



Rehabilitation or Human Rights Deprivation: A Scoping Analysis of Existing Literature on the Plight of Women in Nigeria's Correctional Centres

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Abstract

Women in Nigeria's correctional centres face numerous challenges that hinder their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This paper explores the plight of women in Nigerian prisons through a comprehensive review of existing literature, and relevant secondary data. The review draws on a range of scholarly sources, including journal articles, reports, and relevant laws and treaties that protect the right of women in prison. Data from the Nigerian Correctional Service reveals that women constitute approximately 2% of the total prison population in Nigeria. However, women face unique challenges related to their sex, including sanitation, hygiene, pregnancy and child care, healthcare, education, and vocational training. Additionally, women in Nigerian prisons are often subjected to violence and sexual abuse from both prison staff and fellow inmates. The literature also highlights the role of socio-economic factors in women's incarceration, including poverty, lack of education, and limited access to justice. The review identifies several gaps in the existing literature, including the impact of prison conditions on mental health. Based on the findings, the paper concludes that Nigeria Correctional Centres are far from being 'rehabilitation' centres, but are human rights deprivation facilities, particularly for women. It was recommended that there is a need for urgent interventions that would address the plight of women in Nigerian correctional centres, to promote human rights and social justice for all. This can be done by improving prison conditions, strengthening legal frameworks, and investing in gender-sensitive rehabilitation programmes.

Keywords: Human rights, Women's rights, Rehabilitation/Deprivation, Nigeria Correctional Centres.



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Introduction

In many countries of the world, the plight of prisoners has attracted attention and has generated debates in different quarters. It has also raised the question of the fundamental purpose of correctional services as a result of the harsh treatment meted out to inmates and the seemingly inhumane situations of correctional facilities. Sowande (2023) posited that the inhumane conditions and treatments of prisoners range from poor conditions of the cells, lack of good sanitation, lack of medical attention, and nutritional imbalances to uncultured abuses particularly in Jamaica as it affects most third-world countries.

Similarly, Dimkpa (2011) opined that incarceration is socially degrading while also implying separation from family members and loved ones. Prisons can be described as public institutions which were established by the government to rehabilitate and reform those who have committed a crime. Prisons are designed throughout the world to act as rehabilitation and reformatory facilities, with the ultimate purpose of re-orienting and reforming convicts so enable them to return to society as valuable citizens capable of contributing positively to society (Opafunso and Adepoju, 2016).

There has been a noticeable and steady increase in the global jail population. The World Prison Brief (2014) reported that this steady increase has remained a major issue of discourse within the international penal sector. Supporting this position, Tsegaye (2018) and Olugbenga-Bello, et al (2013) concluded that there is an exponential rise in the world prison population compared with the total population. Just as the global jail population is on the increase, the number of female inmates is equally increasing (Curry, 2017; Lenihan, 2020). In recent times, the number of women sentenced for crimes or kept behind bars (awaiting trial) for one is equally increasing in the same proportion as the men.

However, due to the extent of prejudice they encounter in society, women might be classed as a vulnerable category. Women face various types and degrees of subordination in all aspects of life, including social, political, economic, and subjugation in the home, among others. Regardless of the clear degrees of suffering inmates (those incarcerated in jails) endure, women undergoing correctional punishment confront several human rights violations. Tsegaye (2018)



corroborated this view and opined these sets of women face inimitable challenges in comparison with the men. Tsegaye (2018) while analysing these challenges further explained that they include but are not limited to, a high level of medical care needs, access to basic sanitary needs, and sexual abuse against women in prison.

The BOP Statistics (2022), as of September 2022, reported that women account for about 20 percent of all inmates in the United States. Although men have historically made up the large bulk of the jail population across the world (StudyCorgi, 2022), the rate of women in detention is on the increase. This explains why, over time, strategies for the care of convicts in correctional institutions have been male-centric, as they were designed by men and for men. As a result, until the later part of the twentieth century, the prison systems adopted an approach that is gender-neutral ignoring women's specific needs and challenges (StudyCorgi, 2022).

Worthy of note is the fact that women's issues frequently receive less attention from legislators as regards the designing of prison programmes because they constitute a minority of convicts (StudyCorgi, 2022). Several of the issues that female offenders face is gender-specific, therefore the adopted gender-neutral correctional systems cannot address them or tend to neglect them. Issues relating to reproductive health, pregnancy and motherhood represent a major concern in the handling of female inmates in correctional facilities, particularly in Nigeria (Rudell, Mays, & Winfree Jr., 2020). Some issues are not specific to one gender; however, men and women experience them differently or with different outcomes. Women, for example, are likely to be victims of physical or sexual abuse while in detention (StudyCorgi, 2022).

Similarly, women are often incarcerated for economic, non-violent offences which can be connected to their financial situation and sometimes exposure to acts of violence. Rights denial, existing laws that are discriminatory in nature as well as poverty among other factors increase the possibility of a woman being detained (Manjoo, 2014). Female offenders' lack of financial resources to secure the service of a legal representative will increase their exposure to being kept behind the bars as awaiting trials even beyond their probable year of imprisonment coupled with the slow rate of justice system in Nigeria. To this end, this paper aimed at exploring the plight of women in Nigerian Correctional Centres by engaging in an extensive review of existing literature.

Rationale for the Study



The study aimed at shedding light on the conditions of women in Nigerian correctional centres and assess whether these facilities are truly rehabilitating centres or human rights deprivation centres. Nigeria has a high rate of incarceration, and women make up a significant portion of the prison population. However, the conditions in these facilities are often inhumane and fail to provide adequate rehabilitation or support for inmates.

The study seeks to examine the living conditions, access to basic amenities like healthcare system and sanitary products, as well as the overall treatment of women in Nigerian correctional centres. The findings of this study can be used to inform policy decisions aimed at improving the conditions of women in Nigerian correctional centres, as well as to promote advocacy and awareness on the issue. The study is significant because it highlights the need to ensure that the human rights of inmates, particularly women, are protected and that correctional facilities provide adequate rehabilitation programmes to enable the reintegration of inmates back into society.

Objectives of the Study

Broadly, this study aimed at exploring the plights of women in Nigeria correctional centres.

Specific objectives are to:

- i. To assess the living conditions and treatment of women in Nigerian correctional centres and determine if they meet international human rights standards.
- ii. To evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in Nigerian correctional centres for women inmates and identify areas for improvement.

Research Question

The study seeks to provide answers to the following questions:

- i. What are the current living conditions for women in Nigerian correctional centres?
- ii. How well do the living conditions of women in Correctional Centres in Nigeria compare with international human rights standards for the treatment of prisoners?



iii. Are the correctional centres in Nigeria providing rehabilitation role to inmates or depriving them of basic human rights?
Theoretical Framework

Addressing the plight of women in detention, this paper adopts the feminist standpoint theory which is one of the many strands of feminist theories. Feminist theories seek to understand and challenge gender inequality and gender power relation within society. This framework can be particularly useful in addressing the unique challenges that women in detention contend with such as the intersectionality of gender, race, and class.

The feminist standpoint theory is a theoretical framework that highlights the importance of considering the perspectives and experiences of marginalized groups in understanding social inequality (Health Research Funding, 2023). In the context of the plight of women in detention, this theory can be particularly useful in shedding light on the unique challenges that these women face as a result of their gender, race, class, and other intersecting identities.

Standpoint theory can be linked to the work of George Wilhelm Fredrich Hegel who was a German philosopher in his examination of the master-slave relationship. However, other scholars like Patricia Hill, Dorothy Smith, Allison Jagar, and Sandra Harding expanded and reframed the idea to create a space for feminist studies (Bowell, 2020). According to Feminist Standpoint Theory, knowledge is not objective but is shaped by the social position and experiences of the person producing it (Harding, 2004). Therefore, the experiences and perspectives of women in detention can make available valuable insights into the workings of the criminal justice system and can help to challenge dominant narratives and assumptions about crime and punishment.

Prioritizing the voices and experiences of women in detention, feminist standpoint theory helps to identify ways through which the criminal justice system has failed to address their needs and perpetuates their marginalization. For instance, women in detention have a higher probability to have experienced trauma, poverty, or abuse, which can contribute to their involvement in the criminal justice system. Additionally, the gendered dynamics of the criminal justice system can result in differential treatment and outcomes for women.

Feminist standpoint theory challenges systemic inequalities to achieve a more just and equitable criminal justice system that recognizes and

addresses the unique challenges faced by women in detention. This includes the promotion of policies and programmes that prioritize the needs and rights of women in detention and create opportunities for their voices to be heard and valued in policy-making and advocacy efforts.

Methodology

The paper conducted a scoping analysis of existing literature to explore and understand the current situation of women in Nigeria's correctional centres and examine whether rehabilitation programmes are effective in upholding their human rights. The literature review was conducted by searching out relevant literature which included academic articles, reports by international and local NGOs, government and UN documents, news articles and other secondary sources. Key search terms included female prisoners Nigeria, women inmates Nigeria, prison conditions Nigeria, correctional centres Nigeria women, rehabilitation programmes in prisons in Nigeria and human rights of prisoners in Nigeria among other things.

Literature Review

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is an important component of the criminal justice system that is aimed at preventing recidivism by assisting convicted offenders to overcome the underlying factors that led to their criminal behaviour (Narayanan, 2018). The rehabilitation process involves a wide array of service which can include the combination of educational, vocational, and therapeutic interventions, including counselling, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. According to Singh (2013), rehabilitation programmes aim primarily at reforming the behaviour and personality of offenders while also equipping them with the skills and knowledge they will need for successful reintegration into the society at their release.

Ultimately, rehabilitation is aimed at ensuring that offenders are equipped enough to be able to lead fulfilling and productive lives, without resorting to criminal activities (Folsberg & Douglas, 2022). Notably, rehabilitation does not only bring benefit to the individual offender, it also reduces the burden on the criminal justice system and society as a whole. Harnessing the gains of rehabilitation, Lipsey & Cullen (2007) stated that effective rehabilitation programmes have been proven to lower recidivism rates significantly and save costs in



the long run, while contributing to public safety by promoting a sense of social responsibility and respect for the law.

The word rehabilitation has been given diverse definitions based on the scholar's viewpoint. For instance, Ugwuoke & Ojonugwa (2014) defined rehabilitation as methods adopted to transform the character and behaviour of sentenced criminals by providing them with organised educational and therapeutic interventions. This helps to ensure that social offenders are reintegrated into society successfully, assisted to ensure self-sufficiency and become recognized and responsible members of society (Ugwuoke & Ojonugwa 2014).

Importantly, incarcerated persons can benefit greatly from effective rehabilitation programmes in prison. These programs can equip them with the necessary skills, promote personal development, and encourage positive changes in attitudes and behaviour. The provision of physical, mental, psychological, social, vocational, and economic support through rehabilitative programs is considered a valuable service for inmates (Igbinovia & Omorogiuwa, 2019). However, for rehabilitation to be truly effective, it is important that these services are made readily available and accessible to all inmates.

There are various prison rehabilitation programs that are designed to prepare inmates for successful reintegration back into society at their release. Importantly, rehabilitation is a critical tool of correctional services and is positively linked to the protection and promotion of human rights (Folsberg & Douglas, 2022). Consequently, by promoting rehabilitation, correctional services can make individuals realise their full potential and become productive members of society while protecting their human rights.

Human Rights

Human rights play a critical role in the provision of correctional services. The correctional system is responsible for the custody, care, and rehabilitation of individuals who have been convicted of crimes, and as such, it must adhere to the principles of human rights. Notably, every individual, including those who have committed crimes, has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. This implies that correctional facilities ought to provide adequate living conditions, including access to clean water, nutritious food, and proper medical care. Additionally, individuals in custody must be protected from all forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.



Human rights are basic rights that are inherent to every human. Human rights cross-cut every development issue that pertains to human beings. United Nations (2022) described human rights as rights that are essential to all human beings irrespective of their nationality, religion, sex, class, nationality or social status. It includes the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, right to education and right to work among other things.

The universal applicability of human rights, which ensures that every individual has an equal entitlement to their rights sets the foundation for human rights laws. The principle was initially highlighted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has since been reiterated in various human rights treaties, declarations, and resolutions (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2021). Human rights are inherent and cannot be forfeited or relinquished, except in limited circumstances and through proper legal procedures. For instance, the right to freedom may be curtailed when an individual is convicted of an offence by a competent court of law.

Based on this, correctional services must also ensure that individuals have access to their human rights, including the right to legal representation, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression. This includes the provision of access to educational and vocational training programs that can help individuals prepare for their eventual release and reintegration into society. Succinctly, Oliver Stolpe, a representative of UNODC's Country Office in Nigeria, stated in an interview that in the organisations, that is UNODC's efforts to fulfil her mission of leaving no one behind, there is a need to ensure that prisoners are not forgotten by ensuring that their human rights needs are promoted to prepare them for their subsequent release (UNODC, 2021).

International Laws Protecting the Rights of Women in Prison

The laws and standards that address the challenges faced by women held in detention were designed to protect the rights of women who are incarcerated, detained, or imprisoned. Women who are deprived of their liberty face a range of challenges, including limited access to healthcare, the risk of abuse and violence, and discrimination (UN Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2014). These challenges are often exacerbated by factors such as poverty, race, and gender identity (Van den Bergh et al., 2011).

To address these challenges, international laws and standards have been developed to ensure that women in detention are treated with



respect and dignity and that their specific needs and vulnerabilities are not undermined. These laws and standards include the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (which is also known as the Mandela Rules), the Bangkok Rules, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (United Nations General Assembly [UNGA], 2010).

These laws and standards establish minimum requirements for the treatment of women in detention, such as access to healthcare, privacy, and protection from discrimination and abuse (World Health Organization [WHO], 2009). They also emphasise the need to consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women in detention, including their reproductive health and the risk of sexual violence (UNGA, 2010). However, despite the existence of these laws and standards, the deprivation of the rights of women in detention lingers in many parts of the world, with the need to do more to ensure that these laws and standards are implemented effectively (Atabay, 2013).

Notably, Nigeria is a signatory to the Bangkok Rules, therefore it is committed to implementing the rules in its criminal justice system, particularly on the treatment of female prisoners (UN Women, 2015). The Bangkok Rules guide various issues, including the use of non-custodial measures for women offenders, the specific needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women in custody, and the provision of healthcare services for women prisoners (UNODC, 2014).

By signing the Bangkok Rules, Nigeria has made a formal commitment to enhancing the treatment of women within its criminal justice system and adopting gender-sensitive approaches that acknowledge the specific challenges faced by female offenders (Penal Reform International [PRI], 2015). The Bangkok Rules emphasised the importance of recognising the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and experiences of incarcerated women, including issues related to mental health, reproductive care, and social reintegration. This commitment requires that correctional facilities implement policies and practices that ensure women are treated with dignity and respect, and receive fair and adequate access to essential services and support. These steps aim to foster a more humane environment that addresses gender-specific challenges, ultimately contributing to the rehabilitation and empowerment of women offenders.

These laws and standards aim to protect women's rights in detention and ensure they are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their circumstances. However, the effectiveness of the laws depends on their implementation by individual countries and the political will of



governments to take concrete steps toward protecting the rights of women in detention. However, among other things, Penal Reform International (2015) attributed the country's non-compliance to a shortage of female correctional service staff, which can equally be linked with inequality in employment.

Living Conditions of Women in Nigerian Correctional Centres

It is important to highlight that in Nigeria, there are three Correctional Centres exclusively for women. Kiri-kiri Female Correctional Centre, one of the three facilities was designed to accommodate 1,700 inmates, Numan Old Prison in Adamawa, was designed to accommodate an additional 400 inmates while the Ondo Female facility has the capacity for 70 inmates (Atama & Eze, 2024). These facilities combined can hold up to 2,170 female inmates. However, considering the increasing number of women being incarcerated, there is a need for the Nigerian government to focus on the construction of new facilities or take adequate measures to alleviate overcrowding in existing ones (Ikenwa, 2020).

As noted earlier, women face many of the same challenges as men in prison, if not more. These include delays in the trial, neglect of health and hygiene, torture and ill-treatment, insufficient food and clothing, sexual harassment and abuse, and difficulties in communication with family, among other things. However, some problems facing women prisoners are unique to them. One major problem is the increased vulnerability of women to sexual exploitation in the male-dominated prison environment. Other issues include pregnancy and childbirth in prison, as well as women prisoners with children (Munot, 2017).

Overcrowding in prisons exacerbates the poor conditions and services rendered to inmates resulting in a negative impact on the mental and physical well-being of all prisoners, especially women. Although overcrowding is not an issue in the female section of the Nigerian correctional centres, the overcrowding at the male section often frustrates available resources. Women, particularly those menstruating, going through menopause, pregnant, or having children with them in jail, require constant access to water which is not often sufficient due to the number of inmates in the correctional centres (Solomon, Nwankwoala & Ushi, 2014).

Inadequate provision for gender-specific hygiene as well as the need for sexual and reproductive healthcare is another major problem of women detained in correctional centres in Nigeria. Women should have easy access to feminine hygiene materials like towels/pads at a



free cost and without the embarrassment of placing requests for them (Penal Reform International, 2015). However, this is not applicable in Nigeria Correctional Centres as female inmates in the correctional centres often lack access to basic feminine hygiene materials like sanitary towels, soap, cream and running water (Solomon, Nwankwoala & Ushi, 2014).

Similarly, the various laws that protect the rights of women in prisons prohibit solitary confinement for pregnant women and highlight the need for adequate healthcare for both pregnant and breastfeeding prisoners. Pregnant women in detention ought to be prevented from being exposed to torture. Particularly, during the 2020 EndSARS protest in Nigeria, a three-month-pregnant young lady- Ayodele Bukunmi- was arrested for participating in the protest. However, she lost the pregnancy as a result of the torture she was exposed to when detained (Alao, 2021). In a similar vein, a pregnant teenager – Kemi Ogunsola- who was equally arrested for the same offence in October 2020, was kept without trial in the correctional centre until she had her baby in June 2021 (Johnson, 2021).

Women in prisons also face separation from family members. This can be attributed to the small number of women-only prisons. Female prisoners are often held in facilities that are far from their homes. The Bangkok Rule on allocation specifically provided that female offenders are to be allocated as much as possible to correctional centres close to their homes to foster family unity. However, due to separation, family unity is being threatened as female inmates are sometimes incarcerated far from their homes and communities against the provisions of the Bangkok Rule (Penal Reforms International, 2015). This has a significant impact on women's mental health and well-being, particularly, where they are the primary caregivers for children or other family members.

Female prisoners are often at risk of sexual abuse and harassment, particularly in situations where they are subjected to the supervision of male correctional officers (Curry, 2017; Obiejese, 2019). Sexual abuse and harassment of women in detention include spying on female inmates in their private accommodation, demand for sexual gratification in exchange for services, and sometimes rape. However, there exist few or frustrated reporting lines making reporting difficult while strengthening the perpetrator. Penal Reforms International (2015) reported that the few who dared to report these abuses frequently faced reprisals from male staff members and no response from the authorities.



Notably, when an individual is convicted of a crime and sentenced, their punishment should be limited to just imprisonment. It is important that their basic rights are not stripped away, and that all human rights are safeguarded according to the provisions of the law. The prisoner should only be punished with imprisonment after a fair trial in a court that operates with independence and impartiality (Rouhi, Dezaki & Karveh. 2016).

Rehabilitation or Human-Right Deprivation?

The issue of human rights violations, particularly those involving female convicts, is a grave and pressing concern in Nigeria's prisons. Women in prison frequently experience a wide range of violations there despite international human rights standards and agreements. The prevalence of sexual harassment and assault is among the most upsetting features. These horrible crimes having both prison officials and male inmates as perpetrators target female inmates in particular (Olugbenga-Bello et al 2013). These women are traumatised and wounded by the abuse they endure, which robs them of their basic human rights, safety, and dignity (Nwefoh et al, 2020). They also suffer in silence, reinforcing a cycle of victimisation, due to fear of retaliation or a lack of efficient channels for reporting such instances.

Similarly, inadequate access to necessary medical services, especially reproductive healthcare, represents a pervasive and multifaceted crisis within correctional facilities. Female prisoners frequently encounter major barriers to receiving appropriate medical care, leading to untreated health issues and a lack of reproductive care (Jeremiah et al, 2021), with many facilities failing to provide even basic preventive services or regular gynaecological examinations. The situation is particularly dire for reproductive healthcare, where limited access to menstrual products, substandard pregnancy care, and insufficient post-partum support create dangerous conditions for incarcerated women (Olugbenga-Bello et al, 2013).

These deficiencies are compounded by inadequate mental healthcare services, despite the high prevalence of trauma histories among female inmates requiring specialised psychological support (Aluko et al, 2021). In addition to endangering their physical and mental health, this systemic deprivation increases women's susceptibility to sexual exploitation and abuse (Olugbenga-Bello et al, 2013), as limited healthcare access can create power imbalances where basic medical needs become potential leverage points for coercion.



In addition, women in jail face structural issues that are gender-specific, such as inadequate hygienic conditions, restricted access to education and vocational training, and inadequate assistance for expectant mothers and moms-to-be (Olugbenga-Bello et al, 2019; Agbakwuru & Ibe-Godfrey, 2016). Furthermore, there is often restricted access to education and vocational training programs tailored to their needs, impeding their chances of rehabilitation and self-sufficiency upon release. These barriers, compounded by gender-based inequities within the criminal justice system, leave incarcerated women particularly vulnerable and marginalised, further diminishing their opportunities for positive reintegration into society (Tanimu, 2010; Akinyemi, 2019).

In conclusion, the conditions faced by women in Nigeria's correctional facilities are deeply troubling, marked by recurring human rights violations that obstruct their potential for dignity and rehabilitation. Many endure sexual abuse and harassment within the system, along with limited access to basic necessities like sanitary products, adequate nutrition, and safe living conditions. The lack of essential services, including education, vocational training, and mental health support, restricts their chances for personal growth, while inadequate medical care fails to address their specific health needs, particularly in maternal and reproductive care. Together, these issues perpetuate a cycle of victimisation, making genuine reform, rehabilitation and reintegration difficult for incarcerated women.

Conclusion

This paper interrogated the plights of women in detention in Nigeria's Correctional Centres. Notably, prison conditions particularly in Nigeria are quite demeaning for both men and women. However, due to the differential needs of both sexes, women face extreme levels of dehumanisation and human rights deprivation when incarcerated. Historically, Correctional Centres were built with men in mind, particularly because having women as social offenders was not common. However, there has been an increase in the number of women being kept in jail. However, due to the limited number of female-only correctional centres in Nigeria and the level of congestion of the centres, women hardly have access to fundamental amenities needed for rehabilitation.

Women due to their physiological makeup and reproductive role need access to safe and free sanitary products, adequate medical and health care systems – particularly in pregnancy as well as a safe space for their children while in prison if they desire to have their



children with them as provided by international laws. Similarly, female prisoners are unfavourably exposed to sexual harassment and abuse because of their seeming helplessness which often goes unreported and something unpunished (when reported).

These gender-specific needs of women gave rise to a need for government and relevant stakeholders in the correctional services to direct their attention towards adopting gender-sensitive approaches, particularly in policy planning and development. Addressing these challenges facing women in detention will go a long way in ensuring the Nigeria Correctional Service's aim of rehabilitation is achieved while also reducing recidivism.

To address these issues, it is therefore essential for Nigerian authorities to prioritise the human rights of women in correctional centres and invest in programs and resources that support their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This could include improving medical care and living conditions, expanding access to education and job training programs, and providing support for women upon their release from prison. Additionally, there should be increased awareness and attention paid to these issues by civil society organisations and the international community to put pressure on the Nigerian government to take action. Ultimately, it is important to recognise that rehabilitation and human rights are closely interconnected and that prioritising both is critical for improving the lives and living conditions of women in Nigerian correctional centres.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing, this paper, therefore, recommends the following:

Nigerian authorities need to prioritise the human rights of women in correctional centres. This can be done by ensuring that women in these facilities receive adequate medical care, have access to clean and safe living conditions, and are not subjected to physical or sexual abuse.

Nigerian authorities should invest in programs and resources that support the rehabilitation and reintegration of women into society. This could include providing access to education and job training programs, mental health support, and counselling services to help women address the underlying causes of their criminal behaviour.

Civil society organisations and the international community should raise awareness about the plight of women in Nigerian correctional centres through advocacy campaigns, social media campaigns, and public events to increase public pressure on the Nigerian government to take action.

Nigerian authorities and relevant stakeholders should provide support for women upon their release from prison, including access to housing, employment, and mental health services to reduce the likelihood of recidivism and ensure their successful reintegration into the society.

The government and relevant authorities should explore the possibility of establishing at least one woman-only correctional centre in every state of the federation;

The government should ensure compliance with the provisions of relevant national, regional, and international laws, treaties, and conventions that address the problems faced by women held in incarceration.

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