

Women's Transitions from Custody in Northern Ireland – Time After Time?

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Summary: This article reports on selected findings from *Time After Time – A Study of Women's Transitions from Custody*, a research study of women's experiences of imprisonment and their transitions from custody in Northern Ireland. The study documents their journeys over time – how they cope with adapting back into their families and the community, the difficulties they face and the extent to which their reintegration is helped, or otherwise, by agencies, whether official or voluntary. It is clear that their period of imprisonment left a long-lasting and damaging effect on their lives, affecting their partners, children and other family members. Stigma, issues in reconnecting with children and families, and challenges in finding employment are described. The article concludes with recommendations for service development and future work supporting women in their transition from custody to the community.

Keywords: Women, imprisonment, sentencing, custody, transition, resettlement, Northern Ireland, family, gender, children, mental health, employment, stigma.