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September 2021

The Stories of Women Experiencing Homelessness Facing Child Separation: A Narrative Inquiry Study

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Citation of this paper:

Ariba, Olayinka O., "The Stories of Women Experiencing Homelessness Facing Child Separation: A Narrative Inquiry Study" (2021). *Inspiring Minds – Showcasing Western’s Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 136.

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Homelessness is recognized as the leading cause of family separation, including mother-child separation in Nigeria. Mother-child separation – another obstacle to exiting homelessness, has been identified as a significant barrier to exiting homelessness and a source of grief to mothers facing homelessness. While a gap in understanding the experience of homeless women and the impact of child separation exists in Sub-Saharan Africa, no studies have directly examined the processes through which separations occur in families experiencing homelessness in Nigeria. It is unknown how child separation does or does not impact homeless experiences for mothers in Nigeria. Through a critical feminist lens, a narrative inquiry research methodology will be used to explore the stories of women experiencing homelessness facing child separation and understand how these women cope with child separation.