Preface

A book about police brutality, racial profiling and discrimination in the criminal justice raises a number of questions such as:

- Why focus on police paradigm, juvenile justice, courts and correctional systems in the criminal justice system?
- Who may be interested in this kind of book anyway?

The answers to these questions were explored in the entire book. This book compiles chapters written by leading researchers, academic scholars and practitioners that looked at the sources and consequences of equality, fairness, court and prisons as well as the areas of offending. This book covers a wide array of topics that will enlighten the interested professional readers, academicians, students and researchers as well as the police, court and correctional officers. A cross-cultural appeal features authors from Brazil, Cyprus, Finland, Sweden and Nigerian as well as South Africa, and the United States of America, thereby offering international assessment of Police legitimacy, Victims and Court as well as the Correctional aspects of the Criminal Justice System.

Thus, judging by the current debates and discussion on police poor decision making that have resulted in public protests and demonstration of their dissatisfaction with regard to police and minority relations across the major cities in the USA, similar incidences has been observed in the media reporting in Europe and Middle Eastern states and across the world. This textbook is a first of its kind to focus elaborately on the very important theme and sub-themes on police brutality, racial profiling and discrimination in the criminal justice system. The creative choice approaches and researchers’ depth discussion of the various topical issues by the contributors transcended the local, national and international spheres of scholarship on policing, legitimacy, victims and court systems.

As expected, the contributors of the chapters that make up this book displayed deep and functional knowledge of the great foundations and current studies on police, legitimacy, discrimination, victims and prison. Thus, we see traces of understand-
ing, fairness, equality and police legitimacy, developing the trajectories of criminal justice, racial profiling, youth crime and victimology and criminological theories, media and prisons. The publication of the book is a clear demonstration of how scholars can help to build universities by displaying their intellectual repositories in accessible formats, books, e-books crafted to use by students, teachers and researchers from police, courts and the probation departments.

The book is written in an accessible way and divided into three main parts.

1. Understanding race and ethnicity, fairness, equality, and police legitimacy
2. Developing the trajectories of criminal justice, racial profiling, youth crime, and victimology
3. Criminology, theories of offending, media, and prisons

The chapters in the book cover topics that are of high interest to students in the field of Criminal justice, Sociology and Criminology as well as Law, Political Science. These include a cross-cultural perception; the legitimacy of the police, youth crime, media sensitization and victimisation as well as prisons are topics in the book within national and international perspectives with critical thinking and questions to encourage debates and discussions. This book is also an excellent supplementary textbook for courses in Law, Political Science and Racial studies.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 examines the debates about equal justice that is the tenet of every democratic state which often comes into question, especially when the people entrusted with the power to enforce law and order in pursuit of justice abuses such powers. The question is does the fact that police abuse often involve minorities suggest inequalities against a particular racial, class or ethnic groups? We have also seen a new move towards strengthening the bonds between police and community and empowering both groups to act effectively against community challenges. If this is the case, why are minorities distrustful of the police in societies? Are some of the questions explored in the introduction.

Chapter 2

Mistrust in the police can decrease citizens will to cooperate and report crimes, implying a risk of inefficiency in police’s ability to fight crime and uphold law and
order. Mistrust in the police can also be related to non-transparency, corruption, lack of democratic legitimacy in the police and state authorities in general. Citizens’ trust in and perception of the police has often been a highlighted subject in the media, in political debates and in research at least since the 1930s. Since the 1980s the research interest in the topic has increased. In the USA, where most research on the subject has been conducted, media reports on police misconduct is often related to race/ethnicity, for example the police violence against Rodney King and the following riots in Los Angeles in 1991 as well as more recent examples such as the shooting of Walter Scott in North Charlton 2015. As a consequence, race has also become the main focus in research, at least in the USA.

Chapter 3

Looked at research that have shown that minorities, particularly Blacks are six times more and Asian are twice likely to be stereotyped, suspected, stopped and searched, as well as arrested, cautioned. These groups are more likely to be prosecuted on weaker evidence when compared to Whites in many countries in Europe. Reasons adduced for this phenomenon has been minorities’ engagement with deviant and criminal behaviour, while neglecting the accumulated degrading treatment minority receive in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). However, in Finland, very little research has explored minority perceptions of police fairness in the country this paper is to fill this gap. The aim of the paper is to examine the experiences of 650 immigrants from Africa, Asia, and Eastern European Countries, Middle East, as well as Latin Americans perception of the legitimacy of the police in view of the fact that experiences can influence the perception of fairness in the CJS. Secondly, we will explore why minorities feel they are treated differently to increase our understanding of minority contact with the police. The participants with constant contact with the police tend to be more negative towards the CJS. Additionally, household identified with specific referent groups significantly see the CJS as being biased.

Chapter 4

Today, the majority of research has focused on legitimacy, while much less attention has been given to the sources of trust in the police. Limited attention has been also paid to the examination of legitimacy of the police services as viewed by those they serve, especially by the young people. Hence, the current study aims to add to this body of research in three ways. First, it examines the factors that influence peoples’ beliefs about the police and their intentions to cooperate or exhibit confidence. Second, this study constitutes one of the first empirical analyses that highlight the importance of examining the relationship between police authority and legitimacy in
Brazil. Aiming to understand the dynamics among those notions in relation to trust and obedience, the empirical part of the present study is conducted in the district of Jardim Ângela (Sao Paolo); once considered as the most violent urban region in the world. The final contribution lies in its focus on early adolescence as the particular age forms a crucial period in peoples’ legal socialization. The statistical analysis shows significant relationships between the frequency of obedience in laws and trust in the police, and dimensions of perceived legitimacy.

**Chapter 5**

The chapter examines police legitimacy in the context of peacetime transition states, South Africa and Zimbabwe in particular, and argue that the complexity of legitimacy cannot be axially viewed as ‘acceptance of the moral authority of a police force and its right to enforce laws and issue commands’ or ‘a belief that induces people to feel personally obligated to defer to authorities’. There are unconsidered complexities to police legitimacy that compel attention. The chapter makes three observations: police legitimacy is conferred, often by opposing congress of three factors - the people, state and the international community; the police are always trying to balance opposing factors, or play off one against the other(s) and police service has no total or permanent legitimacy. Based on these assumptions, a compelling question could be whether or not police in transition societies have legroom to exercise discrentional powers as they mediate between state and civilian populations?

**Chapter 6**

The importance of crime witnesses in policing and crime control cannot be over-emphasized. In Nigeria, a constant impediment in the effective operation of the criminal justice system machineries is the non-cooperation of crime witnesses with personnel of the Nigeria Police Force. Against this background, this paper examines causes and consequences of crime witnesses’ non-cooperation in police investigation in Nigeria. Rational choice theory was employed for its theoretical anchorage. A wide range of socio-cultural factors were identified as sustaining the traditional communication gap between the Police and crime witnesses that possess vital information which can aid their crime investigation. The Nigeria Police Force is urged to develop a holistic road-map through which the level of public confidence in its operation can be boosted.
Chapter 7

This chapter purports that there are sociological environments, interactions and theoretical reasons as to why some juveniles, as they develop and mature in life, transform from being law abiding juveniles into law breaking juvenile delinquents. Information is presented in this chapter regarding the various environments juveniles live through and what they experience from the people functioning within these environments. There is an examination of how the people, who are models working and living in these environments, influence and shape the behavior of the juveniles. Various theories are presented and discussed as well as the relevance of their value in explaining how observation, processing of information, learning of observed behavior and then replication of behavior with positive reinforcement all contribute to the transformation of a juvenile into a juvenile delinquent.

Chapter 8

Victims are the centre of the criminal justice system. Negative treatment by service provider discourages individuals from taking advantage of services offered to victims through organizations in their communities. The study of victims (victimology) is informative on the physical, psychological, and emotional effects crimes have on victims. Victim assistance programs and resources have substantially grown in an effort to improve protection to all and assist in pursuing proper justice for victims. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and Uniform Crime Report (UCR) are used to gather statistics to further victim research. High profile cases in the media have led to the criminal justice system being deemed biased. Statistics do not substantiate racial discrimination. There are instances of discrimination, but as a whole, the criminal justice system should not be viewed as discriminative. The focus should be on refining victim assistance programs and being creative in providing the proper resources victims need to receive the justice they deserve and the care they need.

Chapter 9

In this chapter, the authors discuss the current mass incarceration of Latinos/as in the United States. While Latinos/as have always been overrepresented in the criminal justice system, especially in relation to their population size, the number of Latinos/as, especially those who are undocumented, is now increasing at epidemic proportions in prison. Paralleling the Black experience about mass incarceration, which has its historical roots in slavery, the authors discuss impact of mass incarceration on the Latino/a community, and how mass incarceration places the Latino/a
population at-risk for destruction of its community, most notably the family. The authors, who are primarily mental health professionals, share their concerns about how mass incarceration is tearing at the foundation of this community as it has in the African American community and is likely to have negative long-term, and perhaps permanent, effects that are yet to be known. While it is beyond the scope of the chapter to discuss the specific assessment and treatment of Latino/a persons affected by mass incarceration, the authors do focus on problems that are arising in this community as a result of persons, especially parents, being incarceration because of undocumented status in the United States.

Chapter 10

All over the world moral issues surround gambling, which may be hailed as morally good or condemned as morally bad (even compared with theft and greed) and seen as sinful on religious grounds. There are motivations for gambling—the aim to win money, social interaction, escapism, relaxation, and amusement (which represents gamblers’ reference to their play as amusing, exciting, arousing and rewarding as an activity in itself)—which are far from crimes. Analysts suggest that among migrant populations one major contributing factor for gambling could be acculturation process in the society of settlement. Other factors include increased financial stability and higher levels of linguistic and social acculturation reflecting greater integration process into mainstream culture. Scholarship point to boredom, isolation and loneliness as well as other cultural factors which make people engage in gambling. Gambling scholarship identifies a number of gambler types—the recreational or social gambler, heavy, at-risk, compulsive, and problem or pathological gambler, which indicate the level of involvement with games and may not be issues for concern.

Chapter 11

The following chapter addresses disparities shared by minority racial populations in the United States regarding how the public’s perception of minority groups directly impact the outcome of the adjudication process in American criminal courts. Also addressed are key points in American history that have granted aid to the segregation, discrimination, and overall mistreatment of minorities; in addition, racial disparities caused by various media outlets and their portrayal of minorities in this country will be identified in order to explain the effect on officials in the justice system in relation to sentencing outcomes. Included will be quantitative and qualitative research and the resulting data on arrests and prison populations as it directly correlates with sentencing in both state and federal criminal courts. The goals of sentencing and sentencing guidelines of both state and federal criminal courts will be expounded upon in order to differentiate between the resulting objectives.
Chapter 12

The European countries are obliged to fulfil the provisions of the European Convention on human rights regarding the protection of the accused rights’ and ensuring the principle of fair trial. Nowadays, because of the economic crisis more people are affected by poverty and many immigrants enter Europe. Poor and immigrants who break the law cannot afford to pay for the services of a lawyer and for the most of them the states provide legal aid assistance. This chapter indicates that in order to safeguard the accused rights’ it is mandatory for the legal aid lawyer to defend the accused effectively, otherwise the protection is just formal and does not fulfil the substantive conventional obligation of the State for fair trial. It is proposed for the States to establish qualitative criteria for the legal aid lawyers. The voluntary character of the legal aid scheme imposes an imperative duty for the lawyers to ensure fair trial for the poor.

Chapter 13

The following chapter addresses both the presence and complexities that are associated to the reports of victimization within the media in direct correlation to the element of how racial disparities sensationalize certain incidents of crime. The terminology pertaining to news coverage is also identified and described in regards to the modality of planning in the report of the news; in addition, the perspectives of racial conflict is expounded upon to include the sociological influences, ecological effects, and the criminological theories that best describe the cyclical reactions of race-related bias in the media. The discussion explores previous literature centered upon racial bias in media coverage and the areas that appear to be sensationalized more so than not. The goals of news broadcasting and narrowcasting are delineated upon as well as correlating measures associated to the perception of unequal treatment and fear of crime.

Chapter 14

Underlines a latent function of incarceration is the impact that a prison sentence has on the family of prisoners. In the United States, with increasingly harsh sentences being served in prisons in remote locations, severe hardships fall upon inmates and their families. The present study explores the ways in which Finland has sought to reduce the negative impact of a prison sentence on both inmate and family members. The study is based on one year of participant observation in an “open prison” in Finland, and interviews and observations with inmates and their families. Two questions that guide this research are:
1. What problems arise due to the incarceration of a family member?
2. What strategies are employed to respond to these problems?

The aim of this book is to explore the debates and discussion about racism in the criminal justice system and how to address the broader structural inequalities that delineate the opportunity structure for crime. Unfairness, inequalities in education, employment, housing and health care forms the backdrop for the way in which race influences criminal justice. To be able to change the pattern of police brutality in the criminal justice, we also have to be alive to the broad patterns of inequality racial, gender and class based in which it’s situated and built for us to make progress in addressing the phenomenon of police brutality and racial profiling across the world. Moreover, addressing the ongoing police brutality in our criminal justice system will need to be relentless as we focus on discrimination on personal, institutional basis and the damage it has caused among minority member of the communities will require a broader efforts to reduce inequalities in our societies will require a necessary partnership between scholars and police department in building relations between those who suffer more from injustice in the criminal justice system across the world.