

From the Rabbi's Desk
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Stories with a Twist [304]

There Was No One to Take It...

Insights into Babylonian Talmud Bava Kamma 37a

With appreciation to Rabbi Uri Romano for bringing this story to my attention



Background to Our Story

Rav Huna

Rav Huna (Hebrew: רב הונא) was a Jewish Talmudist and Exilarch who lived in Babylonia, known as an amora of the second generation and head of the Academy of Sura; he was born about 216 (212 according to Gratz) and died in 296-297 (608 of the Seleucid era) or in 290.

Mishna Bava Kamma Chapter 8:1

החובל בחברו חייב עליו משום חמשה דברים, בנזק, בצער, ברפוי, בשבת, ובבשת. בנזק פיצד. סמא את עינו, קטע את ידו, שבר את רגלו, רואין אותו פאלו הוא עבד נמכר בשוק ושמין כמה היה יפה וכמה הוא יפה. צער, פואו בשפוד או במסמר, ואפלו על צפרנו, מקום שאינו עושה תבורה, אומדין כמה אדם פיוצא בזה רוצה לטל להיות מצטער כד. רפוי, הפהו חייב לרפאתו. עלו בו צמחים, אם מחמת המכה, חייב. שלא מחמת המכה, פטור. חיתה ונסתרה, חיתה ונסתרה, חייב לרפאתו. חיתה כל צרפה, אינו חייב לרפאתו. שבת, רואין אותו פאלו הוא שומר קשואין, שפבר נתן לו דמי ידו ודמי רגלו. בשת, הפל לפי המבייש והמתבייש. המבייש את הערם, המבייש את הסומא, והמבייש את הישן, חייב. וישן שבייש, פטור. נפל מן הגג, והזיק ובייש, חייב על הנזק ופטור על הבשת, ושנאמר (דברים כה) ושלחה ידה והחזיקה במבשיו, אינו חייב על הבשת עד שיהא מתפון:

One who injures another is liable to pay compensation for that injury due to five types of indemnity: He must pay for damage, for pain, for medical costs, for loss of livelihood, and for humiliation. How is payment for damage assessed? If one blinded another's eye, severed his hand, broke his leg, or caused any other injury, the court views the injured party as though he were a slave being sold in the slave market, and the court appraises how much he was worth before the injury and how much he is worth after the injury. The difference between these two sums is the amount that one must

pay for causing damage. How is payment for **pain** assessed? If **one burned** another **with a skewer [beshapud] or with a hot nail, or even** if one burned another **on his fingernail**, which is **a place where he does not cause a bruise** that would affect the victim's value on the slave market, the court **evaluates how much** money **a person with a similar** threshold for pain **as** the victim **is willing to take** in order to be made **to suffer in this way**. The one who burned the victim must then pay this amount. How is payment for **medical costs** assessed? If one **struck** another, then he is **liable to heal him** by paying for his medical costs. In a case where **growths**, e.g., blisters or rashes, **appeared on** the injured party, **if** the growths are **due to the blow**, the one who struck him is **liable**; if the growths are **not due to the blow**, the one who struck him is **exempt**. In a case where the wound **healed, and then reopened, and again healed, and then reopened**, the one who struck him remains **liable to heal** the injured party by paying for his medical costs, as it is apparent that the current wound resulted from the original injury. If the injury **healed fully**, the one who struck him **is not liable to heal him** by paying for any subsequent medical costs. How is payment for **loss of livelihood** assessed? The court **views** the injured party **as though he were a watchman of cucumbers**, and the one who caused him injury must compensate him based on that pay scale for the income that he lost during his convalescence. This indemnity does not take into account the value of the standard wages of the injured party **because** the one who caused him injury **already gave him compensation for his hand or compensation for his leg**, and that compensation took into account his professional skills. How is payment for **humiliation** assessed? **It all depends on** the stature of **the one who humiliates** the other **and the one who is humiliated**. **One who humiliates a naked person, or one who humiliates a blind person, or one who humiliates a sleeping person is liable, but a sleeping person who humiliates** another is **exempt**. If one **fell from the roof** onto another person, and thereby **caused** him **damage and humiliated** him, then the one who fell is **liable for the** indemnity of **damage**, since a person is always considered forewarned, **and exempt from the** indemnity of **humiliation, as it is stated: "and putting out her hand, she takes hold of his private parts"** (Deuteronomy 25:11); a person is not liable for humiliation **unless he intends** to humiliate the other person.

Mishna Bava Kamma Chapter 8:6

התוקע לתברו, נותן לו סלע. רבי יהודה אומר משום רבי יוסי הגלילי, מנה. סטרו, נותן לו מאתים זוז. לאחר זדו, נותן לו ארבע מאות זוז. צרם באזנו, תלש בשערו, רקק והגיע בו רקו, העביר טליתו ממנו, פרע ראש האשה בשוק, נותן ארבע מאות זוז. זה הפלל הפל לפי כבודו. אמר רבי עקיבא, אפילו עניים שבשׂראל, רואין אותם כאלו הם בני חורין שירדו מנכסיהם, שהם בני אברהם, יצחק ויעקב...

One who strikes another must give him a sela. Rabbi Yehuda says in the name of Rabbi Yosei HaGelili that he must give him **one hundred dinars**. If he **slapped** another on the cheek, he must **give him two hundred dinars**. If he slapped him on the cheek with **the back of his hand**, which is more degrading than a slap with the palm, he must **give him four hundred dinars**. If he **pulled his ear**, or **pulled out his hair**, or **spat** at him and his **spittle reached him**, or if he **removed** the other's **cloak from him**, or if he **uncovered the head of a woman in the marketplace**, in all of these cases, he must **give** the injured party **four hundred dinars**. **This is the principle** of assessing payment for humiliation caused to another: It is **all evaluated in accordance with the honor** of the one who was humiliated, as the Gemara will explain. **Rabbi Akiva said: Even** with regard to the **poor among the Jewish people, they are viewed as though they were freemen who lost their property** and were impoverished. And their humiliation is calculated according to this status, **as they are the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, and are all of prominent lineage....

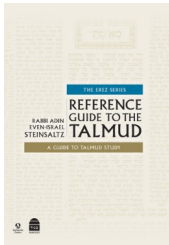
One Who Slaps Another (Halacha)



Koren Talmud Bavli, The Noe Edition. Bava Kamma Part I. Koren publishers Jerusalem. Page 233

If one slaps another, he is liable to pay him a fine of one *sela*, in accordance with the opinion of the first *tanna* in the mishna. The Rambam holds that this includes compensation for pain, humiliation, medical costs, and loss of livelihood. The Rema cites the *Tur* and the Rosh, both citing the Rif, who claim that this fine includes only compensation for humiliation and pain; medical costs and loss of livelihood are evaluated on a case-by-case basis (Rambam *Sefer Nezikin, Hilkhot Hovel UMazik* 3:3; *Shulhan Arukh, Hoshen Mishpat* 420:41-42).

Currency Systems in the Talmudic Period



Reference Guide to the Talmud, by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. 2004

The currency systems in the talmudic period are among the most complicated elements of weights and measures mentioned in the Talmud. In the natural course of life, legal tender passes from one country to another, so that there must be some correlation between the monetary systems of different countries. Moreover, Eretz Yisrael, which was an international crossroads, and to which contributions from Jews all over the world were sent, was full of diverse types of currency. Additional complications were created by the different monetary systems operating in various countries at various times, and the constant changes, for political and economic reasons, in the values of currencies, in the relative value of silver and gold coins, and in the relative value of those metals and copper coinage.

Furthermore, official exchange rates tended to be altered by the government through official and unofficial devaluations, and these changes help to account for inconsistencies in talmudic literature concerning the values of different units of currency. Yet another factor is that sometimes several different coins shared the same name, although their value was dependent on the system of coinage in use. Two different systems of coinage were used by the Jews: Tyrian money, largely equivalent to the coins mentioned in the Torah, according to which those values mentioned in the Torah were calculated, and Money of the state, which had units with the same names as those in Tyrian money, but whose value was exactly one-eighth of the corresponding coins in Tyrian money.

Most of the payments specified by the Mishna and the Talmud are calculated according to the *sela* of the state, reflecting the latter system. As with other measures, there was an across-the-board change of 20 percent in the larger coins during the Second Temple period.

A list of units of currency in ascending value follows, listed according to the value of each coin based on the rate of exchange in the Talmud. Not all of these coins were in simultaneous use. Some have other names. Many other types of currency, not listed here, are mentioned in the Talmud.

Common Large Coins

| | דינר Dinar | שקל Shekel | סלע Sela | דינר זהב Golden dinar | מנה Maneh | כיכר Kikkar |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| דינר Dinar | 1 | 1/2 | 1/4 | 1/25 | 1/100 | 1/6000 |
| שקל Shekel | 2 | 1 | 1/2 | 2/25 | 1/50 | 1/3000 |
| סלע Sela | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4/25 | 1/25 | 1/1500 |
| דינר זהב Golden dinar | 25 | 12 1/2 | 6 1/4 | 1 | 1/4 | 1/240 |
| מנה Maneh | 100 | 50 | 25 | 4 | 1 | 1/60 |
| כיכר Kikkar | 6000 | 3000 | 1500 | 240 | 60 | 1 |

Common Small Coins

| | פרוטה Perutah | איסר Isar | פונדיון Dupondium | מעה Ma'ah | אסתרא Istera | דינר Dinar |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| פרוטה Perutah | 1 | 1/8 | 1/16 | 1/32 | 1/96 | 1/192 |
| איסר Isar | 8 | 1 | 1/2 | 1/4 | 1/12 | 1/24 |
| פונדיון Dupondium | 16 | 2 | 1 | 1/2 | 1/6 | 1/12 |
| מעה Ma'ah | 32 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1/3 | 1/6 |
| אסתרא Istera | 96 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1/2 |
| דינר Dinar | 192 | 24 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 1 |

Dinar – Denarius (Zuz)



The denarius was the standard Roman silver coin from its introduction in the Second Punic War c. 211 BCE to the reign of Gordian III (CE238–244). In the Talmud, the Zuz and the dinar are used interchangeably.

Clipped Dinar



Koren Talmud Bavli, The Noe Edition. Bava Kamma Part I. Koren publishers Jerusalem. Page 235

This term refers to a coin whose form has become eroded or damaged, either as a result of being beaten, or simply due to prolonged use.

The Text: Babylonian Talmud Bava Kamma 37a

תָּנן בִּישָׂא תִקַּע לִיהּ לְהוּוּא גַבְרָא, אֲתָא לְקַמֵּיהּ דְּרַב הוּנָא, אָמַר לִיהּ: זִיל הֵב לִיהּ פְּלַגָּא דְּזוּזָא; הָוָה לִיהּ זוּזָא מְכָא, בְּעֵי לְמִיתְבָּה לִיהּ מִינַיָה פְּלַגָּא דְּזוּזָא, לָא הָוָה מִשְׁתַּקִּיל לִיהּ, תִּקַּע לִיהּ אַחֲרֵינָא וַיִּהְיֶיהָ גְּהֵלִיהּ.

Hanan the wicked slapped a certain man.

He then came before Rav Huna for judgment. Rav Huna said to him: Go give him a half-dinar, which is the fine imposed for such an act.

Hanan had a clipped dinar, and wanted to give him a half-dinar from it, but there was no one who wanted to take it from him to give him smaller coins for it.

Hanan gave him another slap, rendering himself liable to pay an additional fine of half a dinar, and gave him the clipped dinar as payment.



Explaining the Story - What is going on in our story? (Explain the sequence of events)

Comprehension and Analysis Questions

Bonus When do you think Hanan received the nickname “the wicked”?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Why did Hanan slap the man the first time?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

Why did Hanan come before Rav Huna for judgment?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Bonus Why wasn't anybody willing to take the dinar from Hanan to give him change?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Extra Bonus Why did Hanan slap the man a second time? Why didn't he give him the full dinar without slapping him?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

“The Twist” – Or the Lessons We Can Learn from These Texts

! The Brewing of Wickedness: When a Sinner is Met with Rejection.



Our story begins with Hânan slapping a man. While we don't know what caused Hânan to slap the man, we know that his action could be fixed with a fine. Hânan is ready to pay the fine but cannot find anybody to give him change. Is it because his coin is worn out or is it because people refuse to forgive Hânan for what he did?

What we do know from our story, is that everybody's rejection of Hânan -the lack of willingness to help him discharge his obligation and achieve atonement- has a very negative effect on him. Hânan fully embraces his wickedness by slapping the man a second time and rejecting a society that he feels, rejects him.

While Hânan the wicked is ultimately solely responsible for his wicked behavior, our story hints to the fact that societies can and do play an important role in the rehabilitation and integration of the outcasts, or in their further rejection and isolation.

Appendix

The Challenges of Prisoner Re-Entry into Society



<https://online.simmons.edu/blog/prisoner-reentry>

The Challenges of Prisoner Re-Entry into Society



<https://online.simmons.edu/blog/prisoner-reentry>

When prisoners in the United States are released, they face an environment that is challenging and actively deters them from becoming productive members of society. Within three years of release, 67.8 percent of ex-offenders are rearrested, and within five years, 76.6 percent are rearrested.^[1] With more than 2 million^[2] people incarcerated in the United States, recidivism harms both the families of inmates and society in general, as taxpayers continue to support a broken system that sets ex-offenders up to fail once they are released.

The Congressional Research Service defines recidivism as “the re-arrest, reconviction, or re-incarceration of an ex-offender within a given time frame.”^[3] Because of systemic legal and societal barriers, once ex-offenders are released, it is more difficult for them compared to the general populace to find gainful employment, secure a consistent source of housing, and generally function in society. Often viewed as sub-citizens, ex-offenders are perpetually punished for crimes. The causes of these restrictions are systemic and affect ex-offenders at all levels of society.

Interconnected Challenges Contributing to the Cycle of Recidivism

Before diving into where and how ex-offenders are affected, it is important to understand micro, mezzo, and macro levels of analysis. Put simply, micro level of analysis refers to individuals; mezzo level of analysis refers to families or small groups; and macro level of analysis refers to organizations, agencies, communities, and large groups of people, including nations. In almost any social change context, these levels are interconnected and affect one another.

Former prisoners face challenges at every level. These challenges come in many forms, but Ann Jacobs, director of the Prisoner Reentry Institute at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, succinctly summarizes them: [External](#). “A person’s successful re-entry into society can be viewed through how adequately they are able to meet six basic life needs: livelihood, residence, family, health, criminal justice compliance, and social connections.” Attaining each life need presents unique challenges, many of which are interconnected.

Micro Challenges

Livelihood

While data on post-incarceration employment in relation to recidivism is famously limited ^[4] it seems clear that it is much less likely for ex-inmates to find employment than a member of the general population. A 2002 study of more than 200 employers in the Milwaukee area found that formerly incarcerated candidates

with nearly identical professional experience as non-offenders were less than half as likely to receive job offers.^[5] According to the Bureau of Justice, only 12.5 percent^[6] of employers said they would accept an application from an ex-convict. Ironically, getting back to work decreases recidivism, but there are barriers for ex-convicts finding work.

Many prisoners have limited education and work experience, which makes it difficult for them to secure employment after they are released. According to several studies, “about 70 percent of offenders and ex-offenders are high school dropouts.”^[7] As a result of incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system, many former prisoners are viewed negatively by former employers or by individuals within their former professional networks, if they previously had one. The combination of a limited professional network and a conspicuous résumé gap can make it very difficult for ex-convicts to get an interview with a prospective employer.

According to the Urban Institute, around 75 percent of formerly incarcerated men have a history of substance abuse, and a significant percentage suffer from physical and mental health issues (i.e., 15 percent to 20 percent report emotional disorders). That limits their employability in that employers may not view them as “job ready.”^[8]

Many employers worry about being sued for damages resulting from “negligent hiring.” An employer can be held liable for exposing the public to a potentially dangerous individual, so many balk at the idea of hiring someone with a criminal record. In 72 percent of negligent hiring cases, employers have lost and faced an average settlement of \$1.6 million — powerful disincentive to hire potentially “risky” individuals.^[9]

Race is also a factor, particularly when combined with a history of incarceration. In the 2002 study of Milwaukee employers mentioned above, African-American offenders were two-thirds less likely to receive offers, and African-American non-offenders were half as likely as white non-offenders to receive an offer.^{[10] [11]} So African-Americans ex-offenders face a huge double-challenge: Even if they hadn’t committed a crime, racism significantly restricts their job opportunities; since they have committed a crime, they must somehow overcome the racism *and* convince the employer that their ex-con status does not make them a risky hire.

Fortunately for many former inmates, employer interest in an ex-offender rises when they find out that the crime was nonviolent or drug-related. So long as the individual remains drug-free and has gained relevant work experience (either inside or outside of prison), there is more employer interest in hiring.^[12]

Mezzo Challenges

Family

Studies have shown that prisoners who maintain consistent contact and connection with their families during their sentences have a lower recidivism rate than those who do not.^[13] Over half of incarcerated adults are parents of minor children, which means they may miss out on many of their children’s critical and formative years.

^[14] Unfortunately, there are obstacles to maintaining consistent contact with family, and challenges for ex-offenders once released.

A 1996 Maryland Department of Human Resources and Women's Prison Association report ^[15] listed the following seven major obstacles to parent-child visitation in prison, which unfortunately largely remain obstacles 20 years later:

1. Insufficient information about visiting procedures.
2. Proximity of prison facilities — incarcerated men are, on average, 100 miles away from their children; incarcerated women are, on average, 160 miles away from their children.^[16]
3. Family inability to afford transportation to the prison.
4. Difficulty scheduling visits.
5. Visiting procedures are humiliating or uncomfortable.
6. Visiting areas are inhospitable for children.
7. Foster parents are unwilling to aid in visits.

Phone calls and written communication to and from prisons are very expensive because of surcharges ^[17] from companies and/or the prisons themselves.

Once ex-offenders return home, they are dependent on family members and must overcome years of limited contact, potential resentment, and a change in the household dynamic. According to the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, just before release, 82 percent of ex-offenders thought it would be easy to renew family relationships; after returning home, over half reported it was more difficult than expected.^[18] Family members often assume a new financial and emotional burden when ex-offenders return home, having to support a dependent adult.

To ease reconnecting with family and lost years of parenting experience, some prisons have programs to improve parenting skills. Although there is evidence that such prison-based programs are effective and beneficial for prisoners and their families, participation in such programs has declined in recent years.^[19] It is not completely clear why, but a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study found many prisoners who couldn't get the other parent to co-participate were less likely to continue participation. That prompted some prisons to create new incentives for prisoner participation, including increased video chat privileges and gas coupons for spouses to encourage more visitation.

Society, Social Connections, and Expectations Upon Release

When ex-offenders are released from prison, they tend to find that their expectations for returning to normal life are not always realistic. This is especially true for prisoners who serve lengthy incarcerations because they are likely to face advances in technologies that are essential in new job markets and lack training that makes them viable candidates.

According to an Urban Institute study of Baltimore-area prisoners, offenders who re-enter the prison system tend to come from a concentrated set of communities, which have "above-average rates for unemployment, percent female-headed households, and percent of families living below the poverty level."^[20] Ex-offenders

face massive obstacles when searching for employment anywhere, so to return with this disadvantage to an area that likely has low job prospects increases the likelihood of unemployment.

The same Urban Institute study also found that 54 percent of prisoners about to be released thought that they would be able to rely on their own jobs for financial support, and 82 percent expected that their parole officers would help in their transition home. After release, 51 percent reported that they relied on their families to a much greater extent than expected, and only about half reported that their parole officers were helpful during their transitions.^[21]

According to the study, it is not clear why parole officers were not considered helpful post-release (they were often given high marks for professionalism and accuracy of shared information, but still not considered “useful”). The data suggests that many prisoners who received parole supervision did not expect it and may have entered the relationship with their parole officers with pre-engendered negative feelings toward them.

David Yeager, a social worker who works with older inmates who have served long sentences and have been out of society for an extended period, found ^[22] that the two biggest adjustment challenges are living with less structure and having fewer social contacts. Prison life is extremely structured, and prisoners with long sentences become accustomed to it, resulting in feelings of shock and deep distress by its absence in the outside world. While they may return to their home communities or families, their social networks may no longer exist or have changed. This means released inmates must rebuild or create new social networks. They also may need to learn new ways of living. One of the most unexpected adjustments can be learning new technologies that replaced traditional systems. For example, prisoners with medium- or long-term sentences may have never used a smartphone ^[23] or metro card ^[24] These may seem like minor adjustments to most of us since we experienced these changes gradually, but to learn them all at once, and to have them replace old routines, can be both difficult and disorienting.

Macro Challenges

Collateral Consequences

Collateral consequences are legal restrictions unrelated to the original crime that apply to ex-offenders after their release from prison. This includes things like a lack of access to food stamps and an inability to vote.

At the time of this writing, The American Bar Association’s National Inventory of the Collateral Consequences of Conviction ^[25] lists 47,442^[26] collateral consequences of incarceration. This statistic highlights the tens of thousands of legal restrictions imposed on ex-offenders that they didn’t face before their convictions. Some are explicit and permanent, such as an inability to apply for federal grants. Others are vaguely worded, and administrators often assume the strictest interpretation. For example, ex-offenders are not banned ^[27] from public housing, although housing administrators can use a criminal record as cause to reject a candidate. Many housing administrators incorrectly think that they are *required* to turn down

applicants with a criminal record, creating a widespread de facto ban on public housing. (For more of such myths, see the Reentry Councils Reentry Myth ^[28]).

Parole

While conditions of parole vary widely from state to state and depend on the original crime and the prisoner's behavior, there are some common conditions ^[29], including:

- Remaining within a prescribed geographic area
- Obtaining permission to change residence
- Maintaining employment
- Prohibition against possession of firearms
- Paying supervision fees
- Submitting to searches (of home, person, or vehicle) at any time by parole officers
- Not drinking alcohol or visiting bars
- Adherence to state or federal laws

In theory, parole gives offenders a chance to prove that they can re-enter society without serving their maximum sentences. Paradoxically, parole conditions can create extra, unintended readjustment challenges for ex-offenders. For example, one common collateral consequence is difficulty in re-obtaining ^[30] a driver's license. Many ex-offenders are not given a new driver's license simply because of their criminal record, but yet must drive to work, or drive to see their parole officers. They receive fines for driving without a license, which contributes to their debt and complicates their access to a license. Many such examples exist, with little or no evidence ^[31] that these restrictions deter crime.

What Can Be Done

Systemic Changes

Many of the challenges facing ex-offenders are systemic and require policy changes and a shift away from the attitude of some that punishment should continue after sentences have been served. "Ban the Box ^[32]" is a national campaign against continued punishment in hiring that calls for employers to remove the box on job applications that requires applicants to disclose criminal records. In a November 2015 speech ^[33] at Rutgers University, President Barack Obama called on the federal government to support the campaign:

"[The federal government] should not use criminal history to screen out applicants before we even look at their qualifications It is relevant to find out whether somebody has a criminal record. We're not suggesting ignore it. What we are suggesting is that when it comes to the application, give folks a chance to get through the door. Give them a chance to get in there so they can make their case."

Grassroots Changes

In addition to lobbying for policy changes, many nongovernmental organizations are leading grassroots efforts to help ex-offenders with recidivism. Programs like The Prison University Project help inmates earn college degrees while incarcerated. A 2013 National Criminal Justice Reference Service study found that when inmates complete degrees before re-entering society, recidivism rates substantially decrease.^[34]

The "Ride Home Program"^[35] in California employs ex-offenders to pick up inmates on the day of their release so they can get them home, but also help facilitate their transition to life on the outside. A new startup, Pigeon.ly, makes it significantly cheaper and easier^[36] for inmates to stay in contact with loved ones — an important part of decreasing the chances of returning to prison once released.

Conclusion

In the United States, after serving time in prison, ex-offenders are released with significant and ongoing economic and societal obstacles that often prevent them from thriving, thus indirectly pushing them back to crime, and back into the prison system. Many employers refuse to hire ex-cons, and systemic collateral consequences restrict tens of thousands of ex-offenders' legal rights, which essentially extends their punishment and inhibits their ability to function as normal citizens. While there are many organizations working to remove these obstacles, revisions in policy must occur before ex-offenders can have real opportunities that promote success and help to reduce recidivism. There are few systems in the United States that are more broken than the post-prison environment that ex-offenders face. With a major election this year, there is a perfect opportunity for social workers, advocates, politicians, and citizens to push for the necessary policy-level changes.

[1] James, Nathan. *Offender Reentry: Correctional Statistics, Reintegration into the Community, and Recidivism*. Rep. no. 7-5700. N.p., 12 Jan. 2015. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

[2] Criminal Justice Fact Sheet. (n.d.). Retrieved March 25, 2016, from <http://www.naacp.org/pages/criminal-justice-fact-sheet>

[3] James, 2016.

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