

UNGRIPP

Newsletter June 2024 - September 2024

As we head into the Autumn, UNGRIPP wanted to share the events of the past 4 months regarding the IPP sentence, and some of the things that are planned for later in the year.

As always we would like to 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, to add pressure for change in the political arena, and to ensure that those affected by IPP are never forgotten.

A round up of June - September 2024



UPDATE



Parliamentary events. On the 17th of July Labour officially came into power as the new Government.

- MP Shabana Mahmood was selected as the Secretary of State for Justice
- Lord James Timpson became the Justice Minister
- MP Andy Slaughter was elected as the chair of Justice Select Committee

IPP has been discussed in the House of Lords and the House of Commons in July and September.

Joint letter to the Secretary of State for Justice. On 11th July a letter signed by a coalition of 70 organisations was sent to the Secretary of State, calling for an end to IPP sentences.

UN renews calls for resentencing. On 29th August Dr Alice Edwards, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, again called for the UK Government to begin an urgent review of IPP sentences.

Victims and Prisoners Act enactment. On 5th of September the Secretary of State for Justice Shabana Mahmood announced the enactment of the IPP licence changes. Please see the separate guide for more information about this.

Private members Bill. In September Lord Woodley put forward a private member's Bill, calling for resentencing. This is due to be debated in Parliament later in the year.

Q&A session with solicitor Laura Janes

UNGRIPP ran an online session on 22nd July where those affected by the IPP joined and asked questions to Laura Janes, a solicitor who is very experienced in working with people serving an IPP.

Another coroner report highlights IPP. In September a fourth coroner report highlighted the role IPP played in the death of a man serving the sentence.

Phone line for questions about IPP licence changes.

The Howard League has set up a confidential legal advice line for people serving IPP/DPP sentences. Solicitors will be available to answer questions about the IPP licence changes in the Victims and Prisoner Act from 7th Oct to 18th December. Mon 5pm - 7pm and Wednesday 1pm to 3pm.

Labour conference. On September 23rd UNGRIPP attended the Labour conference for one day and held a fringe event nearby. We attended the Labour conference in order to highlight the impact IPP is having on people who are serving it and to push for further change. We also held a fringe event in a venue close to the conference where we invited MPs and others to find out more about IPP through sharing part of the IPP exhibition that we held in Parliament last year.

HMPPS IPP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Last year we asked people affected by IPP if they wanted us to attend the HMPPS IPP stakeholder meetings in order to challenge the action plan that is being put forward as a way to fix IPP. 81% of people wanted us to attend these meetings.

We have attended 5 of these meetings in total, two of them between June and September 2024. During the last two meetings we pushed on a number of issues, some of which were

- How they will be implementing the licence changes.
- The ineffectiveness of psychology work and the impact this has on parole hearings.
- The lack of accountability.
- The number of barriers people face with progression, parole hearings and deferrals.
- Why there are no measurable targets included in the action plan.

We are currently waiting for HMPPS to release the most recent action plan. Once it has been published we will share this with you. HMPPS have also agreed to publish the agenda for these meetings ahead of time in order for more people to give their views on the items, this will allow us to share it with you so you can input directly if you want to..

Our stance on the action plan remains the same: any action plan will not fix IPP, but our aim is to ensure we hold HMPPS to account within these meetings.

NEXT STEPS

Now that the Government has given a clear date on the implementation of the IPP changes that were included in the Victims and Prisoners Act, we will be specifically focusing on getting change for people serving IPP in prison and will continue the push for resentencing. We plan to build on the momentum that has already been made, some of the ways we will do this are:

- Ask people to contact their MP to ensure they are aware of IPP and the damage it causes.
 - Push for a meeting with the Secretary of State and the Prisons Minister to address the need for resentencing in order to end IPP.
 - Use opportunities such as the private members' Bill or further Bills to ensure IPP changes are included.
 - Continue to build media support.
 - Continue to bring the issue of IPP in front of Parliamentarians through various events - similar to what we did with the Labour conference.
-

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 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 how they are going to fix IPP for those stuck in prison.
 - Ask them to support the call for resentencing
-

OTHER UPDATES

- A campaign has been set up for those serving an OLR. The campaign group is called [NOLR](#).
 - Bushido Films had their film about IPP shown at 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: theforgotten@ungripp.com
-



MEDIA WATCH - June to September 2024

Sky News

- ['They can't wait any longer': Families say Labour has 'responsibility' to act on 'injustice' of indefinite prison sentences](#)
- [Sister's plea to new prisons minister James Timpson over brother's indefinite jail sentence](#)
- [Prisons crisis: 'Horrific indictment' of UK justice as thousands languish on indefinite jail terms, says UN torture expert](#)
- [Man on controversial indefinite prison sentence told to delay parole hearing over mental health concerns](#)

BBC News

- [Prison crisis will 'force' indeterminate sentence change](#)
- [Man still in jail 20 years after laptop robbery](#)
- [Inmate who took own life said he'd never be released](#)

BBC Radio Sounds

- [Coalition demands Government implement 'urgent' indefinite prison sentence reforms](#)

Nacro

- [Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection \(IPPs\): Why we must put an end to them once and for all!](#)

Laura Janes

- [Justice Secretary announces when changes affecting people serving IPPs will start](#)

The Justice Gap

- [Hunger strikes and self-immolation: IPP prisoners taking desperate action in the face of 'torture' sentence](#)
- [Open letter calls for the Labour government to end IPP 'scandal' in UK prisons](#)

Metro

- [Behind bars for 99 years – the petty criminals locked up with no sign of release](#)
- [My brother is one of Britain's most wronged prisoners – he'd rather die than be in jail](#)

The Times

- [Prisoners jailed indefinitely could be resentenced](#)

The Independent

- [Calls to end injustice of indefinite jail terms as Keir Starmer to release prisoners early](#)
- [Fears for father still in jail 19 years after laptop robbery under 'scandalous' IPP](#)
- [UN torture tsar calls on Starmer to review sentences of IPP prisoners trapped indefinitely behind bars](#)
- [Prisoners trapped on indeterminate jail terms not included in Labour government's sentencing review](#)
- [Prisoner dreams of 'normal life' after spending 18 years in jail for 23-month sentence](#)
- ['He looked like a starving dog on the floor': Prisoner trapped on indefinite jail term driven to hunger strike](#)
- [IPP scandal: Call for free vote on bill to end 'living nightmare' of indefinite jail terms](#)
- ['I missed out on growing up': Father robbed of 16 years before indefinite jail term quashed](#)
- [Inmate with indefinite prison term took his own life after government rejected resentencing plans](#)
- [Early release scheme a 'slap in face' to forgotten prisoners languishing on indefinite jail terms](#)
- [Teenager jailed for 18 months after McDonald's fight still in prison 18 years later under indefinite jail term](#)
- [Father trapped in jail 18 years after being given 8-month sentence](#)
- [Prisoner who set himself alight after serving 12 years for stealing phone should be in hospital, medics warn](#)
- [Labour will have 'blood on its hands' if it rejects review of indefinite jail terms](#)

City AM

- [Freeing Britain's 'ghost prisoners' is the first step towards prison reform](#)

Morning Star Online

- [Ending 'inhumane' IPP sentences will help prisons crisis, more than 70-strong coalition says](#)

Guardian

- [Sixteen years for stealing a flower pot: the film about the IPP jail sentence 'designed to bury you alive'](#)

MEDIA WATCH - June to September 2024

UN Press Release

- [UN expert urges UK Government to prioritise the review of indefinite prison sentences](#)

iNews

- [The case of Michael Roberts exposes a scandal in our criminal justice system](#)

Herald Wales

- [The tragedy of IPP prison sentences and why things must change](#)

Trapped

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

The Star

- [UK Prisons: "I made my mistakes" says David Blunkett as he urges ministers to reform his IPP sentences](#)

Solicitors Journal

- [Open letter calls on Kier Starmer for urgent IPP reform to end one of worst miscarriages of justice in UK prisons](#)

IMB Press Release

- [Significant progress at HMP The Mount – but time to end an injustice](#)

Yahoo News

- [Ex home secretary David Blunkett admits "biggest regret"](#)

Wide Open Country

- [After A McDonald's Fight, A Teen Has Been In Prison Nearly 20 Years With No Release Date In Sight](#)

Prison Reform Trust

- [New joint guide on IPP licence termination published](#)
- [PRT comment: Timetable for IPP licence reforms](#)

Faith Spear

- [End the "Monumental Injustice" of IPP Sentences](#)

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

- [Joint letter calls for IPP reform](#)
- [Why IPP reform is key to averting the next prisons crisis](#)

The Howard League

- [IPP reform in the Victims and Prisoners Act](#)
- [Terminating your IPP licence: a legal guide](#)

Daily Mail

- [Family of man who stole a bike when he was 17 and remains in prison 17 years later due to an abolished law say they have lost contact with him and do not know which prison he is in - with his father dying of cancer without saying goodbye](#)
- [Young woman jailed for 16 years for breaking a plant pot and ripping up a betting slip under Labour government's controversial IPP sentence slams 'cruel, degrading and severe mental damage' it caused](#)

Tortoise Media

- [Criminal justice experts call on Labour to scrap "indefinite" prison sentences](#)

Mountford Chambers

- [Imprisonment for Public Protection: No more kicking the can](#)

Insidetime

- [In case you hadn't noticed](#)
- [Mail bag - two ways of doing it](#)
- [James Timpson: 'Prisons create better criminals'](#)
- [How to solve the capacity crisis](#)
- [Campaigners press Labour for IPP reform](#)
- [IPP licence changes explained](#)
- [New laws passed in day of drama](#)
- [Peers made a difference on IPP](#)
- [Men try 'hostel life' – in a Cat C prison](#)
- [Inquest exposes failings which led to IPP prisoner's suicide](#)
- [The glass half full](#)
- [Parole Board rejects most IPP licence termination bids](#)
- [Prisoner hoped his suicide would change policy on IPP](#)
- [United Nations renews call to resentence IPP prisoners](#)
- [IPP campaigners disappointed at exclusion from SDS40](#)
- [IPP licence termination](#)
- [IPP licence reform takes effect in November](#)
- [Former Lord Chief Justices call for 'sentence inflation' to be reversed](#)