

## MJW October Newsletter



Last week at the Conservative Party Conference, the new Secretary of State for Justice, the Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP, laid out his plans for prisons and community sentencing ([read the speech here](#)). He called for 'tougher sentences' with a punitive element included in every community sentence.

Following the suspension of the two planned Payment by Results community sentencing pilots, there are rumours that the Government may now attempt to roll out this radical new delivery system without prior testing. In the light of our recent report – '[Just Results](#)'- we would view this prospect with grave misgivings

Our recent research with Victim Support shows that victims of lower level crime see both punishment and rehabilitation as key functions of a community sentence that must be included to reduce reoffending. MJW will continue to campaign to improve public and governmental awareness of the rehabilitative benefits of community sentences versus short-term prison sentences.

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### Out in the Open

On 17 September MJW and Victim Support launched a joint report '[Out in the Open: What victims really think about community sentencing](#)'.

The key findings were that victims, whilst broadly open to the use of community sentences, wanted reassurance about their effectiveness in practice. Action is needed to improve victims' awareness and understanding of community sentences and to give victims a voice in

### MJW in the News

Outside the Comfort Zone - Total Politics August 2012

The Effectiveness of Community Sentences and the Roll of Police and Crime Commissioners - [Top of the Cops 04/09/2012](#)

Victims Support Community Sentences - [Media Trust 17/09/2012](#)

Victim Support Show Victims of Crime Support Community Sentences - [Charity Times 17/09/2012](#)

Roma Hooper comments on female offenders and payment by results - [The Independent 21/09/2012](#)

Roma Hooper on BBC Radio London Drive Time - [BBC Radio London Drive Time 25/09/2012](#)

Robert Francis, the Texan judge closing America's jails - [The Observer 30/09/2012](#)

Out in the Open: What do victims think about Community Sentences - [Inside Time 09/10/2012](#)

Roma Hooper on LBC - [Listen Again LBC 09/10/2012](#)

### MJW Videos

#### Perspectives - Prison and short term sentences

The first short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their experience of prison and short term sentences.

community sentences.

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## Party Conferences

MJW jointly hosted round table events with Victim Support at three of the main party conferences over the last month, to discuss our report. Among those who took part were MPs, Shadow Ministers, Peers, Police and Crime Commissioner candidates and representatives from across the criminal justice sector.

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## The New Ministry of Justice Team

We had a constructive meeting during the Conservative Party Conference with Jeremy Wright MP, the new Minister for Prisons and Rehabilitation, and we look forward to working with him.

Lib Dem Justice Minister, Lord McNally, remains in his post and MJW are meeting him later this month to discuss the 'Out in the Open' report.

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## 'Right on Crime'

MJW recently enabled journalist Ian Birrell to travel to the United States to investigate the ['Right on Crime'](#) movement, which originated in Texas and is now spreading across America.

Some key US conservatives have declared prison a failure, that is expensive and has few - if any - positive outcomes for lower level, repeat offenders.

The article, ([The Observer 30/09/2012](#)) recently published in The Observer, revealed that investing in rehabilitation (which costs less than prison), effective sentencing and support for offenders has had a dramatic effect on reoffending rates in Texas and has even led to the closure of prisons in some states.

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## Perspectives - Alternatives; effective sanctions delivered in the community

The second short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their rehabilitation and the effectiveness of peer mentoring schemes.



## Future - Making the right change

The third and final short film from Make Justice Work and Tall Wall Media's 'Perspectives' series. This film talks to previous offenders about their future plans and how a community sentence helped to turn their lives around.



## Supporting other

## MJW Written Evidence to the Justice Select Committee Inquiry on Women Offenders

Last month MJW submitted written evidence to the Justice Select Committee Inquiry on women offenders. We remain deeply disappointed by the lack of progress in reducing the number of women in custody and recommend that there should be a greater use of intensive community punishments for lower-level female offenders. Steps must also be taken to increase awareness amongst the judiciary of the special needs of female offenders. At the same time, the government must put safeguards in place to ensure that the needs of women offenders are not brushed aside following the adoption of Payment by Results in community sentencing.

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## Social Media

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Go to our [Youtube Channel](#)  
Read the latest blog on the [MJW blog page](#)  
Visit our website [www.makejusticework.org.uk](http://www.makejusticework.org.uk)

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or any of MJW's work please email [info@makejusticework.org.uk](mailto:info@makejusticework.org.uk)

## Organisations

MJW have just launched a new section of our website about [Police and Crime Commissioners \(PCCs\)](#). We have added some useful reports from [Revolving Doors](#), [Howard League](#) and the [Five Pledges to Victims and Witnesses from Victim Support](#) so do take a look.

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**Our mailing address is:**  
26a Ganton Street, London, W1F 7QZ.

Contact us  
at [info@makejusticework.org.uk](mailto:info@makejusticework.org.uk)

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