

# UNGRIPP

Newsletter July 2022 - December 2022

As we head into 2023, UNGRIPP wanted to share the events of the past five months regarding the IPP sentence, and some of the things that are planned for the coming year.

We would like to begin by thanking everyone who has trusted, supported and joined us on this campaign journey that began for UNGRIPP in October 2020. We hope that as a collective we can continue to bring the injustice of the IPP sentence to the forefront of people's minds, to have it continually discussed in the political arena, and to add pressure where it is needed in the hope that change will eventually happen and to ensure that those affected by IPP are never forgotten.

## *A round up of July - December 2022*



### **ACTION**

**The Justice Select Committee IPP Inquiry** report was released on September 28th 2022. The Justice Select Committee shared the full report with those who had requested it. UNGRIPP shared an overview of the findings. Please get in touch if you would like a full copy of the report or an overview. The report's main recommendation was a resentencing exercise for everybody serving an IPP, planned and overseen by an independent expert group. It also made 22 other recommendations, including reducing the point that someone can apply to have their IPP licence lifted from ten years post-release to five. The other recommendations were changes to procedure and support, particularly around recall and mental health, and an acknowledgement by the system that the sentence is harmful.

**The Government has delayed their response to the Justice Select Committee's recommendations twice.** It is now delayed until the New Year. While we do not know what the response will include, during a recent meeting with the committee the Justice Minister, Dominic Raab did not appear to be in favour of resentencing. Although this is not the official response, we are extremely disappointed by what was implied, and also by the delay. But we will continue to keep the pressure up, and we will share any updates as soon as we have them.

We want to emphasise to everyone that while resentencing may not happen, the inquiry has pushed it from a "fringe view" to one with a huge amount of support from people affected by the sentence, families, professionals and organisations, as well as many more MPs. Regardless of the result, we are in a stronger position than we ever were, and UNGRIPP, alongside others will use this to keep on building the push for change.

**MP Drop in.** On the 15th of November UNGRIPP held a parliamentary drop in session for MPs to find out more about the IPP sentence, to meet people who have been affected by it and to become better informed. Twenty MPs attended. Many said they had come because a constituent affected by the IPP had written to them, so please help us keep up the pressure by engaging with your MP.



### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

#### **Ten years since the IPP sentence was abolished**

The 3rd of December 2022 marked 10 years since the IPP sentence was abolished. It is a day that should never have arrived. In order to ensure that this date does not go unnoticed, we have begun a series of events that we hope will run throughout 2023. On the eve of the 3rd, a new legal challenge was launched, which you can read about below. The date was also marked through various news outlets sharing stories, including portrait pictures of people affected by the IPP. We have been actively sharing information about the sentence across our media outlets and will continue to do this throughout 2023. We also hope to have an exhibition of poems, letters, artwork and photographs of those who have been affected by the sentence, at some point in 2023.

**Legal Challenge.** On the 2nd of December, UNGRIPP supported the launch of a fresh legal challenge to the IPP sentence. The challenge takes the form of an application to the Justice Secretary, asking for the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to be applied to three people serving an IPP, and is essentially asking for a Conditional Pardon: to change their sentences to a lesser punishment. This is a rarely used but legally viable method of overturning or reducing a sentence.

**EDM 591:** On the 15th of November MP Kim Johnson tabled an Early Day Motion (a call for a parliamentary debate) calling for the government to accept the Justice Select Committee recommendations in full, including a resentencing exercise. Thirty MPs have signed it so far.

**Support Directory** UNGRIPP are continuing to work on a directory of support organisations based in the community for those affected by the IPP. Our hope is that contact can be made with some of these organisations prior to release to support transition and resettlement.

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### **CONTACT**

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## MEDIA WATCH FOR July - December 2022

### ITV News

- [Hopes for Bury man serving indefinite jail term after calls for re-sentencing programme](#)
- [Select Committee publishes findings from IPP inquiry](#)

### Canary

- [A trans prisoner took his own life. His loved ones say the prison service is responsible.](#)
- [No relief on the horizon for victims of cruel indefinite prison sentences](#)

### 5 News

- [Calls to re-sentence 3,000 inmates trapped under indefinite jail terms](#)

### The Justice Gap

- [Campaigners call for immediate release of IPP prisoners](#)
- [Inquest begins into death of 'high risk' IPP sentenced prisoner](#)

### Halesowen News

- [MPs call for an overhaul of IPP jail sentences](#)

### The Independent

- [MPs call for an overhaul of IPP jail sentences](#)

### A Lawyer Writes

- [The law of unintended consequences](#)

### LCBN TV UK

- [Life in Focus - "Knife Crime Through The Eyes of The Judges"](#)

### Radio 4

- [Secrecy in the Court of Protection?](#)

### Islington Tribune

- [Plea to MPs: Don't throw away the key](#)

### Insidetime

- [Government set to reject IPP resentencing call](#)
- [Hundreds of IPP prisoners at local jails](#)
- [Only one in 35 prisoners joins an accredited programme](#)
- [IPP protesters to march in support of MPs' report](#)
- [Decision day for IPPs](#)
- [Into the hot seat](#)
- [Offender management isn't working, say inspectors](#)

### Open Democracy

- [Hundreds have spent 15 years in jail under abolished indefinite sentences](#)

### Police Oracle

- [MPs call for the end of the IPP sentence](#)

### Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

- [Call for the release of IPP prisoners "without delay"](#)

### Prison Reform Trust

- [Parole changes keep coming](#)

### News Week

- ['I Spent a Decade Working Inside Prisons. One Inmate Made Me Quit'](#)

### Lancs Live

- ['Model prisoner' found dead at Leyland prison after being refused parole](#)

### Bury Times

- [Bury man may be released after IPP sentences deemed 'flawed'](#)

### Guardian

- [Call to re-sentence 3,000 prisoners trapped under indefinite jail terms](#)
- [Dominic Raab urged to release prisoners jailed under abolished IPP scheme](#)

## OTHER UPDATES

- IPP Committee in Action Campaign group held their second march on the 19th of October. They walked from the Ministry of Justice to the Houses of Parliament before heading to Downing Street.
- From 21st of July individual witnesses from the Ministry of Justice were no longer allowed to make a recommendation to the Parole Board that somebody a) stays in closed conditions b) is moved to open conditions or c) is released. These witnesses are anybody who is employed by the Ministry of Justice. They will still be required to submit evidence at the hearing. This change is currently subject to a legal challenge.
- From the 21st of July the Secretary of State must approve any Parole Board decision for open conditions. This change is having a huge impact on progression for many people who have been recommended to go to Cat D by the Parole Board. Some of the prison reform organisations are working on challenging this change.

## GET INVOLVED

- **Support Directory:** Please share any organisations that have helped you and we will add them to the directory.
- **10 Years since the IPP was abolished:** UNGRIPP is beginning to plan an exhibition where we will share artwork, poems, letters and photographs that have been shared with us by people affected by the IPP. Please consider submitting something. Send it to: UNGRIPP, 2 Langley Lane, London, SW8 1GB (submissions cannot be returned).