**Topic guide Punished Lives – version for two interviews.**

Ask participant at pre-interview meeting to create a life-line for the interview: identify the **major periods** in their life, (e.g. primary school, secondary school, apprenticeship, unemployed etc.), add the **major events** (e.g. parents’ divorce, marriage, children etc.) and their **sentences.**

If this has not happened before the interview, there might be time to do it at the end of the interview. Doing it at the start takes too much time.

Explain approach of life story interviewing. Interested in whole life, with a special focus on the experiences of many sentences.

Where would you like to begin the story of your life?

**Prompts Childhood**

What was going on in your family when you were born?

What is your earliest memory?

How would you describe your parents?

How would you describe your brothers/sisters?

How would you describe yourself as a child?

What was growing up in your house like? What about your neighbourhood?

What do you remember most about elementary school?

What is the most important thing that happened to you before you were twelve?

What did you want to be when you were young?

Who were your most important friends?

What are your best memories of secondary school? And the worst?

**Prompts Relationships**

What have been the most important relationships in your life?

How did you meet?

How would you describe them?

What is your relationship with them like now?

Do you have children?

What are they like?

What would you like to pass on to them?

**General prompts**

What have been the most important moments in your life?

When were you happiest?

What has been the hardest time in your life?

How would you describe yourself now? Is this different from how you saw yourself in the past?

**Future**

When you think about the future, what worries you the most?

What gives you hope?

Where do you think you’ll be in five years?

Where would you like to be in five years?

**Closure**

Is there anything we have left out?

Do you think you have given a fair picture of yourself?

How do you feel about the interview and what we talked about?

Construct life line at the end if there is time!

**Second interview**

Tell me about your first sentence? When did this happen? Why?

Prompts particular sentences:

* What do you think of when you think of that sentence (image/memory/smell/sound)?
* What happened before the sentence?
* What was sentence like?
* How did you feel about it?
* Any significant events or people?
* How did it relate/compare to previous sentences?
* What impact did it have?
* What happened afterwards?

Prompts sentences in general:

* What community sentences did you serve? Did you breach them? What would have helped you to complete them?
* Do any sentences stand out as particularly bad? Why? Ask questions above if necessary.
* Do any sentences stand out as particularly good? Why? Ask questions above if necessary.
* Impact of sentences on life outside and (where applicable) expectation of future sentences?

In case they are not answered by the participant spontaneously, questions more specific to the research focus, asked at the end of the interview might be:

* Looking back, what does it all mean to you?
* Why has it happened?
* What would have helped you to stop offending (sooner)?
* What do you think the purpose of your sentences was? Did you feel punished?
* Do you feel that any of your sentences gave you the opportunity to change? Did you feel supported in this?
* Did anything else along the way help you to change? Did anything stop you from changing?
* What have been the effects of your sentences?
* How important have your punishments been in your life story?