

# Victims' Experiences of Trauma and its Impact on the Reintegration of Repentant Terrorists in Nigeria: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

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## Introduction

Reintegration in conflict settings poses significant challenges. However, extensive focus is directed towards rehabilitating repentant combatants, with limited emphasis accorded the traumatic experience faced by the community members who are victims and its impact on reintegration.

### Overview of Boko Haram Conflict:

- Boko Haram has led to the death of 2040 people (IEP, 2020)
- Boko Haram is responsible for the displacement of over 2.3 million people in Nigeria (UNHCR, 2020).
- Conducts attack in Nigeria and neighbouring countries.



### Why the research:

- Previous research suggest the limited role of community in designing reintegration programmes (Felbab-Browne, 2018)
- Lack of emphasis on victims' trauma as a barrier to reintegration
- Hence the research question
  - What are victims' experiences of trauma and its perceived impact on the reintegration of repentant terrorists?



## Aims/Objectives

- To explore victims' experiences of trauma
- To inform the improvement of existing reintegration policies aimed at encouraging the reintegration of repentant terrorists.

## Methods: Qualitative Study

Location:	Instrument:	Epistemology & Analysis:	Sample:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maiduguri</li> <li>▪ Kaduna</li> <li>▪ Adamawa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A semi-structured interview scheduled (45-60 minutes each)</li> <li>▪ Short questionnaire for demographic information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interpretative Phenomenological analysis.</li> <li>▪ Interviews (Digitally recorded and professionally transcribed).</li> <li>▪ Nvivo11 (Used to organised codes and thematic features).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Purposive sampling: N=30</li> <li>▪ n=10 (Maiduguri)</li> <li>▪ n=10 (Kaduna)</li> <li>▪ N=10 (Adamawa)</li> <li>▪ Aged 18 – 65.</li> </ul>

## Preliminary Findings: Codes & Themes

"My experience with the ongoing insecurity and terrorism in the country is traumatic. How can we even talk about reintegration when we have not even healed from all the previous and ongoing atrocities committed by Boko Haram or even trust them again."

"P1

### Theme (i): Trauma and lack of trust limits reintegration

"All I see is the government taking care of Boko Haram members that cause the grief I am going through. How about me?" P3



"Reintegration only become possible when government involves the community and address the trauma I and the community experience because of Boko Haram"

P2

### Theme (ii): Victims neglect triggers trauma

### Theme (iii): Addressing trauma at communal level counts.

## Preliminary Conclusion

- Trauma appears essential in reintegration
- Giving equal attention to the victims and affected communities are encouraged
- Addressing trauma at individual and communal level could promote positive reintegration

## Future Research

- Design and culturally adapt a trauma-informed psychoeducation intervention to aid reintegration
- Conduct pilot trial to test the feasibility of the intervention
- Conduct full scale cluster randomised control trial

## Acknowledgment

- University of Jos Teaching Hospital Research Ethics

## Selected References

- Felbab-Brown, V. (2018), In Nigeria, We Don't Want Them Back": Amnesty, Defectors' Programmes, Leniency Measures, Informal Reconciliation, and Punitive Responses to Boko Haram. Tokyo: United Nations University, 1–6.
- IEP (Institute for Economics and Peace), (2020), Global Terrorism Index 2020: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism. Sydney.
- UNHCR (2020), Nigeria Emergency.