

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Working with our Prisoner Policy Network, we are putting together a network of prisoners serving long sentences who will be involved in consultations, research and advocacy work.

Our network members will be key contributors to the project. If you are serving 10+ years and would like to be part of our Building Futures Network then please get in touch at:

buildingfutures@prisonreformtrust.org.uk If you have access to email a prisoner, or by letter to:

Building Futures,
Prison Reform Trust,
FREEPOST ND 6125,
London
EC1B 1PN

CONTACT US

The Team:

Programme Director: Dr David Maguire

Research Officer: Claudia Vince

Administrator: Kelly Gleeson

If you have internet access you can find more information about our work and access briefings and reports, on our website:
www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk



Prison Reform Trust
15 Northburgh Street
London, EC1V 0JR



buildingfutures@prisonreformtrust.org.uk
www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk



+44 0207 251 5070
+44 1204 380380

PRISON REFORM TRUST

BUILDING FUTURES

Understanding the impact of
long-term Imprisonment



PRISON REFORM TRUST

6,945

life sentenced prisoners in 2021
(compared to 1,322 in 1979)

WHAT IS BUILDING FUTURES?

It is a five year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to explore the experiences of people who will spend **10 or more years** in custody.

WHAT IS ITS AIM

To make a positive difference to the lives of very long-sentenced prisoners, their families and the wider community.



PRISON
REFORM
TRUST

BUILDING
FUTURES

THE ISSUE

In the last twenty years, the prison population has changed hugely.

- Sentences for more serious crimes have become longer.
- At least **11%** of the prison population is now serving some type of indeterminate sentence.
- Far more people will now spend 10 or more years in prison.
- The average tariff length for murder has increased from 12.5 years in 2003 to 21.1 years in 2013.
- Meeting the challenges of this change will shape the prison landscape for the foreseeable future.

THE IMPACT

- People both in prison and on the out may struggle to see a future and maintain hope.
- The wellbeing of all the people who live and work in prison suffers.
- When release does finally come around, making a success of it is harder.

WHO WILL ACHIEVE THIS?

Long-term prisoners will set the priorities. It is crucial that the programme is built by people it represents. So we will:

- Facilitate listening forums.
- Create inter-prisoner support networks.
- Promote prisoner leadership.
- Bridge the gap between the people who make policy and the people affected by it.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Understanding levels of harm and disorder amongst the long-term prisoner population.
- Finding ways to improve personal fulfilment and hope among the long-term population.
- Identifying and seeking to remove barriers to achieving parole at the earliest opportunity.
- Establishing a long-term strategy for the treatment of long-term prisoners.