



PRESS STATEMENT

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Make Justice Work launches National Enquiry on alternatives to short term prison sentences

~Community or Custody: Which works best? Inaugural session of the Enquiry launches in Manchester on Friday~

In light of the Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke's recent speech on criminal justice reform, Make Justice Work is today launching a national enquiry to inform policy thinking on the most cost-effective alternatives to custody for low level offenders.

The enquiry will spend six months investigating the relative effectiveness and cost of robust community alternatives in comparison to short term (under six months) for lower level offenders. It will report on its findings in Spring 2011.

The panel is chaired by **Peter Osborne**, author, broadcaster and political commentator and panel members are **Sir Ian Blair**, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; **Roma Hooper**, Director of Make Justice Work; **Paul McDowell**, Chief Executive of Nacro; **Owen Sharp**, Acting Chief Executive of Victims Support; and **John Thornhill**, Chair of the Magistrates' Association.

Commenting on the launch of this enquiry, **Roma Hooper**, Director of Make Justice Work, said:

"I am delighted to have such a distinguished group of experts working with me on this important initiative. I firmly believe that the results of our enquiry will prove to government that they can confidently cut prison numbers, cut crime and cut spending through sensible alternatives to custody."

"We intend to identify the key ingredients for success in order to make Britain's criminal justice system actually work to reduce low level crime."

Notes to editors:

For further information or interviews with Roma Hooper, please call:

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About Make Justice Work and the National Enquiry

Terms of reference: To investigate the efficacy and cost of robust community based alternatives in comparison to short-term (under 12 months) prison sentences for low-level offenders

Panel:

- *Peter Osborne, Broadcaster and Political Commentator (Chair)*
- *Lord Blair, former Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police*
- *Roma Hooper, Founder and Director of Make Justice Work*
- *Paul McDowell, Chief Executive of Nacro*
- *Owen Sharp, Victim Support*
- *Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the RSA*
- *John Thornhill, Chair of the Magistrates' Association*

About the National Enquiry

www.communityorcustody.com

About Make Justice Work:

Make Justice Work campaigns to raise awareness of the costliness and ineffectiveness of locking up low-level offenders. It aims to raise awareness of more cost-effective alternatives to short-term custodial sentences. Ambassadors of the Make Justice Work campaign include Lord David Ramsbotham GCB CBE, Former Chief Inspector of Prisons; Rt. Hon. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Former Senior Law Lord and Former Lord Chief Justice and The Rt. Rev. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool and Bishop for Prisons, among others. Please see a full list of ambassadors below.

About Make Justice Work

www.makejusticework.org.uk

Make Justice Work Ambassadors are:

Alex Proud, Founder and CEO, Proud Galleries

Amir Khan, Boxer

Andrew Coyle, Professor of Prison Studies, School of Law, King's College London

Andrew Phillips, Solicitor

Andy Keen-Downs, CEO, Prison Advice and Care Trust

Angela Camber, JP Chair, The Griffins Society

Annabel Harris, Former Executive Director, Reprieve

Ashley Walters, Actor and musician

Baroness Neuberger, House of Lords

Baroness Linklater, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Baroness Anne Gibson, House of Lords

Barry Loveday Crimonologist, Institute of Criminal Justice Studies

Basia Spalek, Criminologist Birmingham University

Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet

Bob Turney, Writer and probation officer

Carol Hedderman, Professor of Criminology, University of Leicester

Cathy Eastburn, Founder and Director, Good Vibrations

Charles Fraser, Chief Executive, St Mungo's

Claudia Webbe, Vice chair, Trident Independent Advisory Group

Clive Hopwood, Director, Writers in Prison Network

Danny Kushlick, Founder and Head of Policy, Transform Drug Policy Foundation

David Ahern, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Trust

David Downes, LSE

David Howarth MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Solicitor General

Debbie Scott CEO, Tomorrow's People

Deborah Cowley, Director, Action for Prisoners' Families

Dr Chris Fox, Principal Lecturer in Criminology, Manchester Metropolitan University

Dr David Scott, Criminologist, Department of Education and Social Sciences / Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Central Lancashire
Dr Laura Piacentini, Criminologist, Strathclyde University
Eilís Lawlor, Head of Valuing What Matters, New Economics Foundation
Fay Selvan, Chief Executive, The Big Life group
Frances Cairncross, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford University and former managing editor, the Economist
Gary Lashko, Chief Executive, Carr-Gomm
Geoff Mulgan, Director, Young Foundation
Gordon Roddick, Social activist and social entrepreneur
Henry Tinsley, Former chairman, Green & Blacks
Howard Williamson, Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of Glamorgan
Humfrey Malins MP, House of Commons
Ian Loader, Oxford University
James Scudamore, Novelist
Jessica Asato, Acting Director, Progress
John Austin MP, House of Commons
John Samuels QC, Chairman, Prisoners' Education Trust
John Leech MP, House of Commons
Jon Collins, Campaign Director, Criminal Justice Alliance
Jonathan Heawood, Director, English PEN
Jonathan Myerson, Novelist, playwright, screenwriter and magistrate
Joy Doal, Anawim Project
Joyce Moseley, Chief Executive, Catch22
Katherine Rake, Director, The Fawcett Society
Kevin McGrath,
Keith Palmer, Director, The Comedy School
Leslie Morphy, Chief Executive, Crisis
Linda Jack, Youth Advisor, FSA
Lord Dubs, House of Lords
Lord Ramsbotham, Former Chief Inspector of Prisons – 1995-2001
Lord Woolf, Former Lord Chief Justice – 2000-2005
Lord Hastings, House of Lords/KPMG
Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Former Lord Chief Justice
Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, Barrister
Lord Thomas of Gresford, Shadow Attorney General
Marion Janner Bright Place
Martha Lane Fox, Entrepreneur
Martin Barnes, Chief Executive, DrugScope
Michael May, Chief Executive, Blue Sky
Mick Ryan, University of Greenwich
Neil Wragg, Chief Executive, Youth at Risk
Pat Jones, Director, Prisoners' Education Trust
Paul Rock, Professor of Social Institutions, Department of Sociology
Peter Francis, Lecturer in Criminology
Peter Sandford, Writer and Chair, Lord Longford Trust
Peter Tatchell, Human rights campaigner
Peter Woolf, Forgiveness Project
Polly Toynbee Columnist, The Guardian
Professor Ben Bowling, Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Professor David S. Wall, Criminologist, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds
Professor Kevin Stenson, Criminologist, University of Kent
Professor Lawrence Sherman, Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge
Professor Rod Morgan, Former Head, Youth Justice Board
Rachel Billington, Author

Rev Nims Obunge, Chief Executive, The Peace Alliance
Revd Paul Cowley, Executive Director of Alpha for Prisons, Caring for Ex-Offenders and Alpha for Forces
Rob Owen, Director, St Giles Trust
Roger Graef, Film producer
Rowenna Davis, Journalist
Rupa Huq, Sociologist
Saul Hewish, Co-director of Rideout
Simon Fanshawe, Broadcaster, writer and comedian
Simon Hughes MP, House of Commons
Simon Woodroffe, Entrepreneur
Sir Charles Pollard, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police 1991-2001
Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, Leading barrister and campaigner
Stephen Bubb CEO, ACEVO
Stephen Howard, Chief Executive, Business in the Community
Suzanne Sibillin, Director, Women In Prison
Tim Desmond, NCCL Galleries of Justice
Tim Robertson, Chief Executive, The Koestler Trust
Tim Smit, Co-Founder and Chief Executive, The Eden Project
Trevor Philpott, Co-Founder and Director, Life Change UK
Uanu Seshmi, Founder & Director, From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation
Will Higham, Public Affairs Manager, Intellect and former
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Columnist, Independent

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