

PRISON REFORM TRUST

Strategic

Plan

2018-2023

Our purpose

To create a just, humane and effective penal system.

Our vision

We will influence decision makers, opinion formers and the public to:

- **reduce the use of prison.** That is about who goes to prison and for how long, and means:
 - only the most serious crime should result in a sentence of imprisonment
 - prison sentences should not be so long that they destroy hope, and should always make full and constructive use of time inside.
- **improve conditions for prisoners,** which requires:
 - a framework of rights for prisoners as citizens
 - a safe, decent, fair and purposeful way of life in prison
 - the opportunity for prisoners to make amends to those they have harmed; and to take responsibility for creating a better future for themselves
 - a prison estate that is not overcrowded; and allows a prisoner to remain a member of the community to which they will return.
- **promote equality and human rights in the criminal justice system,** by:
 - tackling discrimination
 - protecting and improving the statutory framework for those rights.

How we work

All the work we do is underpinned by the following core principles:

- Listening to and providing a voice for prisoners and their families; and promoting their role in making change happen.
- Organisational credibility, built on sound governance and finance, and exceptional colleagues with experience from multiple perspectives, knowledge and integrity.
- Knowing the limits of our strengths and expertise; and working closely with partners to have a bigger impact overall.
- Not accepting money directly from central government, to preserve our freedom to say whatever needs to be said.
- Influencing policy makers by gathering, analysing and publishing the facts; promoting good practice and celebrating success; understanding the realities but seeing the possibilities.
- Principled opportunism: seizing the chance to make progress when it's there.
- Retaining a memory for what has happened in the past; and drawing out the learning from it.

What we will do next

Between 2018-2023 we will focus on these challenges:

Change who goes to prison and for how long

- End the imprisonment of people serving Sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP), and abolish the lifelong IPP licence
- Find out what the public, including victims, think about punishment, and challenge sentence inflation
- Divert people from prison who don't need, or are not well enough, to be there
- Reduce recall and remand populations
- Ensure a fair and effective parole system
- Reduce the imprisonment of women and ensuring their needs are met
- Reduce the number of children who end up in prison

Improve life in prison

- End overcrowding by having fewer people in prison
- Help to make prisons safe, decent, fair and purposeful
- Challenge restrictions which are not a "necessary consequence of imprisonment"
- Improve the way of life for the longest serving prisoners, for older prisoners, and for those in solitary
- Improve access to in cell technology and the internet
- Provide better access to information and advice, especially through schemes run by prisoners
- Increase access to release on temporary licence (ROTL)

Get the facts about prison and prisoners better known

- Make prisoners' views central to all that we do, give them the chance to speak for themselves, and keep them informed
- Tell the success stories and challenge prejudice
- Publish the Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile
- Produce original research with practical relevance, including work on employment for people convicted of sex offences
- Educate and influence the public, policy makers and politicians
- Provide the Secretariat to the Parliamentary All Party Penal Affairs Group

Promote equality and active citizenship

- Promote minimum standards for the treatment of all prisoners
- Reduce race disproportionality
- Promote active citizenship in prisons
- Tackle discrimination and ensure necessary reasonable adjustments, especially for prisoners with mental health and learning disabilities, and autism
- Contribute to a better approach for 18 to 24 year-olds in custody
- Improve safety for children in custody, and contribute to long term reform of the conditions in which they are held

The Prison Reform Trust aims to reduce imprisonment and improve conditions for prisoners and their families. We are one of the few organisations willing and equipped to hold the state to account for its treatment of vulnerable people in prison. A key strength is our ability to pursue “principled opportunism”, reacting swiftly to opportunities to shift policy and priorities within government, the operational services within criminal justice, and the sentencing framework. Our reputation, built on almost four decades of knowledgeable, reliable analysis and presentation of the facts, gives us influence behind the scenes that few organisations can match.

In 2021 we will celebrate 40 years of the Prison Reform Trust. To keep up to date with our work and receive news first please follow us on Twitter (@PRTuk) or sign up for our free monthly e-newsletter:

www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/GetInvolved/Newsletter

The Prison Reform Trust is careful to stick to its charitable purpose and does not accept funding from central government, in order to preserve our absolute freedom to speak truth to power. As such, we are wholly reliant on grants and donations. You can find out more about supporting our work on our website:

www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/GetInvolved/SupportOurWork

or by contacting charlotte.story@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

or on 020 7689 7731.

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The logo for the Prison Reform Trust, featuring the words "PRISON REFORM TRUST" in a bold, white, sans-serif font stacked vertically on a dark grey rectangular background.

Prison Reform Trust
15 Northburgh Street
London EC1V 0JR
020 7251 5070
www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk

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