

## MOJUK: Newsletter 'Inside Out' No 897 (04/05/2022) - Cost £1

### Att: Secretaries of State for Health and Justice April 2022

We write to ask you and your departments to work together to provide mental health support for prisoners and to offer individual mental and physical health checks to everyone in custody. As you are aware, it is now two years since the prison service introduced a full lockdown with severely restricted regimes in the face of the pandemic. We believe that it is time for a thorough review of the impact of this form of extreme imprisonment on the mental and physical health of people detained by the state and the remedial action that would be prompted by such a review. For people in custody, Covid-19 has meant being held 'in a prison within a prison'. While severe restrictions and extreme isolation imposed at the outset may well have saved lives, the toll on mental and physical health is likely to be high and remains, as yet, unquantified.

Mental health and substance misuse In recent months, criminal justice inspectorates and the Justice Committee have set out the urgent need to understand more about, and respond to, the impact of Covid-19 on the mental health of people in prison. As one prisoner told the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC) during our consultation: 'I'm sure there is a lot of prisoners suffering from severe anxiety, isolating in their cells not knowing when they're going to be unlocked.' Another man wrote recently: 'I have witnessed prisoners with no drug/alcohol history turn to drugs/alcohol due to the conditions within prison, lack of help/care/support/regime/purposeful activity/long lock showers etc.' up/no exercise/no gym/no

Prisoners' views and concerns about deterioration in health are clear from our consultations, Inside Time, Prison Radio, reports from scrutiny bodies and largescale reviews by Prison Reform Trust, the Zahid Mubarek Trust and User Voice, amongst others. Prisoners' need for support is evident from the 60% increase (2019-2021) in calls to the Samaritans from people in prison. In the 12 months to December 2021 there were 86 self-inflicted deaths, a significant increase of 28% from the previous year. We strongly recommend that additional mental health support is offered to people who have spent up to 23 hours a day behind bars for as much as two years, together with bereavement support for the many who have lost family and friends during this time. Physical health Since the onset of the pandemic, more than 40,000 prisoners and over 42,000 members of staff are recorded as having contracted Covid-19. Of these, it is not known how many are suffering from Long Covid – screening, diagnosis and treatment are needed.

Government figures show a marked disparity between the health and wellbeing of prison and general populations. In 2021 the IAPDC report with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) on the prevention of natural deaths in custody, identified high prevalence of underlying health conditions, respiratory and cardiovascular, among prisoners, making people in prison more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19. During the pandemic, opportunities have been missed to diagnose and treat lifethreatening conditions. A review of incidence of long-term conditions and cancer would identify whether, as in the community, people living in prisons are presenting with more advanced disease. It is important to identify whether hospitals are addressing appointment backlogs with equivalence for patients in the secure estate compared to the community - or whether factors such as staff shortages due to Covid-19, limited face-to-face care in custody, problems with availability of escorts and reduced access to hospital care due to lockdown, combined with digital inequity, have widened the health inequality gap. The prison

population is getting older, many ageing prematurely. Black and ethnic minority groups and people who have grown up in poverty are over-represented within custody and more at risk of infection. Yet people within these groups are known to be less likely to seek help—how have they fared during the pandemic? Now we ask you to ensure that individual mental and physical health checks are conducted to understand how people are and to respond to immediate health needs. These health checks could also provide clinical staff with an opportunity to remind people of the benefits of available vaccine protection.

Ongoing impact - Most prisons are poorly ventilated, crowded, closed places, which amplify the spread of a virus. Physical layouts make social distancing impossible. Low staffing levels and poor sanitation impede infection control. Today your healthcare teams, prison staff and managers are still dealing with Omicron outbreaks in over 50 prisons across England and Wales. As Covid-19 swept the country, without vaccine protection for frontline staff or prisoners, the prison service's only line of defence was to confine people for up to 23 hours a day in small, often shared, cells. Two years later, despite painstaking recovery efforts, restrictions remain. Reports from independent monitors and prison inspectors show that, in some establishments, time out of cell is still limited to little more than one hour a day with few opportunities for exercise in the fresh air.

*Advice and Call for Action* We understand that there are health and education plans to provide additional mental health support to children and young people. We welcome justice plans in the Prison Strategy White Paper to improve prisoners' employment chances and to help people find safe housing on release. As well as reducing reoffending, they will introduce a sense of hope and purpose, important guards against the risk of suicide and self-harm. For these plans to succeed, they must be integrated with vital work, underpinned by adequate resources, to improve health and wellbeing. Co-signatories to this letter can draw on the expert knowledge and experience of members and colleagues to advise on how best to determine and respond to unmet need and help to keep people safe.

During the pandemic, people in the community have spoken about loss of freedom, loss of choice, loss of agency and identity. Many have spoken of this time as 'like being in prison'. For people held 'in a prison within a prison', these are still desperate times. The punishment of imprisonment is loss of liberty, not permanently impaired mental and physical health and not, at worst, loss of life. Hence, we are taking the unusual step of coming together to ask you and your departments, the NHS and prison service to act now to offer:

- immediate additional mental health support for prisoners
- individual mental and physical health checks for everyone in custody
- support for frontline health and justice staff

In parallel, we strongly advise you to conduct a thorough review of the impact of the pandemic on the mental and physical health of people in prison. We will do all we can, singly and collectively, to support you in these endeavours and to enable you to protect lives.

### Netflix and Chill for Irish Prisoners

*'Inside Time'*: Prisoners in the Republic of Ireland can continue watching Netflix shows on their in-cell televisions after a decision was taken to carry on providing the subscription service. When the Covid pandemic struck in 2020, the Irish Prison Service (IPS) increased the number of in-cell TVs so that all prisoners on Standard or Enhanced regimes had one, and paid for Netflix subscriptions at all 12 of its jails to increase the number of viewing options. Viewers are not able to flick through the hundreds of Netflix shows and choose which one they would like to watch, as they would at home. Instead, the chief officer selects one programme and it is made available in every cell as an alter-

native to the free-to-air channels. Initially, Netflix was intended as a temporary measure to help ease the boredom of long hours spent in cells during the Covid lockdowns. However, now that restrictions easing, an IPS spokesperson told Inside Time last week that a decision has been taken to carry on providing the service. It has not proved expensive: after an initial 8,915 euros (£7,400) in installation costs, the subscription fees are reported to be costing the IPS only 120 euros (£100) per month for its entire estate. Among the shows available on Netflix are Orange is the New Black, Prison Break and Inside the World's Toughest Prisons. Prisons in the Irish Republic also offer residents the chance to watch Sky Sports broadcasts – but these are only available in communal areas, not on in-cell TVs. A spokesperson for the IPS said: “The incidents of self-harm and suicide in prisons have been dramatically reduced since the introduction of televisions in prisons a number of years ago. They have been even more critical during Covid-19, where prisoners have experienced longer periods in their cells and there were restrictions on physical visits.”

### **Prison Employee ‘Called Black Prisoners Monkeys’**

*‘Inside Time’*: A survey of Black and minority ethnic women in prison has uncovered allegations of racism and discrimination. One mixed race woman claimed that when she was sitting with two black friends, a member of prison staff told her “You look like the three wise monkeys”. A mixed-race woman said she had been accused by a staff member of “talking gangster”. Among women surveyed, 34 per cent felt the treatment they received from staff was “poor” or “very poor”, rising to 45 per cent among Black women. Asked about access to work, 30 per cent felt that they were less likely to be offered jobs than other prisoners because of their ethnicity. The survey, which took place in all 12 female jails in England, attracted 266 responses from Black, minority ethnic or foreign national prisoners. It was carried out by the Independent Monitoring Boards (IMBs) and the Criminal Justice Alliance (CJA).

The findings were set out in three reports which included comments from prisoners showing that staff attitudes were inconsistent. One mixed race woman said: “Majority of the officers are really respectful and easy to talk to, while others are just plain rude and sometimes act like they are scared of me.” Another said: “Some are rude to me but are OK with other white prisoners. That really upsets me.” The authors of the reports made recommendations including more funding for equalities work in prisons; more recruitment of ethnically diverse staff; better staff training; external scrutiny of prisoners’ discrimination claims; and language support for prisoners whose first language is not English.

Nina Champion, Director of the CJA, called the findings of the survey “shocking and distressing”. She said: “The women lack trust and confidence in the complaints system, do not trust that they will be treated fairly and are often unaware of how prison monitors can help. There is an urgent need to address these issues nationally and locally, and I hope to see our recommendations being implemented with haste.”

Commenting on the findings, Dame Anne Owers, Chair of the IMBs, said: “In spite of numerous reports highlighting disproportionality in the criminal justice system, and the specific challenges faced by women, positive change has been slow. These reports show that addressing racial and ethnic disadvantage needs to be a priority, and I hope these recommendations will stimulate action at every level. IMBs can play a key role in monitoring and reporting on outcomes for women from diverse backgrounds and we are keen to learn from this research.”

Among the complaints of women in the survey was that when they reported incidents of racism using a Discrimination Incident Reporting Form (DIRF), there was seldom a positive outcome. One woman told the researchers: “There is never no punishment when someone says racial things, it is then dismissed on lack of evidence – so it’s a waste of time.”

### **Covid Makes a Spring Comeback in Prisons**

*‘Inside Time’*: Monthly data from the Ministry of Justice showed that 2,749 new cases were recorded during the month, with around 90 per cent of prisons and young offender institutions recording at least one positive test. The monthly total was up from 2,123 new cases in February. However, it remains well below the figure for January, which was the worst month since the pandemic began with 7,455 new cases recorded. Although the figures do not specify which strain of the virus is spreading, most of the new cases are thought to be the dominant Omicron variant which causes less severe disease than previous variants. The three deaths in March mean that 15 prisoners have died with Covid so far in 2022, on top of 75 deaths in 2020 and 102 deaths in 2021 – a total since the start of the pandemic of 192 in England and Wales. A further 13 prisoners have died with Covid in Scotland. A note by Ministry of Justice statisticians, published with the data, said: “Of the 192 prisoner deaths, 157 are suspected or confirmed to be due to COVID-19. The remaining 35 deaths are believed to be due to other causes, although the individuals had tested positive for COVID-19 ... The cause of death in each case is provisional until the official cause of death has been determined by the coroner. As such revisions may be made to the data as part of this process.”

### **Ulster Defence Regimen - Britain’s Sectarian Army**

*Anne Cadwallader, Declassified UK*: The Ulster Defence Regiment, the largest in the British army, fueled the conflict in Northern Ireland and was a sectarian weapon in Britain's counter-insurgency strategy, shows a new book drawing on declassified files. Say ‘UDR’ to the vast majority of Britons and, despite the increasingly totemic status of ‘our boys’ in the military, eyebrows will universally raise. Yet the Ulster Defence Regiment was active throughout most of the recent conflict in Ireland – the longest period of continuous duty of any British military unit. Successive UK governments lavishly praised its courage and commitment to peace. There were regular visits by members of the royal family to barracks and parade grounds across Northern Ireland from Fermanagh to Belfast. A recently-published book, however, reveals a quite different story.

UDR Declassified by Micheál Smith relies for hard evidence on declassified internal British memos, position papers and analysis, much of which were retrieved from the UK National Archives over the last two decades by the Pat Finucane Centre. Successive governments in London, the book argues, fueled the conflict in Northern Ireland by policing and alienating one part of the community (those who are pro-Irish unity, mainly Catholic) while arming, training and providing intelligence information through the UDR to the other section of the community (those who are pro-union, mainly Protestant). “Writers of books like this”, says Smith, “often get accused of re-writing history. But history is always rewritten whenever new evidence proves it wrong. This evidence allows us to narrow the permissible lies”.

The UDR was formed in April 1970, supposedly to replace the discredited “B-Specials”, a quasi-military force. All the UDR’s original seven battalions, however, were led by former B-Special county commandants. Hardly surprising, then, that the UDR is described by French political scientist, Anne Mandeville, as “a kind of monster”. While it was supposedly an arm of the British state, she says, in reality it was “deeply in solidarity with the Protestant community”.

Integrated into the British Army, it was also divided from it “organically, geographically and by its specificity”, a toxic recipe for any law-enforcement unit seeking cross-community support. For many Catholics, the slogan ‘UDR by Day: UVF by Night’ was a lived reality, referring to the oldest loyalist paramilitary group in the conflict, the Ulster Volunteer Force. Stories

abound of people stopped on the roadside in the dead of night – or on the way home from church or Gaelic sporting fixtures – to be insolently abused or worse.

The one-time leader of the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Nobel peace prize winner, John Hume, described the regiment as a “group of Rangers supporters put in uniforms, supplied with weapons and given the job of policing the area where Celtic supporters live”. More officially, a 1984 briefing document prepared for the then Northern Ireland Secretary, Douglas Hurd, concluded: “The regiment is mistrusted, even hated, in much of the Catholic community, and by many Catholic politicians”. It added: “More significantly, it is not held in the highest regard by the RUC itself (including the Chief Constable ...) even amongst regular soldiers it is not universally popular.” The UDR was also seen as an impediment to peace. In 1986 a Foreign Office official noted in a memo to a Ministry of Defence colleague that: “For all its courage and dedication (which I certainly do not underestimate), and despite its incorporation into the British Army, the UDR is an inescapably sectarian body and an obstacle to reconciliation between the two communities in Northern Ireland.”

*Counter-Insurgency* - Smith, while pulling no punches, freely concedes not every member of the regiment was motivated by sectarian hatred. Far from it, he says many of its members wished to end the conflict through patrolling, surveillance and lending their local knowledge to support the police, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The main thrust of this book, however, judges the UDR in its structural context, rising well above a day-by-day account of its sectarian and criminal failings. Instead it examines the regiment's role as a key element of British colonial/post-colonial counter-insurgency strategy in Ireland. That is not to say the UDR's dubious record is overlooked. Smith points out that between 1985 and 1989, UDR members were twice as likely to commit a crime as the general public. The UDR crime rate was 10 times that for police officers in the RUC and about four times the British army rate. The central problem, he says, is that London never viewed the problem in Northern Ireland as rooted in a demand for civil rights, equality and constitutional reform. Instead it blindly interpreted republican violence as a criminal conspiracy that must be crushed.

The book is full of examples where, rather than deal even-handedly with both communities, London concluded that armed republicanism was its only true enemy. Just three examples from the book suffice to show the malign out-workings of this policy. Shockingly, it points out that the word “collusion” to describe covert collaboration between loyalist paramilitaries and state forces was first used as early in the conflict as September 1971 when a rifle was reported taken and “connivance” suspected. Even more disturbing was the lack of police inquiries into “missing” weapons such as the “theft” of sub-machine gun serial number UF57A30490, taken from Glenanne UDR barracks in County Armagh, in May 1971. This weapon was subsequently used to murder 11 people in 11 months, leaving four children orphaned and 19 fatherless.

*Heavily Infiltrated* - London cannot say it was unaware of the dangers. In 1975, Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson and opposition leader Margaret Thatcher were informed by an official that: “The Army's judgment [was that] the UDR were heavily infiltrated by extremist Protestants and that in a crisis situation they could not be relied on to be loyal”. Stunning evidence, even earlier, of the UDR's dangerous proclivities is provided in an internal British discussion document entitled ‘Subversion in the UDR’, written in August 1973. “It seems likely”, says the document, “that a significant proportion (perhaps 5% – in some areas as high as 15%) of UDR soldiers will also be members of the UDA, Vanguard Service Corps, Orange Volunteers or UVF”, referring to loyalist paramilitary forces.

Yet, the document concludes, little should be done about this: “The discovery of members of para-military or extremist organisations in the UDR is not, and has not been, a major intelligence target” and the UDR remained “wide open to subversion and potential subversion”. Moreover, the same document concludes that “some soldiers are undoubtedly leading double lives” and that “the UDR is the single best source of loyalist weapons and their only significant source of modern weapons”. Rather amazingly, there is even doubt over the very legality of the UDR. A 1981 memo, only recently discovered in the archives, notes concerns amongst Ministry of Defence legal advisers as to whether UDR soldiers were legally ‘on duty’, as the formal call-out procedures had not been followed since the early 1970s. As a result, officials were concerned about the legality of arrests, search operations and other actions.

Rewriting History: UK's Government's New Plan

Technically, it may yet be possible for people to challenge pre-1981 arrests by the UDR through the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Convictions of persons for failing to answer a question or for resisting arrest might also be called into question. But the book's central focus is what the UDR did while its soldiers were let loose on the populace, legally or otherwise. Blame for this deplorable and deadly lack of action, Smith concludes, should not be laid at the door of individual UDR members but at those who devised a policy of using it as a counter-insurgency weapon for three decades and who continue to escape detection and accountability of any kind. The price, he points out, was paid by the UDR's many victims whose lives continue to be blighted by its existence and because of its shameful record.

#### **USA: Wrongly Convicted Man Served Three Decades in Prison**

A San Francisco man has been released from prison this week after serving 32 years for a crime he did not commit. Joaquin Ciria was convicted of murdering a friend, Felix Bastarrica, in 1990 and that conviction was overturned on Monday by a San Francisco Superior Court judge. The Northern California Innocence Project put the case in front of District Attorney Chesa Boudin's Innocence Commission 18 months ago after they found new evidence and witnesses. Mr Ciria, 61, told reporters: "They did justice where justice needed to be done and I'm really happy today. I want to say thank you to my attorney," said Ciria, embracing the attorneys who fought for him. "My first five years I was thinking I really can't take it," said Ciria. "I thought that I was going to lose my mind any day, but when you put faith - your faith in God - you gotta keep going." "This is what we do our work for," said Linda Starr, Director of the Northern California Innocence Project at Santa Clara University. "These moments are amazing. It's why we've fought for 20 years to correct the witness identification procedures that are used, so mistakes like this don't happen."

#### **David Oluwale Victim of Police Harassment Remembered by Blue Plaque in Leeds**

*Haroon Siddique, Guardian*: A blue plaque is to be unveiled in Leeds commemorating David Oluwale, a British-Nigerian man who died in 1969 after being harassed by police. The plaque will be on Leeds Bridge, close to where Oluwale was last seen alive, being chased by Sgt Kenneth Kitching and Insp Geoffrey Ellerker. His body was found two weeks later about a mile away in the River Aire, which flows under the bridge. In a landmark case in 1971, the two officers, who had subjected Oluwale to a long campaign of abuse were convicted of assault by a jury, having been directed to acquit them of manslaughter. It was the first successful prosecution of British police officers for involvement in the death of a black person, according to Leeds Civic Trust. Several nominations were submitted over the years for a blue plaque to commemorate Oluwale, but in 2019 it was

rejected by the trust in part because it was not celebratory and his legacy was posthumous. However, the criteria for plaques was changed after an independent review in 2021 commissioned following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent anti-racist protests.

Max Farrar, the secretary of the Remember Oluwale charity, said: "After many years of quiet campaigning by #RememberOluwale, the Black Lives Matter protests put wind in our sails, and this blue plaque for David Oluwale is one of several signs that Leeds is committed to being more welcoming, more inclusive and more equal. "Leeds Civic Trust is one of our many partners who recognise that Leeds has to face up to its shameful history of racism and take active steps to transform itself. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters."

Remember Oluwale launched a successful crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for the plaque. Among those speaking at Monday's unveiling will be the author Caryl Phillips, who wrote an essay on Oluwale in his 2007 book *Foreigners – Three English Lives* (2007), the city council leader, James Lewis, and Det Ch Supt Carl Galvin. Galvin's father, Gary Galvin, a police cadet, acted as a whistleblower, exposing that Oluwale had been the victim of serious and sustained mistreatment by officers. The David Oluwale Choir will sing songs composed by Leeds United football fans after the imprisonment of Ellerker and Kitching. One of the chants they would sing on the terraces, to the tune of Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore, was "The River Aire is chilly and deep, Ol-u-wale; Never trust the Leeds police, Ol-u-wale."

The trust's director, Martin Hamilton, said: "A blue plaque scheme should be more than a pat on the back for famous, high-achieving people. It should also tell the story of significant points in history that risk being forgotten or overlooked." "David Oluwale did not have the opportunity to achieve his potential in his own lifetime, but the legacy created after his death is one that deserves to be highlighted." Last month, a footbridge named after Oluwale was installed over the River Aire and a sculpture commemorating him is being created by the British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare for the new Meadow Lane gardens nearby.

### **Gun Deaths Were the Leading Killer of US Children in 2020**

Guns overtook car crashes to become the leading cause of death for US children and teenagers in 2020, new research shows. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that over 4,300 young Americans died of firearm-related injuries in 2020. While suicides contributed to the toll, the data shows that homicides form the majority of gun-related deaths. More than 390 million guns are owned by US civilians.

According to the research - which was published this week in the *New England Journal of Medicine* - the rise in gun-related deaths among Americans between the ages of one and 19 was part of an overall 33.4% increase in firearm homicides nationwide. Homicides, the study noted, disproportionately impact young Americans. Over the same time period, the rate of firearm suicides in the US rose by 1.1%. The overall rate of gun deaths of all reasons - suicide, homicide, unintentional and undetermined - among children and teenagers rose by 29.5%, more than twice that of the wider population. The rate of gun-related deaths per 100,000 residents rose among both men and women and across ethnic demographics between 2019 and 2020, with the largest increase among black Americans.

In past years, gun-related deaths were second only to car crashes as the leading cause of death among young Americans. Car deaths, however, have fallen over time and in 2020 approximately 3,900 Americans under 19 died in vehicle crashes. Incidents of drug overdoses and poisonings rose 83.6% between 2019 and 2020, and now are the third leading cause

of death in that age group. A separate study published earlier in April found that 954 young people died of overdoses in 2020, compared to 492 in 2019.

Gun violence in the US has increased since the Covid-19 pandemic began in early 2020. "The reasons for the increase are unclear," the research letter said. "It cannot be assumed that firearm-related mortality will later revert to pre-pandemic levels". A separate study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in February, found that 7.5 million US adults - just under 3% of the population - became first-time gun owners during the pandemic between January and April 2021. This, in turn, exposed 11 million people to household firearms, including five million children.

### **Take No Pride in Britain's Brutal Immigration History**

*Socialist Worker:* From allowing Jewish people to die at the hands of the Nazis to drownings in the Channel, Boris Johnson is wrong to claim that Britain has "a proud history" of welcoming people. The Tories have a long-term mission to scapegoat migrants for the problems in society. That's particularly useful now as Johnson teeters on the edge of removal from Downing Street. As he announced the plans to deport refugees to Rwanda for "processing", Johnson said, without a hint of irony, "Our Britain is a beacon of openness and generosity." But the real record is saturated in blood. Around 400,000 Irish people settled in Britain in the 1840s after a famine that was a result of British colonialism. They were met with widespread anti-Irish prejudice from the top of society. Irish people were barred from housing and employment. But the prejudices also dripped down wards, resulting in racist attacks.

In the early 1900s Jewish people in eastern Europe were subject to pogroms and thousands saw their homes destroyed and family killed. But when they tried to escape to Britain, the ruling class branded them "criminals". MPs brought in Britain's first immigration controls—the Aliens Act 1905. It was specifically directed against Jews. It defined some migrants—mostly the poor and mentally ill—as "undesirable". When the Nazis invaded Austria in 1932, and Jewish people there fled, more immigration controls were announced. Britain reluctantly accepted just 9,354 unaccompanied children as refugees. Tory prime minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I don't care a damn about the Jews." From 600,000 received visa applications, just 70,000 refugees were accepted. Italy declared war on Britain in June 1940 and Winston Churchill ordered police to "collar the lot". That meant interning all Italians. Racist and sectarian groups followed his lead and attacked over 4,000 Italian migrants. The elite has only ever helped refugees when suits their interests or when pressured from below.

The British Nationality Act 1948 allowed all citizens of the British Empire to live and work in Britain without a visa. The intention was they would fill gaps in the labour market. Commonwealth migration rose from a trickle in the early 1950s to more than 100,000 a year by the early 1960s. But rather than being welcomed by the "mother country" they were met with official disdain and widespread racism. Politicians of all parties used migrants as a scapegoat for poor housing and low pay. This rhetoric developed the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, which forced some migrants to "return to their own countries". Rabid racist, Enoch Powell incited violence against migrants. His Rivers of Blood speech in 1968 outlined the myth of what's now "the great replacement" theory. By 1972 only those holding a work permit or with parents or grandparents born in Britain could enter. In mid-1970s the Wilson and Callaghan Labour government forced women from south Asia coming to Britain to marry to undergo virginity tests. Laws have continually been tightened to make it harder for people to move to Britain. The result today is people dying trying to escape war, poverty, climate change and hunger. There is nothing to celebrate about Britain's immigration controls.

### **Number of IPP Prisoners Never Released Stood At 1,602 on 31 December 2021**

This Government has brought forward an amendment relating to IPP licence terminations as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill, which is currently before Parliament. IPP offenders are eligible for Parole Board consideration of whether their IPP licence should be terminated, once 10 years has elapsed since their first release. Note that time spent in prison following recall under the IPP licence does not affect the calculation of the 10 year qualifying period. The Bill will require the Secretary of State to refer all eligible IPP offenders to the Parole Board for consideration of licence termination. This will ensure that eligible IPP offenders have every opportunity to have their licence terminated.

### **Prisoners' Release: Temporary Accommodation**

Our Prisons Strategy White Paper sets out our vision that no-one subject to probation supervision is released from prison homeless. By 2024-5, we will invest £200m per year to transform our approach to rehabilitation. This includes expanding our Community Accommodation Service-Tier 3 transitional accommodation service across England and Wales. The service will support those under supervision from probation who are released from prison at risk of homelessness with up to 12-weeks accommodation.

### **Prisoners: Self-harm and Suicide**

The Secretary of State for Justice has not discussed levels of self-harm and suicide among prisoners held under Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. However, preventing self-harm and self-inflicted deaths of prisoners is a key priority for this Government as set out in the Prisons Strategy White Paper. We are providing prisons with tools to improve the way data is used to identify prisoners at increased risk of suicide and self-harm and we are developing training for staff to improve their understanding and knowledge of what drives self-harm in prisons. For those prisoners at increased risk, we also provide additional support through our targeted case management approach to ensure they receive appropriate care and support, and have also invested in implementing a Key Worker scheme across the estate, providing dedicated staff support to prisoners. We continue to raise staff awareness of the particular risks of self-harm and suicide amongst the IPP population.

### **Prison Cell Accommodation - Overcrowding**

Prison cell occupancy is certified by the Prison Group Director (PGD) in accordance with Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 17/2012, which provides guidelines for determining cell capacities. Cells are only shared where a PGD has assessed them to be of an adequate size and condition. In addition, they must have adequate lighting, heating, ventilation and fittings, have 24-hour access to water and sanitation, and allow prisoners to communicate at any time with a prison officer. These standards ensure that prisoners are always accommodated safely. The Government is investing £3.8 billion over the next three years to deliver 20,000 new prison places. These additional prison places will have a positive impact on lowering the proportion of crowding within the prison estate by providing accommodation that is safe, decent and uncrowded. The 2020/21 Annual Digest shows that, across the year ending in March 2021, 15,941 prisoners were housed in crowded accommodation. Of these, 15,589 were housed in double cells originally designed for one person, and a further 259 were housed in triple cells designed for two people.

### **Police 'Break Law' to Target Sex Workers With 'Bullying and Intimidating Tactics'**

*Maya Oppenheim, Independent:* Police officers have been accused of ignoring the law in order to "bully, harass and intimidate" sex workers. Two letters, sent to police by campaigners and shared exclusively with The Independent, accuse officers of refusing to show warrant cards before raiding sex workers' premises and declining to identify themselves. The letters, written by Niki Adams, of the English Collective of Prostitutes, a leading campaign group that supports sex workers, outline cases of sex workers who allege they have been intimidated by police. In one letter sent to the Joint Professional Standards Department of the Norfolk Constabulary, she claims police entered a sex worker's premises without showing a warrant. The officers are alleged to have shouted that "prostitution was illegal in the UK, told her that she was mentally ill, searched the flat and took her phones and a personal book containing her email address, passwords and phone numbers".

Ms Adams also claims officers took photos of the woman, who she refers to as "Ms B", and removed towels from the premises claiming they needed to check them for semen – a move the campaigner labelled "intrusive and humiliating". "After this aggressive and unreasonable behaviour officers then bizarrely asked Ms B if she was trafficked," Ms Adams wrote. "If the police believed that there was a possibility that Ms B was trafficked, how do they justify shouting at her and treating her like a suspect?" The campaigner noted that Ms B was in the premises alone so was not acting illegally. While it is not illegal for individuals to buy or sell sex in the UK, soliciting, working on the street, sex workers banding together as a group and prostitutes advertising themselves is illegal. "If Ms B was under suspicion for a criminal offence and the police were considering arresting her, she should have been cautioned. She was not," Ms Adams adds.

"If Ms B was not suspected of a crime why did police confiscate her property? As we understand it, this is only justified if police have reasonable grounds to believe that the items have been obtained illegally or are evidence in relation to an offence. What offence was Ms B suspected of? We can also see no justification for asking for her email address passwords." The campaigner argued the incident went against guidelines set out by the National Police Chief Council, which states officers should not "start from a position that treats sex workers as criminals simply for being sex workers or engaging in practices that have been undertaken to increase their own personal safety, such as, 'managing or keeping brothels'". Ms Adams said Ms B was left so "paranoid" by the encounter she "couldn't stay in her home, couldn't think properly, [and] couldn't eat or sleep". "She spent three nights on the streets in central London, considered taking her life and contacted the Samaritans," Ms Adams added. "She would like to emphasise that she hasn't done anything wrong and is just trying to survive under very difficult financial circumstances."

### **Memorial Unveiled for David Oluwale 'Hounded' to Death by Racist Police**

*Jon Robins, Justice Gap:* A blue plaque was unveiled Tuesday 25th April 2022, at a new bridge in Leeds in memory of a homeless Nigerian man more than fifty years after he was 'hounded' to death by racist police officers. The memorial follows a long campaign to recognise David Oluwale whose bruised and battered body was found drowned in the River Aire on May 4 1969. He was last seen two weeks earlier fleeing two police officers on 18 April 1969 and later found. David Oluwale was born in Lagos in 1930, arrived in Hull as a stowaway on a cargo ship and was immediately sent to Armley Gaol for 28 days. He was sent to prison again for disorderly conduct where he suffered hallucinations and was labelled schizophrenic and transferred to the Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Menston near Otley, later called High Royds Hospital. He spent his final two years homeless in Leeds city centre, routinely mentally and physically abused by police officers Insp Geoffrey Ellerker and Sgt Kenneth Kitching. On the police charge sheets, in the

nationality box, the word 'British' had been crossed out and replaced by 'Wog'. On May 4 1969, the body of a homeless Nigerian man was discovered bruised, battered and bloated in the river Aire, close to Leeds main sewage works. The coroner recorded a verdict of death by drowning. The loose change found in his pockets was put towards a cheap coffin and a pauper's funeral. His body interred in a common grave shared with nine other vagrants.

Some 18 months later, the circumstances of that death became the focus of a criminal investigation. David Oluwale was only 19-years-of-age when he arrived in Hull in August 1949, a stowaway on a cargo ship called the Temple Star. The young man was soon to be disabused of any hopes of a better life. On his arrival, he was set to Armley Gaol for 28 days.

Leeds in the 1950s and 1970s was not the place to be if you were a young black immigrant, and David Oluwale was not well-equipped to deal with the hostility he faced. In 1953 he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for disorderly conduct and assaulting a police officer. In prison, it was reported that he suffered from hallucinations, was labelled schizophrenic and transferred to the Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Menston near Otley, later called High Royds Hospital. He was to spend eight years there. His hospital records were lost, but it was reported that Oluwale was heavily drugged and received electroconvulsive therapy. In 1961 Oluwale was released onto the streets a changed and damaged man with no job and no home. Seven years later and the police files record his first contact with Sergeant Kenneth Kitching and Inspector Geoffrey Ellerker of Leeds City Police.

In December 1970 his corpse was exhumed amidst allegations that two officers had effectively hounded him to his death. There was a 13 day trial in November 1971 presided over by Mr Justice Hinchcliffe, the same judge who heard the Tony Stock case. In his summing-up, the judge defended the role of the embattled Leeds City Police standing between the law-abiding people of West Yorkshire and the forces of 'chaos'. 'They do their best to enable people like you and me to sleep in our beds in safety,' he told the court. Hinchcliffe did nothing to hide his revulsion at the rough sleeping Nigerian and the 'feelings of nausea [and] outrage at [his] shocking conduct'. The judge saw Oluwale as less than human, 'a wild animal... a menace to society, a nuisance to the police, a frightening apparition to come across at night'.

The race relations campaigner Ron Phillips suspected from the off that the police were involved in Oluwale's death. He spearheaded the campaign which led to the first conviction for a race hate crime. Phillips reported that, even after the jury convicted Inspector Ellerker of five charges of assault and Sergeant Kitching of four charges of assault on the dead Nigerian, the judge was more concerned 'about the reputation of the police force despite the destruction of a human being' (from 'The Death of One Lame Darkie', Ron Phillips in Race Today, January 1972). The most alarming feature of the case was that Ellerker and Kitching had (in the judge's words) 'brought disgrace on their wives and families and the police forces of this country'. 'The verdict of the jury will add fuel to the fire of those who spend their time sneering at the police, and making rash criticisms of police officers,' said Mr Justice Hinchcliffe.

Not everyone saw the Oluwale case that way. A group of MPs led by Donald Kaberry, the Tory MP for Leeds North West, called on the Home Secretary to set up an inquiry. 'Is Leeds city police force overripe for another Home Office investigation into its morale, discipline and efficiency?' asked the Guardian. The two Oluwale convictions brought the total of Leeds officers convicted to 12 in two years. By contrast, when the Home Secretary had an investigation into the force in 1954 'it was on the strength of only five convictions in the courts, three dismissals from the force and two forced resignations in two years.' A year before the Oluwale trial, Ellerker was imprisoned for nine months at Leeds Assize.

### **Self-Harm Amongst Women Prisoners Eight Times That of Men**

Samantha Dulieu, Justice Gap: The rate of self-harm amongst women in prison is eight times that of men and an increase from five times higher prior to the pandemic, according to the report of a cross-party group of MPs and peers. The first briefing from an ongoing inquiry into the damaging impact of prisons on women's health and wellbeing reveals poor living conditions in women's prisons, the damaging impact of pandemic restrictions, and that most women in prison do not need to be in custody.

The briefing states that in the year ending June 2021, there were 4,787 first receptions of women in prison, of which more than half were women on remand. One in three of these women had received a sentence of less than 12 months. The All Party Parliamentary Group for Women in the Penal System is calling for the provision within the bail act that states people can be remanded in custody for their own protection to be removed. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons told the inquiry that within three women's prisons they had identified 68 women who were so mentally unwell they should have been in a clinical setting. This follows reports earlier this year that in a Derbyshire women's prison, a thousand calls were being made to the Samaritans each month.

The briefing also addresses health disparities for women in prison, indicating inequalities in access to healthcare in the community are amplified in prison. Submissions from Birth Companions and the Nuffield Trust showed pregnant women in prison miss pregnancy related appointments more often than expected, and one in 10 women who give birth while serving a custodial sentence do so outside of a hospital setting. Speaking to Woman's Hour on Radio 4 on Monday, the Co-Chair of the APPG on Women in the Penal System.

Jackie Doyle-Price MP, said: 'The truth of the matter is people have a lot of prejudice about people who end up in prison, which is that they're all seriously bad people and need locking away... most women in prison are victims of crime themselves, they end up in a very dysfunctional way of life, and find themselves in prison. When I look at our prisons, I don't see thousands of hardened criminals. I see symptoms of state failure.'

Doyle-Price continued: 'Our whole prison system is designed around imprisoning thuggish, violent men in a cell six foot by four foot, but when we look at women prisoners they tend to be convicted of sentences which are not violent, they tend to be convicted of things with short sentences. Ten years ago there was a recognition that women needed to be housed in more therapeutic settings than traditional prisons, but we seem to have gone backwards.'

Serving Prisoners Supported by MOJUK: Derek Patterson, Walib Habid, Giovanni Di Stefano, Naweed Ali, Khobaib Hussain, Mohibur Rahman, Tahir Aziz, Roger Khan, Wang Yam, Andrew Malkinson, Michael Ross, Mark Alexander, Anis Sardar, Jamie Green, Dan Payne, Zoran Dresic, Scott Birtwistle, Jon Beere, Chedwyn Evans, Darren Waterhouse, David Norris, Brendan McConville, John Paul Wooton, John Keelan, Mohammed Niaz Khan, Abid Ashiq Hussain, Sharaz Yaqub, David Ferguson, Anthony Parsons, James Cullinene, Stephen Marsh, Graham Coutts, Royston Moore, Duane King, Leon Chapman, Tony Marshall, Anthony Jackson, David Kent, Norman Grant, Ricardo Morrison, Alex Silva, Terry Smith, Warren Slaney, Melvyn 'Adie' McLellan, Lyndon Coles, Robert Bradley, Thomas G. Bourke, David E. Ferguson, Lee Mockble, George Coleman, Neil Hurley, Jaslyn Ricardo Smith, James Dowsett, Kevan & Miran Thakrar, Jordan Towers, Patrick Docherty, Brendan Dixon, Paul Bush, Alex Black, Nicholas Rose, Kevin Nunn, Peter Carine, Paul Higginson, Robert Knapp, Thomas Petch, Vincent and Sean Bradish, John Allen, Jeremy Bamber, Kevin Lane, Michael Brown, Robert William Kenealy, Glyn Razzell, Willie Gage, Kate Keaveney, Michael Stone, Michael Attwooll, John Roden, Nick Tucker, Karl Watson, Terry Allen, Richard Southern, Peter Hannigan