

# Reintegration of convicts Class 2

## *The Social Reintegration of ex-convicts and Crime Prevention*



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**KATEDRA PRAWA KARNEGO WYKONAWCZEGO**

# *Introduction*

## *Crime prevention:*

- ▶ Successful crime prevention strategies must address factors contributing to the large number of crimes that are committed by individuals who have served a term of incarceration and failed, upon their release, to integrate the community as law-abiding citizens
- ▶ In the absence of material, psychological, and social support at the time of their release, offenders may have a very difficult time

Crime prevention is the attempt to reduce and determine crime and criminals. It is applied specifically to efforts made by governments to reduce crime, enforce the law, and maintain criminal justice.

# ***What is Social Reintegration?***

1. A process through which a person who has been imprisoned gains freedom and returns to live among other members of the society.
2. A process whereby a person who has acquired the status of a combatant during a war returns to civilian life and is recognised by others as a member of the society.
3. The process of personal change when someone experience freedom from prison.

# ***What is Social Reintegration?***

***Social reintegration is often understood as the support given to offenders during their reentry into society following imprisonment :***

- ▶ It's a number of interventions undertaken following an arrest to divert offenders away from the criminal justice system to an alternative measure, including a restorative justice process or suitable treatment.
- ▶ It includes imposing community-based sanctions rather than imprisonment in an attempt to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders within the community, rather than subjecting them to the marginalizing and harmful effects of imprisonment. For those who are sentenced to imprisonment, it includes correctional programs in prison, and aftercare interventions
- ▶ Some post-release interventions may begin while the offender is still incarcerated with the intent of facilitating post-release adjustment.

# *Challenges Confronting Offenders at the Time of their Release*

- ▶ Offenders confined in correctional institutions are confronted by a range of social, economic and personal challenges that tend to become obstacles to a crime-free lifestyle

Some of these challenges are a result of the offenders' past experiences and others are more directly associated with the consequences of incarceration and the following difficult transition back to the community

- physical and mental disabilities and health issues
- poor inter-personal skills, low levels of formal education
- involvement in a criminal lifestyle that began at an early age
  - physical or emotional abuse
- poor employment or unemployment before incarceration

# *Challenges Confronting Offenders at the Time of their Release*

There are also several practical challenges that must be faced by offenders at the time of their release, including:

- finding suitable accommodation with very limited means
- managing financially with little or no savings until they begin to earn some lawful remuneration
  - accessing a range of everyday necessities
- and accessing services and support for their specific needs

# *Challenges Confronting Offenders at the Time of their Release*

- ▶ The period of transition from custody to community can be particularly difficult for offenders and contribute to the stress that is associated with being supervised in the community.

the failed reentry of prisoners into society involves some significant costs for society, both financial and in terms of public safety.

- ▶ The costs of programs to support the reintegration of offenders must be assessed against the benefits of avoiding these significant future social and financial costs.

# *Goals and Attributes of Offender Reentry Programs*

- ▶ Programs are typically developed on the basis of the current understanding of the dynamic risk factors associated with recidivism, the typical needs of offenders, and the challenges they encounter upon their release from prison.
- ▶ Programs vary according to the recidivism risk factors and the type of social integration challenges they are designed to address.
- ▶ Many programs focus on specific challenges confronting offenders, such as addiction, drug abuse, or unemployment and many offender reintegration programs have been designed to deal with specific categories of offenders, such as chronic offenders, drug addicted offenders, young offenders, mentally ill offenders, or dangerous sexual offenders.

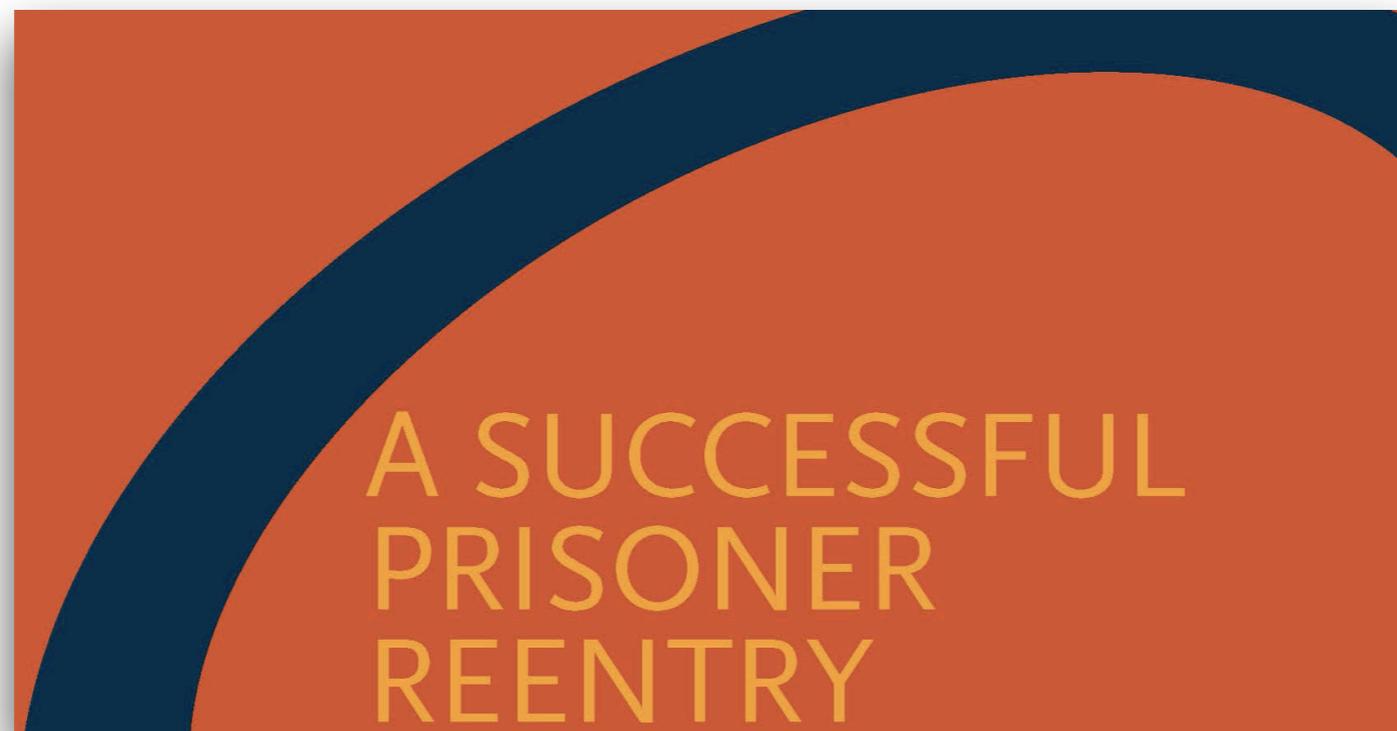
# *Process of reintegration*

We define reintegration as the process of transitioning from incarceration to the community, adjusting to life outside of prison or jail, and attempting to maintain a crime-free lifestyle .

Reintegration is a complex process that occurs over time and there is much we do not know about the process

# *Process of reintegration*

- ▶ Concern with community safety and with assisting offenders has resulted in an increased focus on the reintegration of offenders in the community and the reduction of re-offending.



# Probation services and reintegration

- ▶ Probation systems fulfil a wide range of functions in different states, but most systems combine some form of controlling supervision with some form of rehabilitative support.

The infographic is titled "REENTRY NEEDS" and is divided into two columns: "SHORT-TERM" and "LONG-TERM". At the top, there are seven icons of people, with the central one in a suit and tie, and the others in striped prison jumpsuits. The "SHORT-TERM" column lists: Safe Housing (house icon), Clothing (t-shirt icon), Medical Care (heart with pulse icon), and Substance Abuse and Recovery (three people icon). The "LONG-TERM" column lists: Employment (briefcase icon), Reentry Mentor (handshake icon), Relationship Counseling (speech bubbles icon), and Prayer (prayer hands icon). At the bottom left is the Prison Fellowship logo, and at the bottom right is the text: "For more information on how you can help with reentry ministry, visit [prisonfellowship.org](http://prisonfellowship.org)".

SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM
Safe Housing	Employment
Clothing	Reentry Mentor
Medical Care	Relationship Counseling
Substance Abuse and Recovery	Prayer

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

For more information on how you can help with reentry ministry, visit [prisonfellowship.org](http://prisonfellowship.org)

# *Probation services and reintegration*

- ▶ Probation services (or those supervising prisoner release) have a legal duty to refer prisoners to advice services covering practical matters such as housing, access to financial services, and finding employment
- ▶ Probation services (or those supervising prisoner release) involve prisoners families in planning and decision-making relating to their release



# *Probation Officers and reintegration*

- ▶ During the reintegration process, Probation Officer is there to help ex-offenders address any difficulties and needs they may encounter.
- ▶ Before an ex-offender is reintegrated to the community, a Probation Officer will carry out an assessment of the offender, the victim and the community which will assist in preparing a reintegration plan. The reintegration plan is important for addressing the risks and needs that the offender might face when released from a penal institution. In certain circumstances, a Probation Officer may recommend deserving cases for further assistance through educational support and vocational training.

# *Parole officers and reintegration*

- ▶ Parole officers help recently released offenders reintegrate into society while keeping an eye on them. For example, officers can assist offenders with finding employment or help them reduce their risk of re-offending
- ▶ Probation officers supervise and help offenders who have been placed on probation.
- ▶ Parole/ probation officers often feel challenged as they try to achieve the dual goals of helping offenders to successfully reintegrate into the community and protecting society from at-risk individuals.

***This is partly the result of the tension between the main functions of their role as supervisors, which includes assistance and policing aspects.***

# *Offender supervision*

## **Offender supervision**

- ▶ Post-release supervision are important in contributing to the success of an offender's re-entry and social reintegration
- ▶ However, supervision is more than simply monitoring an offender's compliance with the conditions attached to his or her release. It involves managing the risk presented by the offender, acquiring and/or arranging resources to meet the needs of the offender and developing and maintaining a human relationship with the offender that engenders trust with appropriate boundaries. It includes acts of surveillance, teaching, support, reinforcing positive behaviour and enforcing consequences for negative behaviour.
- ▶ Carried out professionally, it includes at its core supporting the social reintegration of the offender but there is always a the risk that he or she may commit a crime again

# *Models of offender supervision*

## **Offender supervision**

- ▶ Models of offender supervision include risk- and need-based models.
- ▶ **Risk-based strategies** operate on the premise that some offenders are dangerous and need to be controlled and closely monitored.
- ▶ **Need-based supervision strategies** focus on offenders' criminogenic needs and support their involvement in appropriate treatment programmes

# *The role of the community*

## **Community involvement**

- ▶ Reintegration programmes must also focus on the key objective of building relationships of social support and control around the offender.
- ▶ Some programmes, in particular those offering offenders an opportunity to perform community services or to volunteer for the benefit of the community, can be very successful in rehabilitating certain types of offenders and in making the public more sensitive.
- ▶ However, such programmes can hardly operate without the support of the community, and their success mostly depends on the active participation of community members.

## **Use of volunteers**

- ▶ The use of volunteers is an efficient way to involve the community and to provide much needed support to offenders.

# ***The link between social reintegration and public safety***

- ▶ Many offenders, even after serving repeated prison sentences, fail to desist from crime and to reintegrate into the community.

*Imprisonment, in itself, is incapable of addressing the offenders' social integration issues.*

- ▶ Even when effective prison programmes have helped offenders to achieve progress during detention, that progress is often lost because of lack of supervision, help and assistance after release.
- ▶ If prisoners re-offend after release, community safety is compromised through increased crime.

# *Post-release services and supervision*

The period of transition from custody to the community can be particularly difficult for offenders.



They typically face anxiety and stress associated with the need to find employment and lodging, to repair damaged relationships, to face social stigma and potential isolation and to comply with conditions of official supervision.

# *Post-release services and supervision*

- ▶ It has been found that the weeks immediately preceding and following the release of prisoners are crucial in determining the extent to which their social reintegration into the community will be successful.
- ▶ After their release, offenders must face a number of practical challenges, such as securing suitable accommodation with very limited means, managing financially with little or no savings until they begin to earn wages, accessing a range of everyday necessities and accessing services and support for their specific needs.

# *Post-release services and supervision*

- ▶ Research on the variables that influence successful reintegration has revealed the interdependence of employment, housing, addiction treatment and social network support. In the absence of material, psychological and social support during this transitional period, many offenders are likely to be caught up in a vicious cycle of release and rearrest.
- ▶ In order to preserve community safety, governments therefore need to develop effective post-release or aftercare interventions geared at helping former prisoners to reintegrate into the community and to desist from crime.

# Overcrowding

***Prison overcrowding is a major challenge in many countries***

- ▶ Although prison overcrowding is a complex problem, there is no doubt that it is attributable in part to the large number of repeat offenders who populate the prisons.

*One key strategy in reducing the number of persons in prison is to provide effective rehabilitation programmes for prisoners and support their social reintegration upon release*

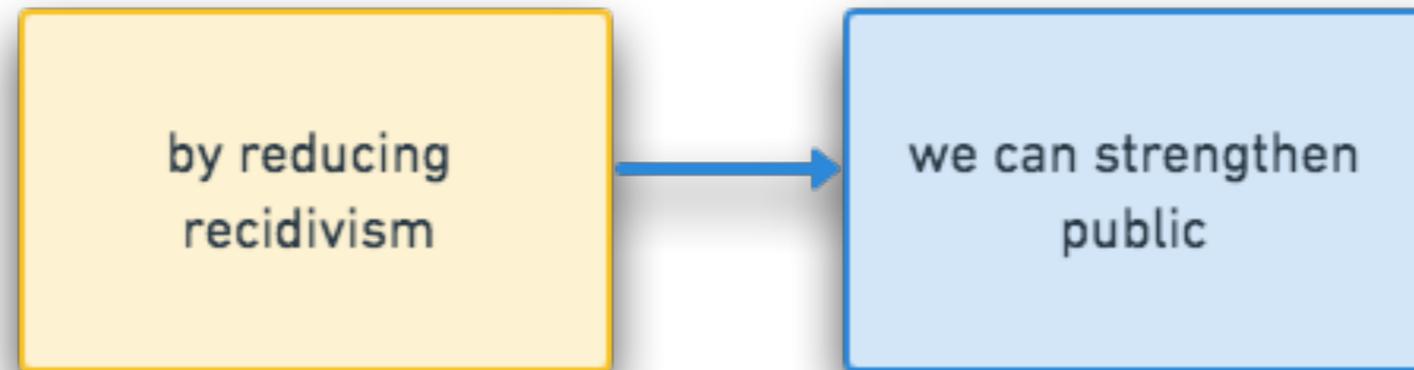
- ▶ Unfortunately, prison overcrowding itself affects the ability of prisons to offer meaningful rehabilitation programmes and tends to limit prisoners' access to existing programmes.

# *The prevention of recidivism*

Recidivism is repeated criminal activity and is synonymous with terms such as 'repeat offending' and 'reoffending'.

- ▶ **“Recidivism”** (**“reoffending”**) refers to whether a person commits a crime again.
- ▶ Preventing recidivism requires effective interventions based on an understanding of the factors that place offenders at risk and make it difficult for them to successfully reintegrate into society.

# *The prevention of recidivism*



- ▶ Research shows that recidivism risk can be effectively reduced through programmes that targets criminogenic needs, such as courses in cognitive behavioral therapy and other topics.

# *Summary*

▶ In recent years, much of the discussion concerning the social reintegration of offenders has centred on the development of better means of managing their re-entry into the community by providing an effective and balanced mix of supervision and assistance and finding ways to do so through effective collaboration involving prison administrations, law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations.

Some programmes actively seek community participation and help communities to become more responsive to the offenders' situation.