

UNGRIPP

Newsletter February 2025 - July 2025

As we begin 2025, UNGRIPP wanted to share the events of the past four months regarding the IPP sentence, and highlight some of the things that are planned for later in the year.

We must thank everyone who has trusted us, supported us and joined this campaign. We hope that as a collective we can continue to bring the injustice of the IPP sentence to the forefront of people's minds. We will continue to press for change in the political arena, and to ensure that those affected by IPP are never forgotten.

A round up of February 2025 - July 2025



UPDATE

Parliamentary events

IPP continues to regularly be raised in the House of Lords and the House of Commons through debates and questions. There were longer debates about IPP in the House of Lords on the 24th February, 24th March and 4th July. These were linked to Lord Woodley's Private Members Bill on IPP sentences. IPP has also been raised a number of times in meetings held by the Justice Select Committee.

Victims and Prisoners Act IPP Changes

On the 1st February the second phase of changes to the IPP licence conditions and RARR began. We shared a guide of these changes with our previous newsletter. Please get in touch if you would like a copy.

Events

On the week of July 28th families came together outside Teesside Crown Court to support Joe Outlaw who is serving an IPP sentence.

In Justice IPP: A new campaign group held a protest outside the Houses of Parliament on 18th July. They are planning to hold another protest outside the Houses of Parliament on the 22nd October at 11am.

In March UNGRIPP hosted an online event with the Arukah project, to offer support for those affected by IPP.

In April the Lung Theatre, in collaboration with the Woodhill Families Group, hosted an afternoon of arts for those affected by IPP sentences

CCRC

On the 1st of August the CCRC launched a new project to reexamine IPP/DPP sentences that have previously been appealed but had a negative outcome. We would encourage people to get in touch with them to ensure their case is reexamined. The address to write to is: CCRC, 23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham, B2 4BH

Reports

In June UNGRIPP submitted a report to the Law Commission consultation on appeals. Our main request was that all people on an IPP sentence should have their IPP automatically appealed and that those who were sentenced pre-2008 were judged in the same way as those sentenced post 2008 in terms of the appeal test.

In June, the Howard League published a report that put forward alternatives to resentencing. The Government is yet to respond to this report. We hope that the Government will seriously consider these alternatives.

In March the IMB shared a report highlighting the issues people face on IPP sentences.

In April, The Times Crime and Justice Commission published its report and acknowledged the injustice of IPP sentences.

On 17th July the Government released the updated IPP Action Plan. We are in the process of critiquing the action plan and we will share our critique once it is complete.

UNGRIPP's NEXT STEPS

On the 29th September, UNGRIPP will be relaunching the IPP exhibition that we held in Parliament in 2023. We plan to do this at a venue close to the Labour Conference and will be asking MPs to come along to see how badly the IPP is still affecting people. If you would like to submit a piece of art or a poem to the exhibition, please send it to: UNGRIPP, Hawthorn House, Hawthorn Road, Lache, Chester, CH4 8HX
Art and poems cannot be returned. We also need you and your family to ask your MP to attend.

On the 30th September at 11am, UNGRIPP will be holding a panel event in the Labour conference about IPP sentences. We hope to have Inquest chair the event and the panel will include: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe (previously imprisoned indefinitely in Iran), Akiko Hart CEO of Liberty and two members of UNGRIPP who have been affected by the IPP sentence. As this event will be in the conference itself, we hope that many MPs will come along to hear more about IPP sentences and what it is still doing to people. We also need you and your family to ask your MP to attend.

We are also in the planning stages of critiquing the IPP action plan. Once we have more information on this we will let you know.

HMPPS IPP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

In 2023 we asked people affected by IPP if they wanted us to attend the HMPPS IPP Stakeholder meetings, in order to challenge the IPP action plan that is being put forward as a way to fix IPP. 81% of people wanted us to attend these meetings. There was an IPP stakeholder meeting in March 2025 and June 2025. HMPPS have minuted versions of these meetings that they can share with you. We have included some of the main items discussed below and some of the issues we pushed on:

- What plans had been made to ensure a quick implementation of the RARR changes, including what work was being done to ensure anyone on recall prior to the changes, was also considered for it.
- The length of time people were spending on recall.
- The lack of accountability.
- More transparency on data, licence terminations, Cat D rejections and those who are unreleased.
- The lack of measurable targets included in the action plan.
- Use of PRAs and PCA-N.
- Issues with progressive regimes, progression panels, adjournments, recategorisation, recalls for NFO.
- At every meeting we call out the ineffectiveness of the action plan.

HMPPS have now released the most recent action plan. Please let us know if you would like our overview of it and we will get a copy out to you.

The next IPP Stakeholders' meetings will take place in September & December. We have requested that HMPPS ensure people in prison are made aware of the agenda and can share their perspective on it.

Our stance on the action plan remains the same: *No action plan will fix this injustice, but our aim is to ensure we hold HMPPS to account within these meetings and ensure they hear what is really happening to people.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Send us art or poems for the IPP exhibition. Ask your family to contact their local MP to request they attend the exhibition and the IPP panel event in the Labour Conference.
- Share all events with family members to see if they would like to get involved.
- Write to your MP and tell them how this sentence is affecting you and request that they share your case with Lord James Timpson and MP Shabana Mahmood
- Contact CCRC if you have previously tried to appeal your IPP and it was unsuccessful. Request that they relook at your case.



MEDIA WATCH – February 2025 to July 2025

Independent

- Father on indefinite jail term for stealing phone has 'lost hope' after being denied hospital transfer
- UN torture tsar attacks UK over 'inhumane' indefinite jail terms
- Scandal hidden in plain sight': Death toll of abolished jail term climbs to 94 after fresh wave of self-inflicted deaths in prison
- Father in jail for 13 years for stealing a phone suffers crisis which leaves him smashing face on floor
- Minister admits indefinite IPP jail terms are 'terrible stain'
- I stole a mobile phone almost 20 years ago – I've spent half my life in prison
- Revealed: The staggering cost of detaining prisoners on 'inhumane' jail terms – and you're paying for it
- 'It's a scandal': Fury as inmates trapped on indefinite jail terms excluded from scheme to free up prison space
- The justice secretary has no good choices – but releasing IPP prisoners should be one
- Hope for end to 'cruel experiment' of indefinite jail terms that have seen phone thieves trapped for up to 20 years
- Keir Starmer must end the injustice of indefinite sentences today
- Desperate father who set himself alight while serving 13 years in jail for stealing a phone finally moving to hospital
- Indefinite jail terms 'not right and not fair', Lords say in call to end IPP injustice
- It is time to release prisoners trapped by inhuman endless jail terms
- Scandal of indefinite jail terms has left prisoners damaged by 'state's failure', ex-justice secretary warns
- Ten more years of injustice: Figures lay bare scale of IPP scandal
- 'We're Britain's dirty little secret': After 17 years under an indefinite jail term for a teenage crime, Tony is finally free
- It's beyond time to end the scandal of IPP

Insidetime

- Prisoners on IPP detained arbitrarily, says UN expert
- IMB Watch – March 2025
- Total of self-inflicted deaths under IPP reaches 94
- Supervision of ISP
- Lord Timpson interview: The troubleshooter
- I got IPP ... at first I was glad
- We should all accuse
- IPP prisoner took his own life after parole rejection
- Experts led by former Lord Chief Justice propose IPP solution
- Halve prison population, says Prison Officers' Association
- Helping the IPP stain disappear
- Darrion demands an end to IPP
- Show me the prison, show me the jail
- MPs grill Prisons Minister Lord Timpson on drugs crisis in jails
- Four days, two reports, the fight goes on
- Sentencing reforms don't go far enough
- Government figures suggest it will take 10 years to free IPPs
- IPP campaigners pressure Parliament as Action Plan described as failing

London Daily

- Five Inmates Remain Jailed 16 Years After Short IPP Sentences

Sky News

- Abolished indefinite prison sentences still in place - despite prisoner numbers approaching pre-release scheme levels
- Short-sighted' to exclude inmates on indefinite sentences from early release scheme, say campaigners
- IPP sentences: Labour won't back bid to help 'desperate' prisoners

The Canary

- Leroy Douglas stole a mobile phone – but he's been in prison twenty years

MEDIA WATCH - February 2025 to July 2025

ITV News

- Prison sentences with no release date branded 'inhumane' 20 years after being introduced

A Lawyer Writes

- Call to free IPP inmates

Laura Janes

- Law change for people on IPP sentences in action: a few reflections and practice points about the new executive release or "RARR" rules

Faith Spear

- Campaigning Lawyer Calls On Prime Minister To Back Plan Drawn Up By Lord Thomas To End Shocking IPP Scandal In Viral Video

Express

- Family's desperate fight for prisoner serving '99-year sentence' for mobile phone theft

BBC

- Phone thief's hospital move after 13 years in jail

iNews

- My brother stole a phone - 13 years on, he's still in prison

Socialist Worker

- Fighting torture of indefinite sentences

Russell Webster

- Ending the detention of people on IPP sentences
- People recalled on IPP spend longer in prison

The Times

- The Times Crime and Justice Commission

Mirror

- Dad who spent 13 years in prison for stealing mobile finally released

Converse

- Cruel IPP Experiment TOP UK JUDGE SAYS STOP IT NOW

Emerald Insight

- Understanding the psychological impact of the IPP sentence for adult men in a UK category B prison

Howard League

- Expert working group publishes proposals to end the detention of people on IPP sentences

LBC

- Re-sentence prisoners on indefinite sentences to end 'torture', Government told

Liverpool Echo

- Man's 'torture' after serving 20 years in prison on a 14-month sentence

Manchester Evening Standard

- Prisoner serving controversial sentence died in Strangeways after parole rejected

Morning Star Online

- End 'cruel experiment' of IPP sentences, urge experts as they make landmark proposals

National Cymru

- 'Disgrace' of Cardiff man trapped in prison for 20 years for stealing a mobile phone