

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INSIDE

2026



AMADEUSZ

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Amadeusz acknowledges that we operate on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

AFRICAN ANCESTRAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Amadeusz acknowledges all Treaty peoples, including those who came here as settlers, as migrants either in this generation or in generations past, and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

APPRECIATION

This zine would not exist without the honest and powerful contributions of the participants. Thank you for trusting Amadeusz and for sharing your experiences of incarceration. To everyone who contributed, whether by sharing your story or providing support and resources, thank you for your commitment and generosity.

This project was funded by **Amadeusz**, in partnership with **York University**. The study was conducted and written by **Tina-Nadia Chambers**. Report design by **Joyce Chua**. Edited by **Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad**. This zine is sold as part of an ongoing fundraiser, with all proceeds invested into Amadeusz programs and services.

Someday the gates will open,
and once more I'll be free. A
fact that makes me wonder,

"What will become of me?"

JOHN

Why This Zine Was Created

A zine is a small, self-produced publication that blends writing and visuals. Historically, zines have created space for voices that are excluded from mainstream publishing. They are accessible, creative, and deeply personal forms of knowledge production.

This zine explores how incarceration shape's identity. It centers the voices of individuals who have lived inside carceral spaces and asks:

- How does incarceration influence how someone sees themselves?
- How does it reshape how the future is imagined?
- What happens to identity under constant surveillance and control?

Rather than speaking about people who have been incarcerated, this project creates space for them to speak for themselves. The creative works included are poetry, letters, visual art, and reflections which are both artistic expression and lived testimony. Together, they offer insights into how incarceration impacts individuals, families, and communities, and how identity is negotiated within and beyond incarceration.

This zine is for educators, social workers, youth workers, community members, policymakers, and anyone who believes in social change.

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INTRODUCTION

Operating since 2009, Amadeusz (www.amadeusz.ca) is a charity that supports young people aged 18 to 35 who are incarcerated or returning to community. Through access to education, mentorship, community programs, and exceptional care, Amadeusz works to create pathways toward stability and opportunity. They collaborate with government agencies, community organizations, and academic institutions to advance equitable access to education and community support for people held in remand (Amadeusz, 2026; Eizadirad et al., 2024).

In Canada, when someone is charged with an offence, they may remain in pre-trial custody referred to as remand until bail or trial. If sentenced to two years or more, they are held in federal custody (George et al., 2014). Remand includes individuals who have received a court-ordered temporary detention while awaiting further court proceedings. Importantly, individuals on remand have not been convicted and are legally presumed innocent. This distinction matters. Yet access to education and programming in remand facilities is often limited (Eizadirad & Chambers, 2023).

Since 2009, Amadeusz has used a rights-based approach to advocate for educational access for people in remand custody in Ontario through research and direct programming. This year, Amadeusz combined its research, awareness, and fundraising efforts into one project: this zine. This zine shares personal reflections from people who have experienced incarceration. It invites readers to sit with the realities of carceral life, to question the root causes of incarceration, and to reflect critically on how systemic change might be possible.

**Proceeds from the zine sale are reinvested directly into
Amadeusz programs and services.**

**Thank you for purchasing,
reading, witnessing, and
standing with us.**

To purchase a copy of this zine, please visit:

www.amadeusz.ca/reflectionsfromtheinside