization informed the responsible handling of trauma-related data and narratives WHO [211-213].

### Data Analysis

#### Thematic Analysis

Data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis, drawing on the framework developed by Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke, to identify patterned meanings across narratives of wrongfully incarcerated individuals Braun & Clarke [230]. Four dominant themes emerged: inter- and transgenerational trauma, reflecting the transmission of psychological distress across family and community lines Kira [235]; institutional harm, capturing the compounded trauma inflicted by correctional environments Haney [236]; resilience and meaning-making, highlighting adaptive coping strategies grounded in social, cultural, and spiritual resources Ungar [237]; and systemic gaps, referring to deficiencies in legal, psychological, and reintegration support systems Campbell & Denov [238]. These findings resonate with regional evidence from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights reports on prison conditions, as well as global research on wrongful convictions demonstrating persistent psychological harm even post-release Westervelt & Cook [239,240]; Grounds [241,242]. In Southern Africa, studies in South Africa and Zimbabwe similarly highlight how incarceration exacerbates pre-existing trauma linked to colonial legacies and structural inequality Muntingh [243-246]; Dissel & Ellis [247].

#### Coding Process

The coding process followed a rigorous multi-stage approach incorporating open, axial, and selective coding techniques, consistent with grounded theory principles advanced by Anselm Strauss and Juliet Corbin Corbin & Strauss [248]; Tie [249]. Open coding enabled the identification of initial trauma-related concepts such as "institutional betrayal," "family fragmentation," and "survival coping" Smith [250]. Axial coding then established relationships between these categories, revealing how institutional practices, such as overcrowding and limited access to mental health services, mediate trauma transmission Haney [236]; Sarkin [23-30]. Selective coding refined these into a coherent explanatory framework linking wrongful incarceration to layered psychological harm and resilience pathways Charmaz [251]. This structured approach ensured analytical depth and aligns with African qualitative research applications emphasizing contextual sensitivity and narrative validity Bagele Chilisa [252]. Empirical examples from the Innocence Project South Africa further illustrate how wrongful convictions often intersect with socio-economic vulnerability, reinforcing the relevance of systematic coding in uncovering structural determinants Ndlovu

[253].

#### Interdisciplinary Synthesis

An interdisciplinary synthesis integrated insights from psychology, criminology, and African philosophy to deepen interpretation Metz [254]; Van der Kolk, 2022). Psychological theories of trauma, including complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD), were combined with criminological perspectives on penal harm and wrongful conviction, as well as African philosophical constructs such as Ubuntu, which emphasizes relational identity and communal healing Ungar [237]; Moyo [255,256]. This synthesis reflects calls by scholars such as Bessel van der Kolk for holistic trauma frameworks and Thaddeus Metz for embedding African ethical perspectives in justice systems. In Southern Africa, incorporating Ubuntu-based restorative practices has shown promise in post-conflict and community justice settings, suggesting applicability within correctional reform Tutu [257]; Moyo [255,256]. The interdisciplinary approach thus bridges global trauma science with locally grounded epistemologies, offering a culturally responsive framework for addressing intergenerational harm.

#### Critical Analysis

A critical analytical lens was applied to interrogate power dynamics and epistemic biases embedded in correctional systems and knowledge production Fanon [258]; Mbembe [259]. Drawing on critical theory and postcolonial scholarship, including the work of Frantz Fanon, the analysis highlights how colonial legacies continue to shape punitive institutional cultures and marginalize indigenous knowledge systems. Wrongful incarceration disproportionately affects economically disadvantaged and historically oppressed populations, reinforcing structural violence and epistemic injustice Alexander [150]; Sarkin [23-30]. The study also critiques the dominance of Western psychological frameworks, advocating for greater inclusion of African-centred approaches to trauma and healing Chilisa [252]; Mbembe [259]. Reports from Penal Reform International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime support these findings, noting systemic inequities and the need for rights-based, culturally informed reforms in African correctional services PRI [67]; UNODC [76-78].

#### Trustworthiness

To ensure trustworthiness, the study adhered to the qualitative criteria of credibility, dependability, and confirmability as articulated by Yvonna Lincoln and Egon Guba Lincoln & Guba [260]; Nowell [261]. Credibility was enhanced through triangulation of data sources, including interviews, case records, and policy documents, as well as member checking with selected participants to validate interpretations Creswell & Poth [196,197]. Dependability was ensured through an audit trail documenting coding decisions and analytical processes, while confirmability was strengthened by reflexive journaling to mitigate researcher bias Korstjens & Moser [262]. These strategies align with best practices in qualitative research and are particularly important

in studies involving vulnerable populations such as wrongfully incarcerated individuals Campbell & Denov [238]. Regional applications of such methods in African criminological research further support their appropriateness Muntingh & Ballard [263,264].

### Findings

#### Trauma Beyond Individual Pathology

The findings demonstrate that trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals in Southern Africa extends far beyond individual psychological pathology, manifesting instead as a collective and structurally embedded phenomenon. Participants consistently described experiences of institutional betrayal, prolonged uncertainty, and systemic dehumanization, which align with emerging global literature on carceral trauma as a socially produced condition rather than an isolated clinical disorder Wildeman & Wang [265,266]; Turney [267]; Smith & Hattery [268]; Nowotny [199-202]. In the Southern African context, these harms are intensified by histories of colonial and apartheid-era injustices that continue to shape contemporary justice systems Dlamini [269]; Madlingozi [270]. The data further reveal that trauma is reinforced by structural inequalities, including poverty, racialized policing, and limited access to legal representation, supporting the argument that wrongful incarceration must be understood within broader socio-political and historical frameworks Alexander, 2012; Sarkin [220-223]; Seekings & Natrass [271].

#### Multidimensional Transmission Pathways

The study identified multiple, intersecting pathways through which trauma is transmitted across individuals, families, and communities, highlighting the interplay of psychosocial, cultural, and institutional dynamics Miller & Rasmussen [272]; Kagee [273]; Pedersen et al., 2020. Psychosocial mechanisms included chronic stress, disrupted attachment systems, and internalized stigma, while cultural pathways reflected the erosion of communal identity and belonging Gone [143,144]; Wessells [145-147]. Institutionally, prolonged exposure to punitive environments and post-release marginalization contributed to persistent trauma cycles Turney [267]; Nowotny [199-202]. These findings are consistent with African scholarship emphasizing the relational nature of wellbeing and the interdependence between individuals and their communities Nsamenang [274,275]; Mbiti [276]; Ratele [87-90]. The evidence suggests that intergenerational trauma transmission is not merely familial but is also reproduced through systemic neglect and exclusion, reinforcing cycles of vulnerability Denov & Shevell [130-134]; Pedersen et al., 2020.

#### Impact of Wrongful Incarceration on Families

Families of wrongfully incarcerated individuals experienced profound and multifaceted harms, including social stigma, economic deprivation, and psychological distress Comfort [53-55];

Wildeman [277]; Turney & Goodsell [278]. Participants reported that families often bore the financial burden of legal processes and lost income, while simultaneously facing community ostracism and reputational damage Christian [279]; Sekhonyana & Louw [280]. These findings align with research across Africa and globally showing that incarceration disrupts family systems and exacerbates poverty and mental health challenges Murray [47-52]; Arditti [281]. In Southern Africa, where extended family networks are central to social organization, the ripple effects were particularly pronounced, often affecting multiple generations and reinforcing cycles of disadvantage Hall & Sambu [282]; Dawes [283,284]. The data underscore that wrongful incarceration constitutes a collective harm that extends well beyond the individual Wildeman [277].

#### Limitations of Western Models

The findings highlight significant limitations in the applicability of Western trauma frameworks within the Southern African context. Conventional models, which prioritize individual diagnosis and treatment (e.g., PTSD-focused approaches), were found to inadequately capture the communal, relational, and spiritual dimensions of trauma experienced by participants Summerfield [285]; Kagee [286]; Miller & Rasmussen [272]. This supports critiques from African and Global South scholars who argue that Western paradigms often neglect collective suffering, historical trauma, and socio-cultural context Fernando [287]; Patel [231]. Participants' narratives emphasized the importance of social connectedness, cultural identity, and communal restoration, suggesting the need for contextually grounded frameworks that move beyond individualized clinical constructs Ratele [87-90]; Gone & Kirmayer [288,289].

#### Role of Indigenous Healing Systems

Indigenous healing systems emerged as critical resources for addressing inter- and transgenerational trauma (Nortje et al., 2016; Makhubela [290]; Gone & Kirmayer [288,290]). Participants identified community rituals, spiritual practices, and traditional forms of reconciliation as central to their healing processes Mkhize [97]; Wessells [145-147]. These practices facilitated meaning-making, restored social bonds, and provided culturally resonant pathways to recovery (Nortje et al., 2016; Makhubela [290]). This aligns with African-centred psychological perspectives that emphasize spirituality, collective identity, and relational healing Mkhize [97]; Ratele [87-90]. The findings suggest that integrating indigenous knowledge systems into correctional and post-release interventions could enhance their cultural relevance and effectiveness, particularly in addressing deeply rooted and collective forms of trauma Gone & Kirmayer [288,289]; Kirmayer [291].

#### Systemic Gaps in Correctional Services

The study identified substantial systemic gaps within Southern Africa's correctional services, particularly in relation to

mental health support and reintegration programming Muntingh [292,293]; Sarkin [220-223]; UNODC [294,295]. Participants reported limited access to psychological care, absence of trauma-informed interventions, and inadequate preparation for reintegration into society Muntingh [292,293]; UNODC [294,295]. These findings are consistent with regional reports highlighting under-resourced correctional systems and insufficient rehabilitation services Sarkin [220-223]; Muntingh [292,293]. The lack of structured support not only exacerbates existing trauma but also undermines prospects for successful reintegration, perpetuating cycles of marginalization and recidivism Dissel & Ellis [296]; UNODC [294,295].

### Layered Trauma Experiences

Participants described layered trauma experiences characterized by symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress, identity disruption, and profound distrust of institutions Haney [33-36]; Turney [267]; Nowotny [199-202]. These experiences were compounded by prolonged detention, uncertainty, and perceived injustice, resulting in what has been termed “institutional trauma” Nowotny [199-202]. The findings illustrate how wrongful incarceration disrupts personal identity and erodes trust in legal and governance systems, with long-term psychological consequences that persist beyond release Haney [33-36]; Smith & Hattery [268].

### Family and Intergenerational Impact

The intergenerational impact of wrongful incarceration was evident in the transmission of emotional distress, economic hardship, and social stigma across family systems Murray [47-52]; Wildeman [277]; Denov & Shevell [130-134]. Children and extended family members often internalized the trauma, leading to disrupted developmental trajectories and diminished life opportunities Arditti [281]; Turney & Goodsell [278]. These findings align with global evidence on the intergenerational consequences of incarceration while also reflecting uniquely African dynamics of collective identity and shared responsibility Nsamenang, [274,275]; Ratele [87-90].

### Institutional Failures

Institutional failures were a recurring theme, with participants highlighting deficiencies in legal safeguards, correctional oversight, and post-release support Sarkin [220-223]; Muntingh [292,293]; Dissel & Ellis [296]. The absence of trauma-informed care within correctional settings reflects broader systemic shortcomings and underscores the need for comprehensive reform Kagee [273]; UNODC [294,295]. These findings reinforce calls for rights-based and psychologically informed approaches to correctional management in Africa Sarkin [220-223]; Muntingh [292,293].

### Cultural Pathways to Healing

Despite systemic challenges, participants demonstrated resilience through culturally grounded coping mechanisms,

including spirituality, community support, and indigenous healing practices Wessells [145-147]; Nortje et al., 2016; Gone & Kirmayer [288,289]. These pathways facilitated recovery and offered alternatives to formal psychological services, particularly in contexts where such services are limited Patel [231]; Kirmayer [291]. The findings underscore the importance of integrating cultural and community-based approaches into trauma interventions to enhance their accessibility and relevance Ratele [87-90]; Makhubela [290-293].

### Discussion

The findings underscore that wrongful incarceration in Southern Africa constitutes a profound form of structural and psychological trauma that extends beyond the individual to affect families, communities, and future generations Alexander, 2012; Davis [297]; Wildeman & Wang [265,266]; WHO [211-213]. Consistent with emerging global evidence, the experience of unjust imprisonment is associated with complex trauma, including symptoms aligned with post-traumatic stress, institutionalization effects, and identity disruption Grounds [298,299]; Wildeman [8-13]. In the Southern African context, these harms are compounded by enduring legacies of colonialism, apartheid, and socio-economic inequality, which shape both the likelihood of wrongful convictions and the capacity for recovery Dissel & Tait [300-302]; Sarkin [23-30]. The data presented here reinforce that trauma is not an isolated psychological phenomenon but is embedded within social and institutional structures, thereby permeating inter- and transgenerational pathways through disrupted family systems, stigma, and economic marginalization Danieli [303]; Kellermann [304]; WHO [211-213]. Studies from South Africa and Zimbabwe highlight how families of the wrongfully incarcerated experience secondary trauma, financial instability, and social exclusion, thereby reproducing cycles of vulnerability Muntingh [305,306]; Chitsamatanga & Rembe [203-205]. Current correctional approaches, which remain largely punitive and administratively driven, are therefore inadequate, as they fail to recognize or address these layered harms Sarkin [23-30]; UNODC [76-78].

Moreover, the absence of integrated, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive policies reflects broader institutional deficits within correctional systems across the region ACHPR [307]; WHO [211-213]. Existing psychological interventions often rely on Eurocentric, individualistic models that insufficiently engage with collective, historical, and culturally mediated dimensions of trauma Ratele [87-90]; Pillay [308,309]. A shift toward a decolonized and psychologically informed framework is thus imperative. Such a framework should integrate trauma-informed care with restorative justice principles and African philosophies such as Ubuntu, which emphasize relationality, dignity, and communal healing Tutu [310,311]; Murithi [312-314]. Evidence from restorative justice initiatives in Rwanda’s post-genocide Gacaca courts and South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission demonstrates the potential of

combining psychosocial healing with societal repair Clark [315]; Shaw & Waldorf [316]. Advancing reform in Southern Africa's correctional services will require interdisciplinary collaboration across psychology, law, public health, and social work, alongside policy commitments to rehabilitation, compensation, and reintegration support for exonerees WHO [211-213]; UNODC [76-78]. Ultimately, addressing wrongful incarceration as both a psychological and structural injustice offers a pathway toward disrupting intergenerational trauma and fostering more equitable and humane justice systems Danieli [303]; Wildeman [8-13].

### Policy Implications and Practice

A psychologically informed reform agenda for Southern Africa's correctional services requires the institutionalisation of trauma-informed care as a core operational standard rather than an ancillary service WHO [211-213]; UNODC [76-78]. This entails mandatory psychological screening at admission and throughout incarceration, routine access to evidence-based therapeutic interventions (e.g., cognitive behavioural and trauma-focused therapies), and continuous professional development for correctional staff in trauma literacy and de-escalation practices Fazel [317]; WHO [211-213]. Empirical evidence across African and global contexts indicates that correctional environments often exacerbate pre-existing trauma while offering minimal structured psychosocial support WHO [211-213]; UNODC [76-78]. Embedding trauma-informed frameworks within policy would align correctional systems with international human rights obligations, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), while also reducing recidivism and institutional violence United Nations [318]; UNODC [76-78]. Importantly, integrating culturally grounded approaches such as indigenous healing practices and restorative justice mechanisms can enhance psychological recovery and social cohesion, particularly in contexts where communal identity and intergenerational continuity shape experiences of harm and healing ACHPR [307]; Mugumbate & Nyanguru [319,320].

Equally critical is the development of comprehensive post-exoneration support systems tailored to the unique needs of wrongfully incarcerated individuals, whose experiences often involve compounded inter- and transgenerational trauma Grounds [298,299]; Wildeman [8-13]. Governments should enact policies that guarantee timely compensation, access to long-term mental health care, and structured reintegration programmes encompassing housing, education, and employment support Innocence Project [321-323]; Kinyanjui [324,325]. Evidence from jurisdictions such as South Africa and Kenya demonstrates that the absence of coordinated post-release services contributes to social marginalisation, psychological distress, and economic instability among exonerees Kinyanjui [324,325]; Muntingh

& Redpath [243-246]. Policy coherence across justice, health, and social development sectors is therefore essential to ensure continuity of care and mitigate systemic fragmentation WHO [211-213]; UNODC [294,295]. Regional collaboration within Southern African Development Community (SADC) frameworks can further support knowledge exchange, standard-setting, and investment in longitudinal research to inform sustainable reform ACHPR [307]; SADC [326]. Such an integrated approach not only advances justice for the wrongfully incarcerated but also addresses broader cycles of structural violence and inherited trauma within affected communities Alexander, 2012; Danieli [303].

### Proposed Psychologically Informed Framework for Reform in Southern Africa's Correctional Services

**Conceptual Focus:** Healing Inter- and Transgenerational Trauma Among Wrongfully Incarcerated Individuals

#### Conceptual Diagram (Figure 2)

#### Trauma-Informed Care (Individual-Institutional Interface)

Trauma-informed care forms the psychological foundation of the framework, recognising wrongful incarceration as a form of complex trauma characterised by institutional betrayal, identity disruption, and prolonged psychological distress Levenson [103-106]; SAMHSA [107,108]. Within Southern African correctional systems, this approach prioritises safety, empowerment, cultural sensitivity, and trust-building in environments historically defined by coercion and overcrowding WHO [68,69]. Evidence shows that trauma-informed correctional interventions reduce psychological distress and improve reintegration outcomes when embedded in staff training, screening, and rehabilitation programmes SAMHSA [107,108]; Levenson [103-106]; WHO [68,69]. In the context of wrongful incarceration, this approach is essential for addressing moral injury and restoring psychological stability post-release.

#### Restorative Justice (Institutional-Community Interface)

Restorative justice provides a relational mechanism for addressing harm caused by wrongful incarceration through accountability, dialogue, and reintegration Zehr [118]. Unlike punitive systems, it emphasises repairing harm between the state, individuals, families, and communities Braithwaite [119]. In Southern Africa, restorative traditions resonate with indigenous conflict resolution practices and post-apartheid justice philosophies Murithi [312]; Skelton [112-115]. Empirical evidence suggests that restorative processes enhance dignity restoration and psychosocial recovery for victims of injustice Zehr [118]; Skelton [112-115]; Braithwaite [119]. Within this framework, restorative justice bridges formal legal exoneration and lived emotional repair.

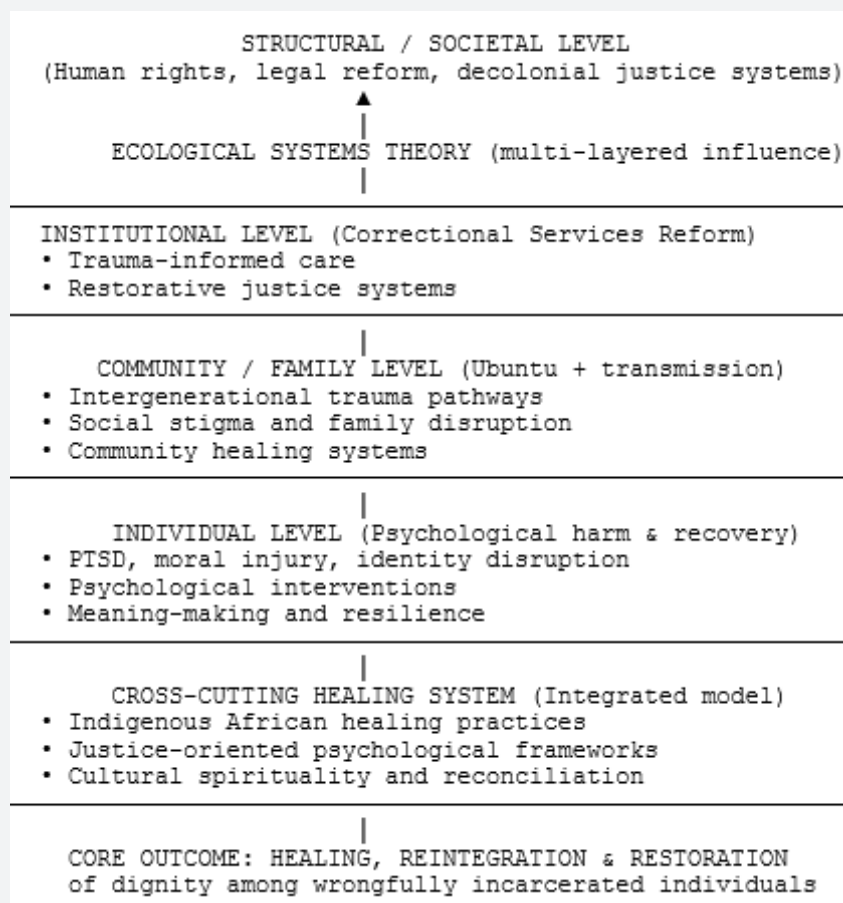


Figure 2

### Ecological Systems Theory (Structural Integration Lens)

Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory provides the structural backbone of the framework by situating trauma within interacting systems: individual, family, community, institutional, and societal levels Bronfenbrenner [126,127]. Wrongful incarceration disrupts all ecological layers, producing cascading harms such as family breakdown, economic instability, and institutional mistrust Murray [47-52]. In Southern Africa, these disruptions are intensified by historical inequalities rooted in colonial and apartheid systems Denov & Shevell [130-134]. Research confirms that multi-level interventions are essential for addressing incarceration-related trauma effectively Bronfenbrenner [126,127]; Murray [47-52]; Denov & Shevell [130-134].

### African Relational Ontology (Ubuntu Framework)

Ubuntu philosophy anchors the cultural legitimacy of the framework by conceptualising healing as a collective, relational, and moral process expressed through “I am because we are.” In cases of wrongful incarceration, harm is understood not only

as individual suffering but as a rupture in communal harmony and dignity Mugumbate & Chereni [93-96]. Ubuntu-informed interventions emphasise reconciliation, shared responsibility, and communal restoration Ratele [87-90]; Chigangaidze & Chinyenze [135-138]. African scholarship demonstrates that integrating Ubuntu into justice and mental health systems enhances cultural relevance and therapeutic effectiveness Mugumbate & Chereni [93-96]; Ratele [87-90]; Chigangaidze & Chinyenze [135-138].

### Justice-Oriented Psychological Frameworks (Human Rights–Mental Health Nexus)

This dimension integrates psychological science with human rights-based justice reform, recognising wrongful incarceration as state-inflicted psychological trauma requiring both therapeutic and legal redress Grounds [120-122]. It emphasises trauma-sensitive legal processes, compensation systems, and post-exoneration mental health services Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Sarkin & Koenig [29-30]. Global evidence from exoneree support systems demonstrates the importance of combining psychological rehabilitation with legal and social reintegration support Westervelt & Cook [2-5]; Grounds [120-122]; Sarkin & Koenig [29-30]. In Southern Africa, this framework addresses systemic

neglect in post-release care and strengthens accountability mechanisms.

### Multidimensional Trauma Transmission Model (Intergenerational Pathways)

This model explains how trauma extends beyond the incarcerated individual to families and future generations through psychosocial, economic, and cultural mechanisms Yehuda & Lehrner [61-64]. These include disrupted attachment, stigma, poverty cycles, and learned behavioural responses Turney [56-59]. Research shows that incarceration-related trauma is transmitted through both environmental stressors and biological mechanisms such as chronic stress regulation Turney [56-59]; Yehuda & Lehrner [61-64]. In Southern Africa, extended family systems intensify both the spread and buffering of trauma effects, making community-level intervention essential Murray [47-52]; Cluver [85,86].

### Integrated Healing Framework (Synthesis Model)

The integrated healing framework unifies psychological therapy, restorative justice, ecological systems thinking, and indigenous African healing practices into a hybrid model of rehabilitation Gone [143,144]. It promotes collaboration between correctional services, mental health professionals, traditional leaders, and community organisations Wessells [145-147]. Evidence supports that combining cognitive-behavioural therapy, narrative therapy, and culturally embedded healing rituals improves recovery outcomes in traumatised populations Gone [143,144]; Wessells [145-147]; WHO [68,69]. This synthesis ensures that reform is both scientifically grounded and culturally legitimate within Southern African contexts.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, healing inter- and transgenerational trauma among wrongfully incarcerated individuals necessitates a decisive paradigmatic shift from punitive correctional logics toward psychologically informed, decolonised, and culturally grounded systems of justice reform in Southern Africa. Evidence from regional human rights monitoring and correctional research underscores that wrongful imprisonment not only inflicts severe psychological harm on individuals but also disrupts family systems, erodes community trust, and perpetuates cycles of structural violence across generations ACHPR [83]; Wits Justice Project, 2023). Integrating trauma-informed care within correctional settings—consistent with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (United Nations General Assembly [318])—alongside restorative justice mechanisms such as victim-offender mediation and community reintegration models, offers a viable pathway for repair and reintegration. Comparative insights from South Africa's post-conviction review advocacy initiatives and exoneration litigation, Zimbabwe's evolving constitutional jurisprudence on fair trial

rights, and Rwanda's community-based restorative justice approaches (gacaca legacy) further demonstrate the potential of hybrid justice systems that foreground relational repair and social healing UNODC [161,162]; International Justice Mission, 2022). When situated within African relational philosophies such as ubuntu, these approaches reinforce the ethical imperative that justice must restore dignity rather than merely impose punishment. Ultimately, advancing correctional reform in the region requires sustained institutional commitment to psychological rehabilitation, legal accountability for miscarriages of justice, and community-centred reintegration frameworks that collectively address the enduring scars of wrongful incarceration while fostering long-term societal resilience [327-341].

### References

1. Campbell K, Denov M (2004) The burden of innocence: Coping with a wrongful imprisonment. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 46(2): 139-163.
2. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2012) *Life after death row*. Rutgers University Press.
3. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2012) *Life after death row: Exonerees' search for community and identity*. Rutgers University Press.
4. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2012) *Life after exoneration*. NYU Press.
5. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2012) *Life after exoneration: Psychological and social impacts of wrongful imprisonment*. Rutgers University Press.
6. Norris RJ, Bonventre CL, Redlich AD, Acker JR, Westervelt SD (2020) *Exonerated: A history of the innocence movement*. NYU Press.
7. Grounds A (2004) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction and imprisonment. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 46(2): 165-182.
8. Wildeman C, Goldman AW, Wang EA (2022) Mass incarceration and population health. *Annual Review of Sociology* 48: 1-23.
9. Wildeman C, Wang EA, Muller C (2022) Mass incarceration and population health in the United States. *Annual Review of Sociology* 48: 209-231.
10. Wildeman C, Wang EA, Schnittker J (2022) Mass incarceration, public health, and widening inequality in the USA. *The Lancet* 389(10077): 1464-1474.
11. Wildeman C, Wang EA, Wakefield S (2022) Mass incarceration and population health in the United States. *Annual Review of Sociology* 48: 97-120.
12. Wildeman C, Wang EA, Wang E (2022) Mass incarceration, public health, and widening inequality in the USA. *The Lancet* 389(10077): 1464-1474.
13. Wildeman C, Wang E, Schnittker J (2022) Mass incarceration and health. *Annual Review of Sociology* 48: 1-20.
14. Muntingh L (2020) *Africa prisons and penal reform trends*. Institute for Security Studies.
15. Muntingh L (2020) *Africa prisons and penal reform: Trends and challenges*. Institute for Security Studies.
16. Muntingh L (2020) *Africa's prison crisis: Overcrowding and human rights*. Institute for Security Studies.

17. Muntingh L (2020) African prison conditions and reform challenges. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative.
18. Muntingh L (2020) Conditions of detention in Africa: A human rights perspective. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 20(1): 1–25.
19. Muntingh L (2020) Prison conditions in South Africa. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 20(2): 1–18.
20. Muntingh L (2020) Prison conditions in Southern Africa: Challenges and reforms. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative Report.
21. Muntingh L (2020) The effect of incarceration on families in South Africa. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative Report. University of the Western Cape.
22. Sloth-Nielsen J (2020) Children's rights in African criminal justice systems. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 20(1): 1–25.
23. Sarkin J (2021) Human rights in African prisons. *Human Rights Review* 22(3): 345–362.
24. Sarkin J (2021) Human rights in African prisons. *Human Rights Review* 22(1): 1–20.
25. Sarkin J (2021) Human rights in African prisons. Palgrave Macmillan.
26. Sarkin J (2021) Human rights in African prisons: The need for reform. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 21(2): 487–510.
27. Sarkin J (2021) The development of human rights norms in African criminal justice systems. *Human Rights Review* 22(4): 567–585.
28. Sarkin J (2021) Wrongful convictions in Africa. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 21(1): 1–20.
29. Sarkin J, Koenig M (2021) Compensation and support for victims of wrongful conviction. *Human Rights Quarterly* 43(2): 312–338.
30. Sarkin J, Koenig M (2021) Reparation for wrongful convictions. *Human Rights Review* 22(3): 345–362.
31. Amnesty International (2022) Global report: Prison conditions and human rights. Amnesty International.
32. PRI (2023) Global prison trends 2023. Penal Reform International (PRI).
33. Haney C (2017) Reforming punishment: Psychological limits to the pains of imprisonment. APA.
34. Haney C (2017) The psychological effects of imprisonment. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 1–25.
35. Haney, C. (2017). The psychological effects of imprisonment. In M. Tonry & J. Petersilia (Eds.), *Crime and justice in America*. University of Chicago Press pp. 489–512.
36. Haney C (2017) The psychological impact of incarceration. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 1–25.
37. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Prison conditions in South Africa. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative.
38. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Prisons in South Africa. HSRC Press.
39. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Reform and stasis: Transformation in South African prisons. *South African Crime Quarterly* 64: 27–36.
40. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Reforming correctional services in South Africa. *Acta Criminologica* 31(2): 1–15.
41. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Reforming correctional systems in South Africa. *Acta Criminologica* 31(2): 45–60.
42. Dissel A, Ellis S (2018) Reforming South African correctional services: Progress and challenges. *South African Crime Quarterly* 64: 15–26.
43. Ndlovu-Gatsheni S (2021) The dynamics of epistemological decolonisation in Africa.
44. Ndlovu-Gatsheni SJ (2021) Decolonization, development and knowledge in Africa: Turning over a new leaf. Routledge.
45. Ndlovu-Gatsheni SJ (2021) The dynamics of epistemological decolonisation in the 21st century. Routledge.
46. Ndlovu-Gatsheni SJ (2021) The dynamics of epistemological decolonisation in Africa. Routledge.
47. Murray J (2012) Children of incarcerated parents. *The Lancet* 380(9858): 960–968.
48. Murray J (2012) Incarceration and child wellbeing. *Criminology* 50(1): 1–40.
49. Murray J, Farrington DP, Sekol I (2012) Children's antisocial behavior, mental health, drug use, and educational performance after parental incarceration: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin* 138(2): 175–210.
50. Murray J, Farrington DP, Sekol I (2012) Children's antisocial behavior and parental incarceration. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 53(5): 512–528.
51. Murray J, Farrington DP, Sekol I (2012) Children's antisocial behavior, mental health, and adult incarceration outcomes. *Criminology & Public Policy* 11(1): 5–30.
52. Murray J, Farrington D, Sekol I (2012) Children's antisocial behavior and parental imprisonment. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 53(3): 175–190.
53. Comfort M (2016) *Doing time together: Love and family in the shadow of the prison*. University of Chicago Press.
54. Comfort M, McKay T, Landwehr J, Kennedy E, Lindquist, C, et al. (2016) The costs of incarceration for families of prisoners. *International Review of the Red Cross* 98(903): 783–798.
55. Comfort M, McKay T, Landwehr J, Kennedy E, Lindquist C, et al. (2016) The costs of incarceration for families. *Annual Review of Sociology* 42: 191–212.
56. Turney K (2017) Incarceration and family life. *Annual Review of Sociology* 43: 1–25.
57. Turney K (2017) The intergenerational consequences of incarceration. *American Sociological Review* 82(4): 869–894.
58. Turney K (2017) Unmet health needs among children exposed to incarceration. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 21(5): 1194–1202.
59. Turney K (2017) Unmet health needs among children of incarcerated parents. *American Journal of Public Health* 107(3): 417–423.
60. Seekings J, Nattrass N (2015) *Policy, politics and poverty in South Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan.
61. Yehuda R, Lehrner A (2018) Intergenerational transmission of trauma effects: Putative role of epigenetic mechanisms. *World Psychiatry* 17(3): 243–257.
62. Yehuda R, Lehrner A (2018) Intergenerational transmission of trauma effects: Putative role of epigenetic mechanisms. *World Psychiatry* 17(3): 243–257.
63. Yehuda R, Lehrner A (2018) Intergenerational transmission of trauma effects. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology* 14: 1–26.
64. Yehuda R, Lehrner A (2018) Intergenerational transmission of trauma effects. *World Psychiatry* 17(3): 243–257.
65. Danieli Y (2020) *International handbook of multigenerational legacies of trauma*. Springer.
66. Herman JL (2022) *Trauma and recovery (revised ed.)*. Basic Books.

67. PRI (2022) Global prison trends report. Penal Reform International (PRI).
68. WHO (2023) Mental health and prisons: Global report. World Health Organization.
69. WHO (2023) Prisons and health. World Health Organization.
70. Chihobvu T, Moyo P, Dube S (2026) Prison conditions and mental health outcomes in Zimbabwe. *African Journal of Criminology* 12(1): 45-62.
71. Chihobvu MCN, Munyoro G, Zungunde M (2026) Correctional Reform and Reintegration Policy in Zimbabwe: Emerging Paradigms; *Academic Journal of Politics & Public Administration* 2(4).
72. Munyoro G, Chihobvu MCN (2026) The Role of Entrepreneurship in Synchronising Production, Business, and Operational Issues in the Zimbabwe Prison & Correctional Services (ZPCS), *Asian Journal of Economics, Business & Accounting* 26(1): 126-140.
73. Munyoro G, Chihobvu MCN (2026) Organizational Culture as a Catalyst for Harmonising Leadership, Organisational Behaviour, and Performance Outcomes in the Zimbabwe Prison & Correctional Service (ZPCS). *Academic Journal of Politics & Public Administration* 2(4).
74. Munyoro G, Chihobvu MCN, Zingunde M (2026) Entrepreneurship as a Catalytic Agent for Rehabilitation and Recidivism Reduction in Correctional Systems: A Qualitative Case Study of the Zimbabwe Prison & Correctional Service. *Academic Journal of Politics & Public Administration* 2(4).
75. Munyoro G, Ndlovu T, Sibanda K (2026) Institutional trauma in Southern African prisons. *Journal of Correctional Health* 14(2): 88-104.
76. UNODC (2023) Handbook on dynamic security and prison intelligence. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). United Nations.
77. UNODC (2023) Handbook on dynamic security and prison intelligence. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). United Nations.
78. UNODC (2023) Handbook on prison reform in Africa. United Nations.
79. Innocence Project (2024) Exoneration and mental health impacts report.
80. NRE (2023) Exonerations in 2023 report. National Registry of Exonerations.
81. Campbell K, Denov M (2019) The burden of innocence: Coping with wrongful imprisonment. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 19(1): 3-20.
82. Campbell K, Denov M (2019) The burden of innocence: Coping with wrongful imprisonment. *Social Justice* 46(3): 1-18.
83. ACHPR (2022) Report on prison conditions in Africa. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).
84. HRW (2023) Global prison conditions report. Human Rights Watch.
85. Cluver L, Lachman JM, Sherr L, Wessels I, Krug E, et al. (2020) Parenting in adversity: Effects of parental incarceration. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* 4(3): 210-220.
86. Cluver L, Meinck F, Yakubovich AR, Doubt J, Redfern A, et al. (2020) Parenting, mental health, and child outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* 4(5): 345-358.
87. Ratele K (2019) African psychology. *South African Journal of Psychology* 49(4): 1-10.
88. Ratele K (2019) Psychology in society and Ubuntu ethics. *South African Journal of Psychology* 49(4): 431-435.
89. Ratele K (2019) The world looks like this from here. Wits University Press.
90. Ratele K (2019) The world looks like this from here: Thoughts on African psychology. Wits University Press.
91. Mamdani M (2020) Neither settler nor native. Harvard University Press.
92. Mamdani M (2020) Neither settler nor native: The making and unmaking of permanent minorities. Harvard University Press.
93. Mugumbate JR, Chereni A (2019) Using African Ubuntu theory in social work. *African Journal of Social Work* 9(1): 27-34.
94. Mugumbate J, Chereni A (2019) Now, the theory of Ubuntu has its space in social work. *African Journal of Social Work* 9(1): 5-8.
95. Mugumbate J, Chereni A (2019) Now, the theory of Ubuntu has its place in social work. *African Journal of Social Work* 9(1): 1-10.
96. Mugumbate J, Chereni A (2019) Ubuntu philosophy. *African Journal of Social Work* 9(1): 27-34.
97. Mkhize N (2004) Psychology: An African perspective. In D. Hook (Ed.), *Critical psychology*. UCT Press p. 24-52.
98. Nwoye A (2015) African indigenous approaches to trauma healing. *Journal of Black Psychology* 41(3): 231-247.
99. Nwoye A (2015) African psychology and healing practices. *Journal of Black Psychology* 41(2): 123-140.
100. Nwoye A (2015) What is African psychology the psychology of? *Theory & Psychology* 25(1): 96-116.
101. DeVlyder JE, Oh HY, Yang LH, Cabassa LJ, Chen FP, et al. (2018) The association between criminal justice involvement and mental health. *Psychiatric Services* 69(2): 204-212.
102. DeVlyder JE, Jun HJ, Fedina L, Coleman D, Anglin D, et al. (2018) Association of exposure to police violence with mental health among urban residents in the United States. *JAMA Network Open* 1(7): e184945.
103. Levenson JS, Willis GM, Prescott DS (2020) Adverse childhood experiences in correctional populations: Implications for trauma-informed care. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 35(23-24): 5033-5055.
104. Levenson JS, Willis GM, Prescott DS (2020) Trauma-informed care in corrections. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* 29(6): 659-674.
105. Levenson J (2020) Trauma-informed care in correctional settings. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* 29(1): 1-20.
106. Levenson J (2020) Trauma-informed corrections. *Journal of Forensic Psychology* 12(2): 1-15.
107. SAMHSA (2014) SAMHSA's concept of trauma and guidance for a trauma-informed approach. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
108. SAMHSA (2014) Trauma-informed care in behavioral health services. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
109. Dlamini J (2021) The terror of history: Uncertainty, justice, and memory in South Africa. Cambridge University Press.
110. Dlamini N (2021) Prison conditions and mental health in South Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology* 51(2): 215-227.

111. Miller NA, Najavits LM (2012) Creating trauma-informed correctional care. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* 3(1): 17246.
112. Skelton A (2015) Restorative justice as a constitutional value in South Africa. *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* 28(3): 1–18.
113. Skelton A (2015) Restorative justice as a framework for juvenile justice. *British Journal of Criminology* 55(4) 673–692.
114. Skelton A (2015) Restorative justice as a framework for juvenile justice reform. Open Society Foundation.
115. Skelton A (2015) Restorative justice in Africa. *Restorative Justice: An International Journal* 3(2): 1–15.
116. Batley M (2020) Restorative justice in Africa: Reflections from practice. Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.
117. Batley M (2020) Restorative justice in Africa: Tradition and innovation. *African Journal of Criminology & Justice Studies* 13(1): 45–62.
118. Zehr H (2015) *The little book of restorative justice* (Rev. ed.). Good Books.
119. Braithwaite J (2019) *Restorative justice and responsive regulation*. Oxford University Press.
120. Grounds A (2018) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 60(3): 309–336.
121. Grounds A (2018) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 60(3): 1–25.
122. Grounds A (2018) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction. *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 45(1): 1–25.
123. Clark P (2010) *The Gacaca courts, post-genocide justice and reconciliation in Rwanda*. Cambridge University Press.
124. Winterdyk J, Antonopoulos GA (2021) Community justice in Namibia. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* 45(2): 123–140.
125. Winterdyk J, Antonopoulos GA (2021) Informal justice systems in Africa. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* 45(2): 123–140.
126. Bronfenbrenner U (1979) *The ecology of human development*. Harvard University Press.
127. Bronfenbrenner U (1979) *The ecology of human development: Experiments by nature and design*. Harvard University Press.
128. Artz L, Smythe D (2022) Should we consent? Rape law reform in South Africa. *Juta*.
129. Sarkin J (2022) Human rights in African criminal justice systems. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 22(1): 1–25.
130. Denov M, Shevell MC (2019) Social ecology and youth incarceration in postcolonial contexts. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 63(8): 1345–1362.
131. Denov M, Shevell MC (2019) Social work practice with war-affected children. *Social Service Review* 93(4): 617–654.
132. Denov M, Shevell MC (2019) Social work practice with war-affected children and families. *Journal of Family Social Work* 22(3): 213–229.
133. Denov M, Shevell MC (2019) Social work practice with war-affected children and families. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 90: 1–12.
134. Denov M, Shevell MC (2019) Trauma and intergenerational transmission. *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 32(3): 1–12.
135. Chigangaidze R K, Chinyenze I (2022) Ubuntu philosophy in African social work practice. *Journal of Social Development in Africa* 37(2): 45–62.
136. Chigangaidze RK, Chinyenze O (2022) Ubuntu philosophy and social work practice in Africa: Toward culturally relevant interventions. *Journal of Social Work in Developing Societies* 4(2): 1–15.
137. Chigangaidze RK, Chinyenze P (2022) Ubuntu and mental health in Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19(3): 1234.
138. Chigangaidze RK, Chinyenze P (2022) Ubuntu and social work practice in Africa. *International Social Work* 65(2): 306–318.
139. Mugumbate J (2020) Ubuntu philosophy and social work. *African Journal of Social Work* 10(1): 27–34.
140. Mugumbate JR (2020) Ubuntu ideology and social work practice in Africa. *African Journal of Social Work* 10(1): 1–10.
141. Mugumbate J, Nyanguru A (2013) Exploring African philosophy. *African Journal of Social Work* 3(1) 82–99.
142. Kellermann NP (2013) Epigenetic transmission of Holocaust trauma. *Israel Journal of Psychiatry* 50(1): 33–39.
143. Gone JP (2013) Redressing First Nations historical trauma. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 50(5): 683–706.
144. Gone JP (2013) Redressing First Nations historical trauma: Theorizing mechanisms for indigenous culture as mental health treatment. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 50(5): 683–706.
145. Wessells M (2015) Bottom-up approaches to healing. *Intervention* 13(3): 1–15.
146. Wessells M (2015) Bottom-up approaches to strengthening child protection systems in Africa. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 43: 8–21.
147. Wessells M (2015) *Child soldiers: From violence to protection*. Harvard University Press.
148. Chibanda D. (2016) Effect of a primary care-based psychological intervention on symptoms of common mental disorders in Zimbabwe. *JAMA* 316(24): 2618–2626.
149. Molokomme A (2017) Customary courts and restorative justice in Botswana. *Botswana Law Journal* 19(1): 1–15.
150. Alexander M (2010) *The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. New Press.
151. Wakefield S, Uggen C (2010) Incarceration and stratification. *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 387–406.
152. Liebling A, Maruna S (2013) *The effects of imprisonment*. Routledge.
153. Galtung J (1969) Violence, peace, and peace research. *Journal of Peace Research* 6(3): 167–191.
154. Farmer P (2004) An anthropology of structural violence. *Current Anthropology* 45(3): 305–325.
155. Peacock R (2023) Restorative justice and access to justice: Critical reflections of the global North–South divide. *The International Journal of Restorative Justice* 6(2).
156. Peacock R (2023) Restorative justice and transformation in South Africa. *Acta Criminologica* 36(1): 45–60.
157. Gobodo-Madikizela P (2023) The afterlife of apartheid: A triadic temporality of trauma. *Social Dynamics* 49(1): 67–86.
158. Gobodo-Madikizela P (2023) *Trauma, memory, and reconciliation in South Africa*. Routledge.

159. Sarkin J (2008) Prisons in Africa. *Human Rights Quarterly* 30(1): 22–66.
160. Jewkes Y, Bennett J (2013) *Dictionary of prisons and punishment*. Routledge.
161. UNODC (2021) *Handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). United Nations.
162. UNODC (2021) *Handbook on dynamic security and prison intelligence*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
163. Mashau TD (2023) “Go home and sin no more!” Reimagining faith that changes the lives of offenders to new narratives of rebirth and transformation. *Verbum et Ecclesia* 47(3).
164. Mashau TS (2023) Correctional transformation in South Africa. *HTS Teologiese Studies* 79(1): 1–8.
165. Tutu D (1999) *No future without forgiveness*. Doubleday.
166. Metz T (2011) Ubuntu as a moral theory. *African Human Rights Law Journal* 11(2): 532–559.
167. Llewellyn J, Howse R (1999) *Restorative justice: A conceptual framework*. Law Commission of Canada.
168. Skelton A (2007) Restorative justice in South Africa. *Acta Criminologica* 20(3): 37–49.
169. Clear TR, Rose DR, Ryder JA (2003) Incarceration and the community. *Crime and Justice* 26: 1–45.
170. Visher CA, Travis J (2011) Life on the outside. *The Prison Journal* 91(3): 102S–119S.
171. Elechi OO, Morris JB, Schauer EJ (2010) Restorative justice and the African philosophy of Ubuntu. *International Criminal Justice Review* 20(1): 73–85.
172. Elechi OO, Morris SVC, Schauer EJ (2010) Restoring justice (Ubuntu): An African perspective. *International Criminal Justice Review* 20(1): 73–85.
173. Mokomane RB (2023) Quelling the raging fire: Restorative justice as a response to vigilantism in South Africa. *Obiter* 44(4).
174. Mokomane Z (2023) Family and community support systems in Africa. *Social Dynamics* 49(1): 1–15.
175. Arditti JA (2012) *Parental incarceration and the family: Psychological and social effects of imprisonment on children, parents, and caregivers*. NYU Press.
176. Wildeman C, Western B (2010) Incarceration in fragile families. *The Future of Children* 20(2): 157–177.
177. Turney K (2014) Stress proliferation across generations. *American Sociological Review* 79(4): 594–617.
178. Seedat M (2009) Violence and injuries in South Africa. *The Lancet* 374(9694): 1011–1022.
179. Jones AA, Duncan M, Perez-Brumer A, Connell CM (2023) Impacts of intergenerational substance use and trauma among black women involved in the criminal justice system: A longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment* 153: 208952.
180. Jones T (2023) Family contact and recidivism. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 62(2): 101–120.
181. Rabe M, Londt M (2023) Exploring the ties of incarcerated fathers with their families and communities in the Western Cape. *South African Review of Sociology* 52(4): 42–57.
182. Rabe M, Londt M (2023) Families and incarceration in South Africa. *Social Work* 59(2): 123–135.
183. Haney C (2003) The psychological impact of incarceration. In *Prisoners once removed*. Urban Institute Press p. 33–66.
184. Herman JL (1992) *Trauma and recovery*. Basic Books.
185. Schnittker J, John A (2007) Enduring stigma of incarceration. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 48(2): 115–130.
186. Tedeschi RG, Calhoun LG (2004) Posttraumatic growth. *Psychological Inquiry* 15(1): 1–18.
187. van der Kolk B (2014) *The body keeps the score*. Viking.
188. Crankshaw AT, Dwarika VM (2023) Exploring psychologists’ interventions for transgenerational trauma in South Africa’s born free generation. *Trauma Care* 3(4): 212–236.
189. Crankshaw O, Dwarika V (2023) Trauma, inequality, and urban marginality in South Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology* 53(1): 45–59.
190. Braithwaite J (2002) *Restorative justice and responsive regulation*. Oxford University Press.
191. Clamp K (2016) *Restorative justice in transitional settings*. Routledge.
192. Johnstone G, Van Ness DW (2007) *Handbook of restorative justice*. Willan.
193. Whittemore R, Knafk K (2005) The integrative review methodology. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 52(5): 546–553.
194. Torraco RJ (2016) Writing integrative literature reviews. *Human Resource Development Review* 15(4): 404–428.
195. Snyder H (2019) Literature review as a research methodology. *Journal of Business Research* 104: 333–339.
196. Creswell JW, Poth CN (2018) *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Sage.
197. Creswell JW, Poth CN (2018) *Qualitative inquiry and research design* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). SAGE.
198. Denzin NK, Lincoln YS (2018) *The Sage handbook of qualitative research* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Sage.
199. Nowotny KM, Bailey Z, Omori M, Brinkley-Rubinstein L (2021) COVID-19 exposes need for progressive criminal justice reform. *American Journal of Public Health* 111(6): 967–968.
200. Nowotny KM (2021) Trauma in incarcerated populations. *Annual Review of Criminology* 4: 1–23.
201. Nowotny KM (2021) Trauma-informed criminal justice systems. *Annual Review of Criminology* 4: 393–412.
202. Nowotny KM, Kuptsevych-Timmer A, Jagers JW (2021) Trauma and incarceration: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 22(3): 530–546.
203. Chitsamatanga BB, Muchengeti T (2023) Trauma, incarceration, and social injustice in Zimbabwe: Implications for mental health interventions. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies* 15(1): 45–62.
204. Chitsamatanga BB, Muchengeti T (2023) Trauma-informed approaches in African social work practice. *African Journal of Social Work* 13(1): 45–59.
205. Chitsamatanga BB, Rembe S (2023) The impact of incarceration on family structures in Zimbabwe: Implications for social justice. *African Journal of Social Work* 13(1): 45–56.
206. Martín-Martín A (2018) Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus:

- A systematic comparison. *Journal of Informetrics* 12(4): 1160–1177.
207. Gusenbauer M, Haddaway NR (2020) Which academic search systems are suitable for systematic reviews? *Research Synthesis Methods* 11(2): 181–217.
  208. Falagas ME, Pitsouni EI, Malietzis GA, Pappas G (2008). Comparison of PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. *FASEB Journal* 22(2): 338–342.
  209. Mongeon P, Paul-Hus A (2016) The journal coverage of Web of Science and Scopus. *Scientometrics* 106(1): 213–228.
  210. ACHPR (2019) Guidelines on the conditions of arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention in Africa. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).
  211. WHO (2022) Mental health in prisons: Policy brief. World Health Organization (WHO).
  212. WHO (2022) Prisons and health. World Health Organization (WHO). WHO Regional Office for Europe.
  213. WHO (2022) World mental health report: Transforming mental health for all. World Health Organization (WHO).
  214. Paez A (2017) Grey literature: An important resource. *Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine* 10(3): 233–240.
  215. Adams RJ, Smart P, Huff AS (2017) Shades of grey: Guidelines for working with grey literature in systematic reviews. *International Journal of Management Reviews* 19(4): 432–454.
  216. Munn Z (2018) Systematic review or scoping review? *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 18: 143.
  217. Peters MDJ, Godfrey CM, Khalil H, McInerney P, Parker D, et al. (2020) Updated methodological guidance for the conduct of scoping reviews. *JBI Evidence Synthesis* 18(10): 2119–2126.
  218. Kagee A (2016) Psychological consequences of incarceration in Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology* 46(2): 143–154.
  219. Kagee A (2016) Psychology, health, and justice in South Africa. Springer.
  220. Sarkin J (2018) Human rights in African prisons. *Human Rights Quarterly* 40(1): 1–30.
  221. Sarkin J (2018) Human rights in African prisons. *Human Rights Review* 19(3): 1–15.
  222. Sarkin J (2018) Human rights in African prisons. Oxford University Press.
  223. Sarkin J (2018) Human rights in African prisons: The impact of overcrowding and poor conditions. *Sur International Journal on Human Rights* 15(28): 35–52.
  224. Booth A, Sutton A, Papaioannou D (2016) Systematic approaches to a successful literature review (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Sage.
  225. Xiao Y, Watson M (2019) Guidance on conducting a systematic literature review. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 39(1): 93–112.
  226. Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, et al. (2021) The PRISMA 2020 statement: An updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews *BMJ* 372: n71.
  227. Thomas J, Harden A (2008) Methods for thematic synthesis. *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 8: 45.
  228. Munyoro G (2014) Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Handouts in Enhancing Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Africa Development and Resources Research Institute 6(2): 95–107.
  229. Munyoro G (2014) The Effectiveness of E-Learning in Higher Education: A Case Study of University of Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom: Africa Development and Resources Research Institute 1(1): 1–11.
  230. Braun V, Clarke V (2021) Thematic analysis: A practical guide. Sage.
  231. Patel V, Saxena S, Lund C, Thornicroft G, Baingana F, et al. (2018) The Lancet Commission on global mental health and sustainable development. *The Lancet* 392(10157): 1553–1598.
  232. Resnik DB (2020) What is ethics in research & why is it important? National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
  233. Orb A, Eisenhauer L, Wynaden D (2001) Ethics in qualitative research. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* 33(1): 93–96.
  234. Fricker M (2007) Epistemic injustice: Power and the ethics of knowing. Oxford University Press.
  235. Kira IA (2021) Intergenerational trauma and resilience. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 91(3): 289–302.
  236. Haney C (2020) The psychological effects of incarceration. *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 85–106.
  237. Ungar M (2021) Multisystemic resilience. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 91(1): 1–10.
  238. Campbell K, Denov M (2022) The burden of wrongful conviction: Trauma and resilience. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 23(4): 1234–1248.
  239. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2020) Life after death row: Exonerates' search for community and identity. Rutgers University Press.
  240. Westervelt SD, Cook KJ (2020) Life after death row: Exonerates' search for community and identity. Rutgers University Press.
  241. Grounds A (2022) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction and imprisonment. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 64(2): 1–20.
  242. Grounds A (2022) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology* 33(2): 145–162.
  243. Muntingh L (2021) Africa prisons and penal reform trends. Institute for Security Studies Papers, 2021/3.
  244. Muntingh L (2021) African prisons and structural inequality. African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum Report.
  245. Muntingh L, Redpath J (2021) Pathways to reintegration: Former prisoners in South Africa. Dullah Omar Institute.
  246. Muntingh L, Redpath J (2021) Wrongful convictions and the criminal justice system in South Africa. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative.
  247. Dissel A, Ellis S (2023) Prison conditions and human rights in South Africa. *South African Crime Quarterly* 74: 45–60.
  248. Corbin J, Strauss A (2015) Basics of qualitative research (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). SAGE.
  249. Tie YC, Birks M, Francis K (2019) Grounded theory research. *SAGE Open Medicine* 7: 1–8.
  250. Smith JA (2022) Interpretative phenomenological analysis in trauma studies. *Qualitative Psychology* 9(2): 200–215.
  251. Charmaz K (2022) Constructing grounded theory (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). SAGE.
  252. Chilisa B (2020) Indigenous research methodologies (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). SAGE.
  253. Ndlovu T (2023) Wrongful convictions in South Africa. Innocence Project South Africa Report.
  254. Metz T (2021) Ubuntu and justice in Africa. African Human Rights

- Law Journal 21(2): 1–19.
255. Moyo K (2022) Ubuntu and restorative justice in Southern Africa. *African Journal of Criminology & Justice Studies* 15(1): 88–105.
256. Moyo O (2022) Ubuntu and restorative justice practices. *African Journal of Criminology* 15(1): 67–82.
257. Tutu D (2021) No future without forgiveness. Rider.
258. Fanon F (2004) *The wretched of the earth*. Grove Press. (Original work published 1963).
259. Mbembe A (2021) *Critique of black reason*. Duke University Press.
260. Lincoln YS, Guba EG (1985) *Naturalistic inquiry*. SAGE.
261. Nowell LS, Norris JM, White DE, Moules NJ (2017) Thematic analysis in qualitative research: A critical reflection on the process. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 16(1): 1–13.
262. Korstjens I, Moser A (2018) Series: Practical guidance in qualitative research. *European Journal of General Practice* 24(1): 120–124.
263. Muntingh L, Ballard C (2022) Measuring prison conditions in Africa. *Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative Report*.
264. Muntingh L, Ballard C (2022) Researching prisons in Africa. *Journal of African Criminology* 5(2): 33–49.
265. Wildeman C, Wang EA (2017) Mass incarceration and health. *The Lancet* 389: 1464–1474.
266. Wildeman C, Wang EA (2017) Mass incarceration, public health, and widening inequality in the USA. *The Lancet* 389(10077): 1464–1474.
267. Turney K (2019) Stress proliferation across generations. *American Journal of Sociology* 124(5): 1–35.
268. Smith E, Hattery A (2020) Mass incarceration and social inequality. *Annual Review of Sociology* 46: 1–20.
269. Dlamini J (2020) *The terror of history: Colonial legacies and African justice systems*. Wits University Press.
270. Madlingozi T (2020) Social justice and post-apartheid legal systems. *Stellenbosch Law Review* 31(1).
271. Seekings J, Nattrass N (2020) *Inequality in post-apartheid South Africa*. Yale University Press.
272. Miller KE, Rasmussen A (2017) War exposure and daily stressors. *Social Science & Medicine* 70(1): 7–16.
273. Kagee A (2018) Structural barriers to mental health in Africa. *Global Public Health* 13(10): 1–12.
274. Nsamenang AB (2006) Human ontogenesis in Africa. *International Journal of Psychology* 41(4): 293–297.
275. Nsamenang AB (2006) Human ontogenesis: An indigenous African view on development and intelligence. *International Journal of Psychology* 41(4): 293–297.
276. Mbiti JS (2015) *African religions and philosophy*. Heinemann.
277. Wildeman C, Goldman A, Turney K (2018) Parental incarceration. *Annual Review of Sociology* 44: 1–21.
278. Turney K, Goodsell R (2018) Parental incarceration and children. *Annual Review of Sociology* 44: 1–22.
279. Christian J, Mellow J, Thomas S (2017) Social and economic implications of incarceration. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 123–145.
280. Sekhonyana M, Louw A (2021) Justice system inequalities in Southern Africa. *Institute for Security Studies*.
281. Arditti JA (2016) A family stress-proximal process model for understanding the effects of parental incarceration on children and their families. *Couple and Family Psychology* 5(2): 65–88.
282. Hall K, Sambu W (2018) Demography of South Africa's children. *South African Child Gauge*.
283. Dawes A, Kafaar Z, De Sas Kropiwnicki Z (2019) Children affected by parental incarceration in Africa. *Child Abuse & Neglect* p. 97.
284. Dawes A, van der Merwe A, Bray R (2019) Parenting in South Africa: A literature review. *Human Sciences Research Council*.
285. Summerfield D (2013) Afterword: Against "global mental health". *Transcultural Psychiatry* 50(4): 519–530.
286. Kagee A (2014) South African psychology after apartheid: Challenges and opportunities. *American Psychologist* 69(8): 759–769.
287. Fernando S (2014) *Mental health worldwide: Culture, globalization and development*. Palgrave Macmillan.
288. Gone JP, Kirmayer LJ (2020) Advancing indigenous mental health research. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology* 16: 1–27.
289. Gone JP, Kirmayer LJ (2020) Advancing Indigenous mental health research. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 57(2): 235–249.
290. Makhubela M (2019) Indigenous healing practices in Africa. *Journal of Psychology in Africa* 29(4): 1–6.
291. Kirmayer LJ (2021) Healing traditions and mental health. *The Lancet Psychiatry* 8(10): 1–12.
292. Muntingh L (2019) Africa prisons and penal reform: Challenges and opportunities. *Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative*.
293. Muntingh L (2019) African prison conditions and reform challenges. *Institute for Security Studies*.
294. UNODC (2022) *Handbook on prisoner rehabilitation*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). United Nations.
295. UNODC (2022) *Handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). United Nations.
296. Dissel A, Ellis S (2021) Prison conditions and reform in Southern Africa. *South African Crime Quarterly* p. 75.
297. Davis AY (2016) *Freedom is a constant struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the foundations of a movement*. Haymarket Books.
298. Grounds A (2020) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction and imprisonment. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 62(3): 1–18.
299. Grounds A (2020) Psychological consequences of wrongful conviction and imprisonment. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* 62(3): 1–26.
300. Dissel A, Tait S (2018) Prison conditions in South Africa and the region: A rights-based perspective. *Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative*.
301. Dissel A, Tait S (2018) Prison conditions in South Africa. *South African Crime Quarterly* 64: 25–34.
302. Dissel S, Ellis S (2018) Prison conditions in South Africa: Addressing systemic challenges. *South African Crime Quarterly* 64: 23–35.
303. Danieli Y (2018) *Mass trauma and emotional healing around the world: Rituals and practices for resilience and meaning-making*. Routledge.
304. Kellermann NPF (2020) Epigenetic transmission of Holocaust trauma: Can nightmares be inherited? *Israel Journal of Psychiatry*

- 57(2): 33-39.
305. Muntingh L, Ballard C (2020) Prison conditions in Africa. Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative.
306. Muntingh L, Ballard C (2020) The state of South African prisons. Institute for Security Studies Report.
307. ACHPR (2021) Principles on the decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).
308. Pillay AL (2022) Decolonising mental health care in Africa: Challenges and opportunities. *South African Journal of Psychology* 52(3): 345-356.
309. Pillay S (2022) Decolonising psychology in South Africa. *South African Journal of Psychology* 52(1): 3-15.
310. Tutu D (2014) *The book of forgiveness*. HarperOne.
311. Tutu D (2014) *The book of forgiveness: The fourfold path for healing ourselves and our world*. HarperOne.
312. Murithi T (2006) African approaches to building peace and social solidarity. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* 6(2): 9-35.
313. Murithi T (2020) *The ethics of peacebuilding*. Edinburgh University Press.
314. Murithi T (2020) Ubuntu and restorative justice in Africa. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* 20(2): 9-28.
315. Clark P (2018) *Distant justice: The impact of the International Criminal Court on African politics*. Cambridge University Press.
316. Shaw R, Waldorf L (2019) *Localizing transitional justice: Interventions and priorities after mass violence*. Stanford University Press.
317. Fazel S, Hayes AJ, Bartellas K, Clerici M, Trestman R (2016) Mental health of prisoners: Prevalence, adverse outcomes, and interventions. *The Lancet Psychiatry* 3(9): 871-881.
318. United Nations (2015) *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)*. United Nations.
319. Mugumbate J, Nyanguru A (2022) African philosophy and healing: Integrating indigenous knowledge systems into social work practice. *International Social Work* 65(4): 567-579.
320. Mugumbate J, Nyanguru A (2022) Exploring Ubuntu as a framework for social work practice in Africa. *International Social Work* 65(2): 278-290.
321. Innocence Project South Africa (2023) *Annual review of wrongful convictions*. IPSA.
322. Innocence Project (2023) *Exonerations and the psychological impact of wrongful convictions*. Innocence Project Report (HRW)
323. Innocence Project (2023) *Exoneree support and compensation in the United States*.
324. Kinyanjui S (2020) Reintegration challenges among exonerees in Kenya: A socio-legal analysis. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies* 13(2): 45-62.
325. Kinyanjui S (2020) Reintegration challenges of ex-prisoners in Kenya. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 64(12): 1234-1252.
326. SADC (2022) *Regional strategic development plan 2020-2030*. Southern African Development Community.
327. Bello PO, Matshaba TD (2022) Factors influencing incarcerated offenders' perceptions of correctional officers in South African correctional centres. *Cogent Social Sciences*.
328. Campbell K, Denov M (2019) The burden of innocence: Coping with wrongful imprisonment. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 19(1): 3-20.
329. Campbell K, Denov M (2019) The burden of innocence: Coping with wrongful imprisonment. *Social Justice* 46(3): 1-18.
330. Gwebu N (2022) *Doing "Life": An exploratory study of the experiences and implications of incarceration on life-serving offenders*. University of Cape Town.
331. Haney C (2018) The psychological effects of imprisonment. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 285-310.
332. Haney C (2018) The psychological effects of imprisonment. In J. Wooldredge & P. Smith (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of prisons and imprisonment*. Oxford University Press pp. 584-603.
333. Haney C (2018) The psychological effects of incarceration. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 297-316.
334. Mahlako GM (2022) *Exploring perpetrator trauma amongst juvenile offenders incarcerated for violent crimes*. University of the Free State.
335. Mahlako GM, Jordaan J, Cronjé M (2025) *Healing from perpetrator trauma: The experiences of juvenile offenders incarcerated for violent offenses in South Africa*. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*.
336. Mahlako GM, Jordaan J, Cronjé M (2026) *An explorative study of perpetrator trauma symptoms in South African incarcerated youth*. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*.
337. Moche NJ (2015) *The effect of exposure of correctional officials to traumatic events*. University of Pretoria.
338. Murhula PBB, Singh SB (2020) *An empirical assessment of offenders' rehabilitation approach in South Africa*. *The Oriental Anthropologist*.
339. Murray LK, Skavenski S, Kane JC, Mayeya J, Dorsey S, et al. (2020) *Trauma-informed mental health interventions in low-resource settings*. *Global Mental Health* 7: e36.
340. Murray LK, Hall BJ, Dorsey S, Bolton PA (2020) *Building trauma-informed systems in low- and middle-income countries*. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology* 16: 507-532.
341. SAMHSA (2014) *Trauma-informed care in behavioral health services*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
342. SAMHSA (2014) *SAMHSA's concept of trauma and guidance for a trauma-informed approach*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
343. World Health Organization (2021) *Guidance on community mental health services: Promoting person-centred and rights-based approaches*. WHO.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License  
DOI: [10.19080/ACJPP.2026.02.555597](https://doi.org/10.19080/ACJPP.2026.02.555597)

Your next submission with Juniper Publishers

will reach you the below assets

- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats  
( Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)
- Unceasing customer service

**Track the below URL for one-step submission**

<https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php>