

College Guild
PO Box 696, Brunswick, Maine 04011

Challenges to Justice and Freedom

Unit 5 of 5

Captives and Freedom

This unit explores captives in the criminal justice system past and present and outcomes.

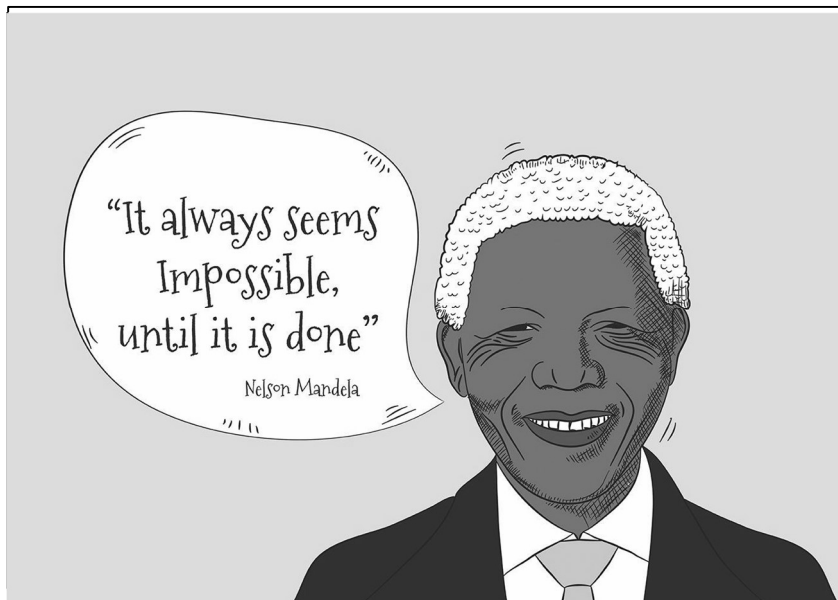
Glossary of Terms:

1. **Captivity**-being held captive is a state wherein humans or other animals are confined to a particular space and prevented from leaving or moving freely.
2. **Restorative Justice**-a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

PART 1: CAPTIVES

We have discussed different kinds of justice and freedom in this course, but now let's look at some situations that are a kind of captivity. Many incarcerated individuals have achieved great things while incarcerated, and others became huge successes after their release.

1. Match the following ex-prisoners with their occupation. *(answers at end of Unit)*



- _____ TV and Movie Actor
- _____ President of South Africa
- _____ Home and Cooking Personality
- _____ Professional Boxer
- _____ Country Singer
- _____ U.S. Civil Rights Leader
- _____ Author *Orange is the New Black*

Mandela, Nelson Rolihlahla (1918 – 2013), South African activist. He won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, and in 1994 became the first black president of South Africa.

He attended the University of Fort Hare in Alice. He was expelled in 1940 for participating in student demonstrations against apartheid (forced segregation of the races). Mandela finished his bachelor's degree by correspondence from the University of South Africa in 1942. He later studied law at the University of Witwatersrand, and became one of only two blacks to establish a law practice in South Africa upon completion of his degree.

Nelson Mandela became involved in the ANC, the African National Congress, a multi-racial group seeking to bring about democratic political change in South Africa. At first a peaceful group, after South African authorities killed 69 Blacks during protests at Sharpeville, the group abandoned the strategy of non-violence. After one acquittal, Mandela was finally sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country illegally and incitement of violence. While in prison on this charge, Mandela was tried for sabotage, treason, and violent conspiracy and given a life sentence. Despite being held in maximum security at Robben Island, Mandela managed to keep in touch with the anti-apartheid movement covertly. He was in prison for 28 years, from 1962 to 1990. Amid growing domestic and international pressure and fears of racial civil war, President of South Africa, F. W. de Klerk released him in 1990.

While in prison, Mandela wrote his autobiography which was smuggled out. In 1994 he completed the work, and it was published as *Long Walk to Freedom*. Mandela was then a symbol of resistance to apartheid and changes were in the offing.

In 1993 as South Africa faced enormous pressure from other countries, the president, F.W. de Klerk, lifted the ban on the ANC and began working with Mandela for change in South Africa. This endeavor resulted in de Klerk and Mandela winning the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. When South Africa held its first multi-racial elections in 1994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.

Mandela worked hard to calm the fears of whites and make the country fair and balanced for all citizens. The South African constitution was rewritten in 1996. It established a federal system with a strong central government based on majority rule. It also contains provisions guaranteeing the rights of minorities and the freedom of expression. Mandela retired in 1999.

Mandela was a controversial figure for much of his life. Although critics on the right denounced him as a communist terrorist and those on the far left deemed him too eager to negotiate and reconcile with apartheid's supporters, he gained international acclaim for his activism. Globally regarded as an icon of democracy and social justice, he received more than 250 honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize. He is held in deep respect within South Africa, where he is often referred to by his Thembu clan name, Madiba, and described as the "Father of the Nation".

2. Without going back to the text on the last page, answer the following questions about Nelson Mandela's life.

- a. Nelson Mandela was a prisoner in Mississippi. True or False?
- b. The practice of forced separation of the races in South Africa was called: outsidership or Apartheid?
- c. Mandela earned his bachelor's degree: on campus or by correspondence?
- d. Mandela was already in prison on another charge when he was tried and given a life sentence. True or False?
- e. Does ANC stand for: Angolan Nationalist's Club or African National Congress?
- f. Nelson Mandela practiced: medicine or law?
- g. Mandela wrote: children's stories or his autobiography?

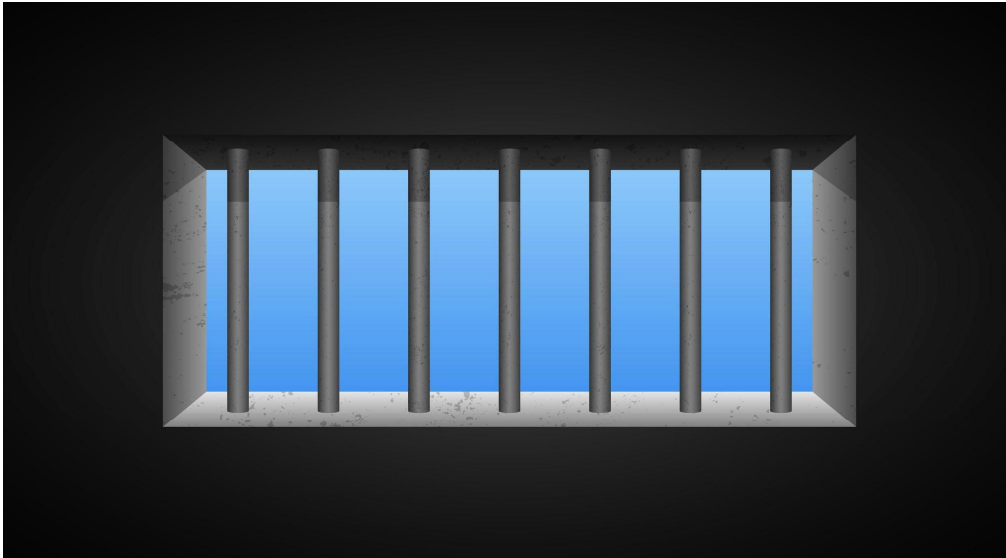
- h. Mandela won: the Van Cliburn Competition or the Nobel Peace Prize?
- i. Mandela was in prison for: 28 months or 28 years?
- j. Mandela took away all rights of whites when he took office. True or False?
(answers at the end of the Unit)

3. Write a story or poem about Mandela or any of the people listed in #1.

PART 2: INSIDE THE WALLS

Different captives throughout history have found different ways to survive their captivity and maintain their sanity. You must have wondered how you would ever live through your trial, the transition from jail to prison, your first few months as a resident and all the loss and change you have experienced..

Many incarcerated individuals live only to be free, but some say that prison has saved their lives, that they belong there. Others look at incarceration as "my life now" and don't focus much on outside events and people.



4. Of the following items listed below (and you can add others) have helped you survive imprisonment and how?

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| humor | education | educating the public |
| anger | helping others | living in your own world |
| religion/faith | creative expression. | writing family |

5. Which have not helped at all? Why?

6. Are you a person you like better now, or has prison brought out the worst in you?

7. What are things you can do “that matter” even though you are in prison?

PART 3: THE CRIME

When a crime is committed, many people are affected. This may include any or all of the following:

offender

victim

officer (police or correctional)

relative or friend of the victim

relative or friend of the offender

jury member

judge

witness

defense lawyer

prosecutor

someone “inconvenienced” by the crime

someone indirectly hurt by the crime

professional in social services, parole,

education, etc.

minister, rabbi, chaplain

8. Select any crime (misdemeanor, white collar, felony, murder) and explain how it affects any one of these people.



9. Write out a conversation or a letter/email that takes place between any two of these people.

10. If you were a crime victim, how would you deal with your anger and desire for revenge?

11. Could you eventually be able to forgive the criminal?

12. If you have a restorative justice or victim empathy programs in your prison, what is the effect on prisoners who have participated?

If “victim empathy” is not a familiar term, it involves having victims of crimes or family members of murder victims come into the prison and talk to prisoners. These people tell prisoners how the crime has affected their lives, what has been lost from their lives, and about the permanent damage left by the criminal.

Restorative Justice conferences or circles provide an opportunity for members of the community to come together to address harmful behavior in a process that explores the harms and needs done and a path to accountability and repair. These can be very emotional, provocative and even confrontational meetings.

Here is a different point of view:

“We know how the victims felt. We wanted them to feel that way!”

Calbraith Macleod (prisoner and author of the book Practical Reformation) believes that it is much more effective for victims to say to the offender,

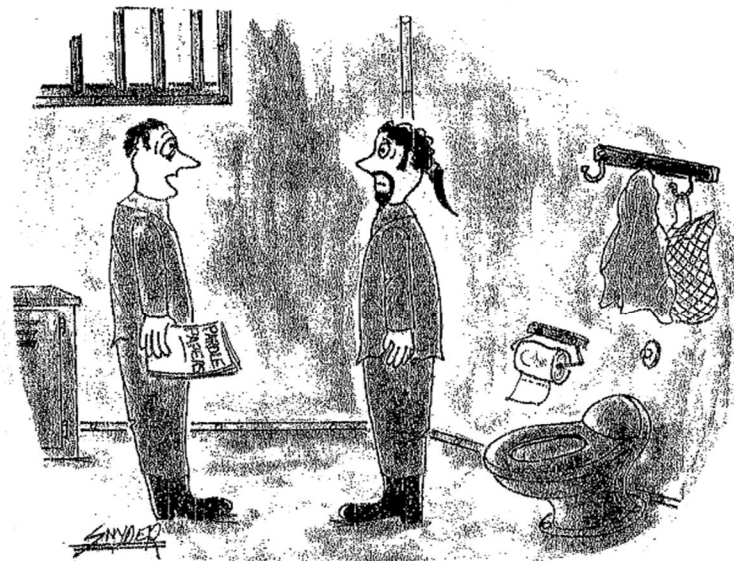
“You are too pathetic and unimportant to destroy my life. You have inflicted great damage, but I’m going to continue my life – you have no life at all! I’m not going to waste any more time on you.”

Macleod believes that this is much more likely to shake and shock the offender and force him to think about whether he is worth anything and if he wants to continue to be like this. He thinks that victim empathy can feed an offender’s arrogance.

13. What do you think of each of these approaches, and which do you believe would have the best chance for success?

14. Which one would have the biggest impact on you at sentencing? Explain.

PART 4: RELEASE



I came in here being 'America's Most Wanted,' and I'll be leaving America's least wanted.

Cartoonist Christian Snyder drew “America’s Most Wanted” as a statement about the relationship between communities and ex-cons.

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15. Tom gets out of prison after serving 10 years. What is your advice to him as he sits waiting for the bus to take him home? (He asked, knowing you are a College Guild student!)

16. Think about what you have done. If you were able to change it, how would you go about doing that?

What effects have your actions had on others?

What can you do to bring about a change in those effects?

Answers to match the first column to the second in Part 1: F, D, B, C, A, E, G

Answers to the quiz in Part 2: 1. False (South Africa) 2. Apartheid 3. Correspondence 4. True
5. African National Conference 6. Law 7. Autobiography 8. Nobel Peace Prize
9. 28 years 10. False

Self-Reflection Exercise

- 1) **What was the most interesting thing you learned about Captives and Freedom?**
- 2) **How do the lessons of Captives and Freedom apply to your own life?**

Since this is your final unit in the course, we’d appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have for improving it!

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes

APPENDIX A

Excerpts and poems appearing in this course are written by:

- John Yarbrough, *Billy Bubblegum’s Lawyer*
- Joe Burgeson, *No Passage*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Scott Antworth – on religious faith, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Scott Antworth – on family, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Blake Pirtle – on education / vocational training, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Vincent Johnson– *I Saw Inside a Poet’s Head*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Dennis Duchaine – on educating the public, excerpt from Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone
- Joe Burgeson – *Looking In Looking Out*, Frontiers of Justice, Vol 3: The Crime Zone