

UNGRIPP

Newsletter August 2023 - December 2023

As we begin 2024, 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 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 August - December 2023



ACTION

The Secretary of State Alex Chalk announces plans regarding IPP sentences. On the 28th of November Alex Chalk proposed an amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill. **IF** successfully passed into law, people serving an IPP sentence would be eligible to have a review by the parole board to decide if they should have their licence removed three years after their FIRST release. Anyone who is unsuccessful at this stage would then be eligible to have their licence removed automatically if they serve a further two years on licence without recall. Please see the attached sheets for more information.

[Justice Select Committee Responds to Government's reforms.](#) On 1st December the Justice Select Committee responded to the Government's suggested licence reforms shared above. They welcome the licence changes but state that they do not go far enough.

MPs debate IPP. On the 4th of December, Sir Bob Neill spoke about his amendment for resentencing those serving IPP sentences. The Government did not vote on this amendment. It will now be taken to the Lords for them to consider.

Lords debate IPP. On the 18th of December there was a House of Lords debate regarding 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.

[HMI Inspectorate of Probation releases thematic inspection of IPP recall decisions.](#) On the 14th December HMI released a thematic review. The findings were that in the majority of recalls that they looked at, probation acted in accordance with HMPPS policy. We feel that this does not give a true picture of the issues around recall and it also raises the question about the effectiveness of the recall policy.

[Prison Officers Association Chair, Mark Fairhurst, speaks about prison overcrowding.](#) On the 15th of December the POA chair stated that resentencing those serving IPP would help with the prison overcrowding and should be looked at.



WORK IN PROGRESS

Joint letter with Association of Prison Lawyers to SS. On the 25th August UNGRIPP and APL wrote to Alex Chalk asking him to stop legal aid means testing for people applying to have their IPP terminated. Alex Chalk is yet to reply.

[The United Nations calls for an urgent review of IPP sentences.](#) On the 30th of August Dr Alice Edwards, the UN Special Rapporture on torture, called for the UK Government to begin an urgent review of IPP Sentences.
[On 8th of December Dr Alice Edwards welcomed the Government's suggested reforms to the licence conditions but called for bolder action.](#)

HMPPS meetings regarding the Action Plan. There have been two meetings with HMPPS and various stakeholders, including UNGRIPP, to discuss the IPP action plan. These meetings took place in September and December. The first meeting was spent familiarising people with the IPP sentence and exploring the action plan. Following this meeting concerns were raised about aspects of the action plan, this was fed back to HMPPS. The second meeting was spent going over concerns with the action plan, feedback on support in womens prisons, how information is communicated to those serving IPP and discussions about the licence reforms that have been suggested by the Secretary of State.

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. This clause was not voted on but is likely to be resubmitted by the Lords. 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 within the next month. 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

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MEDIA WATCH FOR August - December 2023

ITV News

- ['Torture sentences' that consign some of Britain's most wronged prisoners to decades behind bars](#)
- [Newcastle man released after 18 years in jail for trying to steal coat and phone](#)

Sky News

- [UN torture expert urges government to review 'mess' left by indefinite prison sentences](#)
- [11 years for stealing a mobile phone: Inside the lives of IPP prisoners serving sentences of 'psychological torture'](#)
- [Reforms announced to address 'stain' of indefinite prison sentences](#)
- ["Like many IPPs, he hasn't had a voice."](#)

Channel 4

- [Indeterminate prison sentences – when 18 months can last 18 years](#)

The Standard

- [Justice Secretary to take 'decisive action' over indefinite prison sentences](#)

The Independent

- [Justice Secretary to take 'decisive action' over indefinite prison sentences](#)
- [Revealed: 16 years in prison for stealing a bike and no hope of release – as 7 trapped in jail kill themselves](#)
- [Government blasted for refusing to resentence inmates trapped in jail with no hope of release](#)
- [Ex-prisoner's cry for help over indefinite jail term before his death](#)

Guardian

- [Recall rules to be eased on indefinite jail sentences in England and Wales](#)
- [UN torture expert urges UK government to review indefinite sentences](#)
- [Number of offenders with indefinite sentences recalled to prison soars](#)
- [Over 1,800 offenders to have indefinite jail sentences terminated, says MoJ](#)
- ["It's bittersweet": MoJ sentencing changes will bring freedom for some](#)

Laura Janes

- [Casting aside the shadow of the IPP sentence](#)

Comment Central

- [Shake up needed on long-term sentences](#)

The Cots Ministries

- [The most Scandalous story in the British Justice System](#)

Russell Webster

- [IPP Recalls Mostly In Line With Policy](#)

Prison Reform Trust

- [PRT comment: IPP reforms announced](#)

Insidetime

- [United Nations urges Government to review IPP sentences](#)
- [IPP causes suicides, says Ombudsman](#)
- [IPP: Jump in recalls where no new offence committed](#)
- [Revealed: IPP 'carousel' between prison and psychiatric hospital](#)
- [The March of the Amazons](#)
- [United Nations calls for resentencing of IPP prisoners](#)
- [This is not the end](#)

The Justice Gap

- ['Feelings of despair' leading to IPP prisoner's mental health problems](#)

The Times

- [Pledge to help inmates who served their time but stay in prison](#)

The Telegraph

- [Nearly 2,000 prisoners to be freed from Blair-era indefinite sentences](#)

The Coventry Telegraph

- [Coventry man stuck in 'living hell' in prison for 17 years after being given 33 month sentence](#)

Lancashire Telegraph

- [Almost 3,000 prisoners remain incarcerated under IPPs](#)

Prospect magazine

- [Will the government finally end the injustice of Imprisonment for Public Protection?](#)

Peter Stefanovic

- [Imagine a country where a man has spent 18 years in jail for trying to steal a coat](#)

Faith Spear

- [The IPP sentence: At an Inflection Point?](#)
- [Let's end this injustice now, TOGETHER: IPP Scandal](#)
- [Public reaction to the IPP Scandal](#)

The Howard League

- [We will keep fighting for the release of people serving IPP sentences](#)

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

- [Time to consider a compassionate release programme for IPP prisoners](#)

The House

- [Sentencing: Is Labour's prisons policy just a 'blank page'?](#)

Jurist

- [Imprisonment for Public Protection: 'The Greatest Single Stain' on the UK Justice System](#)

OTHER UPDATES

A new [Petition](#) has been launched calling for resentencing for those serving IPP sentences. It has 6,519 signatories so far.