

UNGRIPP

Newsletter January 2023 - July 2023

As we head into the summer, UNGRIPP wanted to share the events of the past four months regarding the IPP sentence, and what is 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 have it continually discussed in the political arena and to add pressure in the hope that change will happen, and to ensure that those affected by IPP are never forgotten.

A round up of January - April 2023



ACTION

The Government responded to the Justice Select Committee recommendations. In February, the Government rejected the main JSC recommendation of a resentencing exercise. It instead said an updated action plan was the approach they planned to take. Since this response Alex Chalk has replaced Dominic Raab and we are awaiting his thoughts on the recommendations.

The updated action plan was published. On the 27th of April the updated action plan was published. In UNGRIPP's view, the action plan is nowhere near sufficient to fix IPP. We and others will continue to push for real change and we will not stop until we achieve justice.

Lords debate IPP. On the 1st of March there was a House of Lords debate regarding the IPP. A number of Lords expressed their support for resentencing. There is strong cross-party support across the House of Lords, and many peers are highlighting the injustice of the IPP on a regular basis.

Westminster Hall Debate. On the 27th of April, Sir Bob Neill led a Parliamentary debate pushing the Government to reconsider resentencing. There were a number of MPs from all parties who strongly challenged the Justice Minister about the lack of action. Sir Bob Neill stated that he will be proposing an amendment on resentencing for the upcoming Victims and Prisoners Bill.

Sir John Major calls for resentencing. On the 9th of May the former Prime Minister Sir John Major delivered a speech at the Old Bailey, calling for the Government to enact a resentencing exercise for those serving an IPP sentence.

The Independent Monitoring Board released a briefing regarding IPP. On the 12th of May, the IMB published a briefing regarding their concerns about the IPP.

The British Psychological Society and the Probation Institute released a joint statement on IPP. The professional bodies for psychologists and Probation Officers released a statement acknowledging that IPP is psychologically harmful, and backed resentencing.



WORK IN PROGRESS

MP parliamentary session. On the 13th of June, UNGRIPP held a Parliamentary session for MPs and peers in Parliament. The session was to give Parliamentarians an opportunity to find out more about the IPP sentence, the Justice Select Committee report, and the impact on people serving it and their families.

Exhibition in Parliament. On the 3rd of July UNGRIPP hosted a week-long exhibition in Parliament called 'Abolished but not gone'. We shared art, poems and photographic portraits from those affected by the IPP, alongside information that was included in the Justice Select Committee IPP report. The opening event was attended by a number of MPs, peers, and organisations. We hope to tour the exhibition later in the year to continue to raise awareness. If you would like to send us some art or a poem please post it to: UNGRIPP, 2 Langley Lane, London, SW8 1GB (submissions cannot be returned).

Write to your MP to ask if they support resentencing. On 12th of July Sir Bob Neill, the chair of the Justice Select Committee, tabled a new clause to upcoming Victims and Prisoners Bill which would implement a resentencing exercise. The Government does not have to accept this clause and it will need to be supported by a majority of MPs. It will be debated later in the year, sometime after September. We are asking anyone affected or concerned about the IPP to write to their local MP to ask them if they would support a resentencing exercise. Please let us know if you hear back from them.

CONTACT

UNGRIPP, Unit 76570, PO Box 6945, London, W1A 6US



MEDIA WATCH FOR January - April 2023

ITV News

- [Ministers criticised after rejecting review of open-ended IPP prison sentences](#)
- [Prisoner protests on roof of Strangeways prison in Manchester](#)

Canary

- [Another prisoner on an indeterminate sentence has taken his own life, with no release date in sight](#)

The Mirror

- [Dad held in jail for almost three years despite being cleared of GBH charges](#)

The Justice Gap

- [Government rejects calls to review IPP sentences](#)
- [Government rejects recommendations to resentence prisoners held indefinitely](#)
- [Trauma of IPP sentences revealed in new documentary](#)

Context News

- [Policy, honestly. The real-life impacts of policy decisions](#)

Radio 4

- [IPP: A world without hope](#)

The British Psychological Society

- [Government urged to resentence people on IPP sentences which cause psychological harms](#)

The Hull Daily mail

- [Inmate who spent ten years in jail for a 24-month sentence took his own life in cell](#)

Guardian

- [UK government rejects call to resentence prisoners detained indefinitely](#)
- [Thousands of people like me are locked up with no fixed release date all because of New Labour's political arms race](#)
- [Dominic Raab could face action for contempt of court, judges say](#)

Insidetime

- [Prisoners can't move to open jails and it's putting the public at risk, says governor](#)
- [Raab set to reject resentencing call for IPPs](#)
- [Transfers to open jails plummet by 90%](#)
- [IPP: "We'll battle on"](#)
- ['Free IPP prisoners to clear jail space for wolf-whistlers'](#)
- [IMB watch](#)
- [Newsbites: Board will oversee IPP prisoners](#)
- [Special supervisory board will oversee IPP prisoners](#)
- [IPP Focus: Last month the Government rejected a call by MPs to resentence all IPP prisoners. Here, three campaigners respond](#)
- [Parole reform 'puts public in danger'](#)
- [Campaigners will fight on after IPP setback](#)
- [How, Why, What, Where, And When?](#)
- [Senior figures criticise Dominic Raab's curb on transfers to open prisons](#)
- ['Parole reforms are a mistake'](#)
- [Perfect Timing For IPP Debate?](#)

The Voice

- [Raab revives 'racist' prisoner law](#)

Doughty Street Chambers

- [Court of Appeal allows out of time appeal against Detention for Public Protection](#)

No5 Barrister Chambers

- [Secretary of state admits parole board may ask for views or recommendations at oral hearings](#)

Manchester Evening News'

- [Clad in fluffy slippers and dressing gowns, filming for Snapchat, they arrived to watch the Strangeways protest](#)
- [Greater Manchester Police say 'male prisoner willingly came down from Strangeways roof' after 12-hour protest... and warn 'he will now face punishment'](#)
- [They have lost all hope': The 'scandal' jail sentence with a 'shameful' suicide rate behind the Strangeways roof protest](#)
- [All these men made big mistakes. But are we punishing them too much?](#)

OTHER UPDATES

- IPP Committee in Action Campaign group held their fourth protest on the 15th of March. They walked from the Ministry of Justice to the Houses of Parliament before heading to Downing Street.
- Last year, former Justice Minister Dominic Raab made changes to the Parole Board Rules that stopped HMPPS witnesses from making recommendations about release or transfer at parole hearings. The changes were legally challenged and have been deemed unlawful by the High Court. This means that HMPPS professional witnesses can still offer a view on release or transfer if they are asked.

GET INVOLVED

- Please write to your MP to ask if they will support resentencing.