

As we head into the summer, UNGRIPP wanted to share the events of the past 5 months regarding the IPP sentence, and some of the things that are planned for later in the year.

We would like to begin by thanking everyone who has trusted us, supported us 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 add pressure for change in the political arena, and to ensure that those affected by IPP are never forgotten.

## *A round up of January - May 2024*



### ACTION



**House of Lords debate.** Over the last four months the Lords debated the Victims and Prisoners Bill a number of times. This Bill contained several changes to the IPP sentence. The IPP amendments in the Bill were debated on the 16th January, the 12th March and the 21st May. These debates led to amendments being added, changed and taken out. The final set of amendments can be found on the attached sheet, headed 'The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024'.

**Parliamentary events.** On the 22nd May a general election was called. The Victims and Prisoners Bill was put forward to be included in 'the wash up'. This means any Bills that are close to being passed get pushed through ahead of the election. The Victims and Prisoners Bill was passed by the Lords on the 23rd of May and the Commons on the 24th of May. It was given Royal Assent on the 28th of May. This means the Bill has now become law. However, it is not yet in force and can only be brought into force by the next Government. Please see more detail about what amendments were passed in the attached sheet 'The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024'.

### **Coroner reports highlight IPP**

Three coroner reports have highlighted the role IPP played in the deaths of men serving the sentence. These reports led to three 'Prevention of Future Deaths' reports being released. This is the first time that IPP has been included in PFDs.

**Prison Officers Association Chair, Mark Fairhurst, speaks about prison overcrowding.** On the 17th of March the POA chair stated that resentencing people serving IPP would help with prison overcrowding and should be considered.

**Prison Governors Association Chief, Tom Wheatley, speaks about prison overcrowding.** On the 28th April the Chair of the Prison Governors Association called for a review of indefinite sentences, referring to them as 'a blot on our legal system'.

**User Voice released a report.** On the 14th February, charity UserVoice released a report 'The Voice of People on IPP'. This report shared people's experiences when recalled to prison.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

**MP meetings.** On 22nd February UNGRIPP and Peter Stefanovic (a fellow campaigner) met with MP Kevin Brennan to discuss Labour's support for IPP changes.

**HMPPS meetings regarding the action plan.** This year there have been two meetings with HMPPS and various stakeholders, including UNGRIPP, to discuss the IPP action plan. These meetings took place in March and June. We raised concerns regarding psychology, how HMPPS communicate with people serving IPP, transfers, parole delays, lack of transparency, the new action plan and if plans were being made for implementing the changes in the Victims and Prisoners Act. We have also asked that they share an agenda in advance so we can get feedback from more people, and better highlight the many issues that people continue to face on IPP. Our stance on the action plan remains the same: any action plan will not truly fix IPP, but our aim is to ensure we hold HMPPS accountable within these meetings.

**The United Nations repeats the call for resentencing.** In April Dr Alice Edwards, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, again called for the UK Government to begin an urgent review of IPP sentences.

**Next steps.** In the coming month we will know who the new Government will be. Once we know this, the following actions will be crucial:

- Ask family members to find out who their new MP is.
- Contact the new MP and share their/your experience about IPP.
- Ask them to speak to the Secretary of State for Justice about implementing the IPP changes passed in May as quickly as possible.
- Ask them to support the call for resentencing.

We will be in touch to share when these actions will be needed.



### MEDIA WATCH - January to May 2024

#### Sky News

- ['Our prayers have been answered': Sister of man jailed indefinitely speaks as he is set to meet son for first time in 12 years.](#)
- [IPP sentences: Labour won't back bid to help 'desperate' prisoners.](#)
- [Prisoner serving abolished indefinite sentence has release bid rejected by Parole Board.](#)
- [House of Lords urged to help 'end the torture' of indefinite IPP sentences.](#)
- [Cost of keeping people in prison on indeterminate IPP sentences tops £1bn since 2012.](#)

#### BBC News

- [Prisoner meets son, 14, whom he last saw as a baby.](#)
- [Man's 12 years in jail due to indefinite sentence 'an injustice'.](#)

#### Kingston Courier

- [Hope for British justice as Lords debate IPPs](#)

#### BBC Radio Sounds

- [Locked up for 12 years for stealing a phone](#)

#### The Standard

- [Indefinite sentence prisoner loses Parole Board bid to be freed.](#)
- ['Most distressed' IPP prisoners should be immediately released, charity says.](#)

#### Laura Janes

- [IPP terminations: latest data](#)

#### Life After Prison Podcast

- [Being on an IPP sentence](#)

#### Russell Webster

- [The Voices Of IPPs](#)

#### User Voice

- The Voice of People on IPP Sentences.

## MEDIA WATCH FOR January - May 2024

### The Independent

- [Father imprisoned for 12 years for stealing mobile phone under 'cruel' indefinite jail term reunited with son.](#)
- [Failure to address 'ludicrous' injustice of indefinite jail terms is 'political cowardice', peer warns](#)
- [The treatment of those trapped by indefinite prison sentences is a stain on our criminal justice system](#)
- [Crucial reforms to help thousands trapped in indeterminate jail terms fail after Labour peers 'bottle it'.](#)
- [Prisoner held indefinitely refused parole after making landmark public bid for freedom.](#)
- [I've served my time – now I want freedom: Prisoner makes landmark parole bid against indefinite jail term](#)
- [Calls to end the 'living nightmare' of indefinite jail terms ahead of crunch Lords debate](#)
- ['End the misery': Fears man who served more than 10 years for stealing mobile phone could be jailed again](#)
- [Vulnerable inmate serving indefinite prison sentence held in isolation for 800 days](#)

### Byline Times

- [Goldberg Investigates: IPP Jail Sentences](#)
- [The 'Inhumane' Jail Sentence Abolished More Than a Decade ago That's Still Traumatizing Inmates and Their Families](#)
- [The Next Big Injustice Scandal? Allegations of 'Blood on Government's Hands' as Thousands of Prisoners Remain Locked Up Despite Serving Time](#)

### Wales Online

- [Man jailed for at least two and a half years finally free after nearly 16 years behind bars](#)
- [Man jailed indefinitely for 23-month crime took life after 17 years](#)

### Trapped

- [Ep 11: Prisoners of Politics](#)
- [Ep 12: Torture Sentences](#)

### The Justice Gap

- [After 12 years on an IPP for stealing a mobile phone, a father finally meets his son](#)
- [Labour accused of 'bottling it' on IPPs](#)

### Guardian

- [The London Bridge 'hero' who could go to prison for 99 years \(audio\)](#)
- [Prisoners serving sentences with no clear end is a stain on British justice – it also amounts to torture](#)
- [Nearly 3,000 people are languishing in jail unfairly. We must set them free](#)
- [Martin Myers tried and failed to steal a cigarette. Why has he spent 18 years in prison for it?](#)
- [Tuesday briefing: How the 'unjust' IPP prison sentence scandal ruined thousands of lives](#)
- [Tommy Nicol was kind and friendly – a beloved brother. Why did he die in prison on a '99-year' sentence?](#)
- [As a teenager, John was jailed for assaulting someone and stealing their bike. That was 17 years ago – will he ever be released?](#)
- ['It's a very unfair system': family of man who took his own life criticise indefinite sentences](#)
- [Marc Conway risked his life to stop the London Bridge terror attack. Why did he fear being sent to prison for it?](#)
- [David Blunkett says devising 99-year prison sentences is his 'biggest regret'](#)
- ['Indefensible': UK prisoner jailed for 23 months killed himself after being held for 17 years](#)
- [The torture of being trapped by indefinite prison sentences](#)
- [The Guardian view on indeterminate sentences: the legacy of a bad law lingers on](#)
- [Prisoners with severe mental health needs spending months in isolation, report finds](#)
- [MoJ changes to indefinite jail sentences do not go far enough, says UN expert](#)
- [Meet the Outlaw escaping from prisons in protest against indefinite detention](#)

### The Howard League

- [Spotlight Event: The impact of IPP Sentences.](#)

### Daily Mail

- [BARONESS FOX: A mobile phone thief has spent 12 years in prison with no prospect of release - thanks to a Blair policy that's a stain on our justice system](#)
- ['Most distressed' IPP prisoners should be immediately released, charity says](#)

## MEDIA WATCH FOR January - May 2024

### The Rest is Politics

- [22.6: Question Time](#)

### Yahoo News

- [IPP prisoner tells landmark public parole hearing that sentence is 'hell'](#)

### SL5

- [Irredeemably Flawed: The IPP prisoner scandal, and the death of Matthew Price](#)

### Academy of Ideas

- [Why won't ministers undo this 'stain on the justice system'?](#)

### Prison Reform Trust

- [Peers to debate reforms to address the "stain" of the IPP sentence](#)
- [Government introduces amendments for IPP prisoners to the Victims and Prisoners Bill](#)
- [Peers to debate important reforms on IPPs and parole](#)
- [House of Lords votes for important amendments on IPP sentences](#)

### Faith Spear

- [Video Igniting Public Storm On IPP Sentencing Scandal Hits 14 Million Views](#)
- [IPP sentence: Risk of more suicides highlights urgent need for political parties to work together to end tragic miscarriage of justice.](#)
- [Hope for justice for IPP prisoners as Labour Lords back amendments](#)
- [Is the IPP Prisoner scandal the next Mr. Bates vs the Post office?](#)
- [IPP Scandal: Labour front bench clarification needed](#)
- [Joe Outlaw, an IPP: In his own words, part 1.](#)

### The century club

- [IPP Protests: A Mothers Struggle](#)

### Insidetime

- [IPP: More suicides than serious further offences](#)
- [Coroner calls for review of all IPP sentences](#)
- [Lingering IPP sentence has cost taxpayers more than £1 billion](#)
- [I invented IPP – I want it fixed](#)
- ['Hope' for IPPs](#)
- [In case you hadn't noticed](#)
- [Blunkett – 'Lords made a difference on IPP'](#)
- [Coroner calls for review of all IPP sentences](#)
- [IMB Watch - May 2024](#)
- [Prison governors criticise 'ever-longer sentences'](#)
- [Self-harm and assaults 'show signs of stabilising'](#)
- [New record highs for remands and recalls](#)
- [In case you hadn't noticed](#)
- [Labour drops support for IPP prisoners](#)
- [IPP focus week](#)
- ['Worse than IPP'](#)
- [Only 1% of IPPs commit serious further offences](#)
- [First IPP parole hearing held in public](#)
- [IPP prisoners feel let down by prisons and probation](#)
- [Compare and contrast](#)
- [How many days hath January?](#)
- [Former chief inspector denounces 'panicky' measures on capacity](#)
- [IPP: How will the changes affect you?](#)

### Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

- [The parliamentary battle to reform the IPP sentence](#)

### View Digital

- [Comment: 'It's shocking when you realise that 90 people serving sentences under this discredited IPP regime have sadly taken their own lives whilst in prison'](#)

### Solicitors Journal

- [House of Lords to vote on crucial IPP amendments: tackling decades of injustice](#)

## OTHER UPDATES

- IPP committee in Action held a protest outside Cardiff probation on the 14th February.
- Bushido Films has entered a film about IPP into the Sheffield Film Festival. The film is called 'Britain's Forgotten Prisoners'.
- We would like to heighten the voices of those affected by IPP by sharing people's stories anonymously on our social media platform 'The Forgotten'. If you or a family member would like to share your/their experience of the IPP, please write to us at UNGRIPP, Unit 76570, PO Box 6945, London, W1A 6US or email us at ungripp@gmail.com