

Early Career Academics Network Bulletin

November 2009 – Issue 1

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Introduction



Welcome to the first issue of the Early Career Academics Network (ECAN) bulletin. I am very pleased that you have taken the time to sign up to the Howard League's new network – but have you told your friends? This network will only flourish and help you to make important connections if many of your counterparts join. So please spread the word.

I hope this network, through its bulletin and facebook group, will provide a vibrant interface for early career academics – or those aspiring to be. My aim is to develop and create a space for the network members to discuss and explore contemporary issues; engage with like-minded researchers; and develop your interface with policy development and campaigning. But what else? The ECAN bulletin and network will constantly evolve – so your suggestions will always be welcome as I want to make it relevant and useful for you.

Bulletins are planned for every other month, but the debates and discussions can, and inevitably will develop through the facebook group. I look forward to hearing/seeing your thoughts on the issues raised in this bulletin – but also what you are keen to discuss in more depth.

Issue 2 will be available to members in January.

Anita Dockley

News

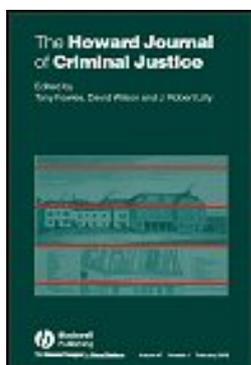
The Howard League for Penal Reform's AGM is coming up.

It will be held on Tuesday 24th November at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU. Dominic Grieve QC MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice will be the guest speaker (6.15pm) following the business meeting (4.30pm – members only).



Dominic Grieve QC MP

For more information and how to book your place visit our [website](#)



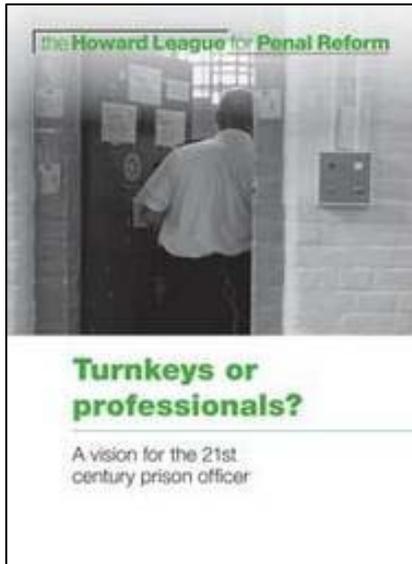
Have you seen the new initiative from the **Howard Journal of Criminal Justice**? Two members of its editorial board, Nic Groombridge (St Mary's University) and James Treadwell (Leicester University) have compiled an online student reader. It provides links to articles recently published in the journal relating to all aspects of the criminal justice system. Essential for all your first year students! Just follow this link

<http://www.wiley.com/bw/vi.asp?ref=0265-5527&site=1>.

Remember the best way for you and your students to receive access to the Howard Journal of Criminal Justice is by becoming a member of the Howard League - its cheaper that way!

The House of Common's Justice Select Committee has just published its report into the **Role of the Prison Officer**. The main message of this report appears to be that prison officers' role in reducing re-offending is hampered by the 'crisis in the prison system'. The Chair of the Committee, Sir Alan Beith MP, commented "Prison officers are undervalued, and their contribution to making ex-prisoners less likely to commit crimes is constantly undermined ... This becomes impossible when prisons are overcrowded, staff time with inmates is cut and prisoners are constantly shunted around between different prisons."

The report notes that in the year 2000, 24,272 uniformed prison officers were employed throughout the prison system. This figure had risen by 6% at the beginning of 2006 – however the prison population had increased by 24%. The report fears the reduction of the prison officer role to little more than a turnkey. The report highlights the fact that prison officers in England and Wales get far less training than counterparts in other countries and that officers get fewer opportunities to develop their education than prisoners.



This sentiment echoes the Howard League's fears. Our views on the role of the prison officer were published earlier this year. The report, *Turnkeys or professionals? A vision for the 21st century prison officer*, suggested that the prison officer's job should be compared to that of a social worker, nurse or a teacher, which over the years have all become professions. By withholding crucial training and education, the Howard League for Penal Reform believes that the prison service is failing its staff and putting them at risk.

Download our report at [Online publications: The Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

The **transfer of prisoners** has been in the spotlight with the swapping of prisoners between Pentonville and Wandsworth prisons. These two local prisons appear to have moved prisoners just before HM Chief Inspector of Prisons was due to arrive. We've been told that this is not unusual.

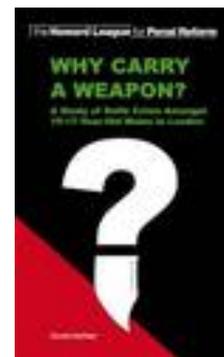
We will be monitoring this to see what happens and what the inquiry announced by Jack Straw comes up with (link to Ministerial statement - <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement201009b.htm>) especially when the governors involved here are two of the more forward thinking, good governors.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has just started its search to find **sites for new prisons** to create 7,500 new prison places – each holding 1,500 people. The search will focus on London, the north-west, north Wales and West Yorkshire. Plans for two have already been announced one at Beam Park West in Dagenham in Essex and the other at the former Runwell Secure Psychiatric Hospital also in Essex (the MoJ is [conducting a local consultation](#)). We are beginning to notice a trend; two prisons were opened in Bannockburn, south London – Highdown (1992) and Downview (1998). These were built on the site of a former mental hospital too.

The MoJ have invited seven lead consortia to compete for inclusion on the PFI (Design, Build and Operate) New Prisons framework for the two new prisons in Essex. They are: G4S; GEO Group; Kalyx; Mitie; Reliance; Serco; and Wates Construction. The Howard League for Penal Reform has long opposed private sector involvement in the penal system. Look out for our new book, written by journalist and researcher Stephen Nathan, on this very subject next year.

The Home Office has just published a new document providing practical advice to the police for **tackling knife crime** (<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/youth/youth087a.pdf>). What do you think of this strategy? Again, your views are welcomed. The Howard League for Penal Reform published a book on this issue last year, *Why carry a weapon?* by Nicola Marfleet, in which she talks to young people who have carried a weapon. Nicola's research suggested that the solutions lie in a multi-agency approach moving away from a focus on the criminal justice sector.

When the book was published Frances Crook said: "There has been a huge amount of investment by the government in policing, enforcement, the court process and custodial sentencing, but when we are talking about children as young as eleven carrying knives and a rising number of fatal stabbings in London, we have to question whether the criminal justice system alone can tackle this problem. We are particularly concerned that sending children to prison for carrying knives will only exacerbate their problems and expose them to more hardened criminal behaviour. We need to understand why children are carrying knives and tackle the causes directly. Targeted investment in health and education, as well as community projects that value young people and the skills they can offer, are vital if we are to find lasting solutions to knife crime."



The Justice Secretary, Jack Straw, has recently announced **plans to close 20 magistrates' courts** and one London county court which are regarded as underused, require upgrading for disabled access or need facilities for victims of crime and witnesses updated. These plans are designed to save in the region of £1 billion but there are fears that this could undermine local justice. There is a government consultation on this: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm> - why not add your thoughts? If you do, please let us know what you have to say too. Email your comments to me (anita.dockley@howardleague.org) and/or post them on our facebook group.

Baroness Corston's Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) recommended that every agency within the criminal justice system must prioritise and accelerate preparations to implement the Gender Equality Duty and radically transform the way they deliver services for women.

The Government's Equalities Office (GEO) has had several one-day events to bring together key stakeholders to "re-energise working practice and strategic thinking around meeting the needs of women offenders." They are to:

- Improve knowledge of the needs of women offenders, use the Gender Equality Duty as a lever to deliver services for women offenders, and how this relates to local targets.
- Learn more from local community providers about their work with women offenders.
- Gain insight into incorporating best practice into partnership working at local level
- Network and learn more about the work of other key local partners.

There are a few of these events still to happen: 13th November in Cambridge, 20th November in Brighton and 26th November in London. If you are interested, see if there are places left at <http://live-events.coi.gov.uk/womeninfocus>.

The Howard League for Penal Reform's All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System chaired by Baroness Corston will meet for the first time on December 9th this year. The group comprises cabinet and shadow cabinet ministers discussing how to implement the remainder of the Corston agenda and improve the plight of women in the penal system. In the first meeting the group will meet with Prisons Minister Maria Eagle to discuss schemes for working with vulnerable women in the community and discuss some of the success stories since Corston.



Features

Opening doors: Working with the Howard League

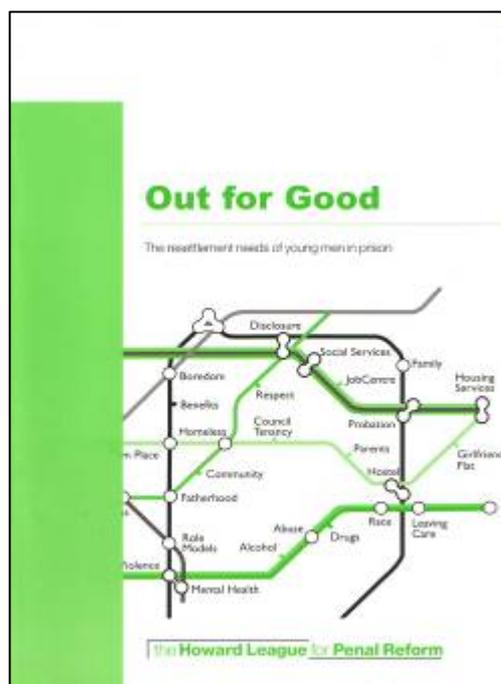


Rosie Meek provides a personal insight into her involvement with the Howard League.

I was very fortunate, as a postgraduate student at the University of Sussex, to be awarded a Sunley Fellowship from the Howard League for Penal Reform. This was my introduction to working with the charity. The Fellowship allowed me to carry out additional research on behalf of the organisation. My research was concerned with the little-considered but important topic of the social exclusion of young people in rural communities (Howard League for Penal Reform 2005). The experience was valuable and provided me with a great insight into aspects of my subject area that are not necessarily taught in academic institutions - issues such as disseminating research findings to different audiences, using research evidence in campaign work, working with the press and informing parliament. The Howard League supported me throughout the research, published my research findings and even arranged to launch the research report at a dedicated event in Westminster. The experience left me hungry for more involvement in the 'real' aspect of my research and the translation of my psychological research findings into the applied work that the Howard League promotes.

When a part time research assistant post came up I jumped at the chance to continue my involvement and spent an enjoyable year balancing my doctorate research with the part-time research duties ascribed to me as part of the 'Out for Good' project investigating the resettlement needs of young men leaving prison (Howard League for Penal Reform 2006).

Since completing my doctorate I have continued to work with the charity, first representing the Howard League as the national researcher in a cross-European project investigating violence against children in conflict with the law in several different countries, collaborating with other researchers from the Netherlands, Belgium and France (Defence for Children International/Howard League for Penal Reform 2008). This was followed by an analysis of Quality of Prison Life data in high



security prisons which was published as a briefing (Howard League for Penal Reform 2008).

I now hold a lectureship at the University of Southampton and continue to apply the lessons I learnt during my time at the Howard League in my research activities. I also hope that I successfully relay to my students the importance of carrying out robust academic research in order to inform penal reform. I will always be grateful to the Howard League for giving me the opportunity to develop such a valuable awareness first hand through my involvement with Howard League research activities.

Dr Rosie Meek, Lecturer in Psychology, University of Southampton

To view publications from the Howard League click on the image above or visit www.howardleague.org/pubsindex

Is football violence back in fashion?

James Treadwell sees what his research can reveal about the apparent increase in football violence since the beginning of this year's football season.

For a number of years now I have been undertaking a large scale ethnographic research study with a group of football hooligans as part of my PhD. For the most part my research aim was simply to offer some insight into contemporary criminal practices using the testimony of people involved (for me academic criminology had become increasingly detached from the



voices of perpetrators of crime). That is why I watched with interest when, last month saw the subject of football hooliganism return to the front pages of newspapers and the after a man was stabbed in the chest during 'large-scale trouble' involving hundreds of fans at West Ham's Carling Cup match against Millwall. That has not been the only recent incident of football violence, but it was the only one of to hit the news. Initially the London incident initially seemed exceptional, for there was disorder in the stadium (something which the press noted was now rare) but then again, little attention has been given to the fact that at the end of September there was also violence at a game between Norwich and Charlton at Carrow Road where there were attempts made by spectators to breach the segregation netting.

For the most part, contemporary football hooliganism I have encountered is pre-arranged and takes place away from the stadium, and I have found that it (whatever newspaper editors seem to think) has never really disappeared. In truth, it is not a phenomenon confined to the days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, but rather has been a recurrent part of football spectatorship. Yet still for many commentators, football hooliganism is a problem largely of the late 1970s and 1980s when football spectatorship seemed almost synonymous with violence.

My research has been well away from the glitz and glamour of modern football, but involved firms of men agreeing over mobile phones to meet and fight rivals, undaunted by a recent raft of legislation passed to try and prevent it. These violent confrontations still occur regularly enough. That is not to say that contemporary football is not a changed game, and it would seem to me, unarguably, that there has been significant change from the late 1970s and 1980s in the character and nature (and frequency) of football violence. Over the last ten years I have spent a great deal of my time studying football hooliganism, talking with and interviewing 'lads' (as they term themselves)

from various football firms, attending matches with them, and on occasion witnessing violence. But certainly that football violence was by no means as widespread or as frequent as it was in the 1980's when it regularly took place inside grounds and certainly over the last two decades, football violence does seem to have been declining.

But that might not continue to be the case. My research has suggested that hooliganism is now, (as previously) still attractive to some young men, though many are now shunning it earlier and moving into instrumental and serious crime (particularly drug dealing). Many of the young men, who formed part of my research study, dream of emulating those they hold as their role models, former hooligans (often now turned authors) whose exploits (and books) they admire. Many of these youngsters long to experience the madness and glamour that comes from a hard man reputation, and see the football 'firm' as a place to create kudos for themselves.

Yet understanding that, for me also requires an understanding of our contemporary social conditions. It seems to me that much of the British media has become obsessed with both violence and celebrity. TV stations feel the need to source programmes like Britain's toughest pubs or gangs, catering almost exclusively to this highly charged, highly masculine market. But those things also show that we are living in culture that loves violence as entertainment, but it is also driven by a cult of celebrity. Certainly now, with economic recession, mass youth unemployment and a culture obsessed with violence and celebrity, where sometimes the very borders blur (Jordan is dating a cage fighter, don't you know). The celebration of celebrity in the press has elevated the being a 'someone' to the pinnacle of importance for many young men.

Yet for many of these same young men, especially those who are socially excluded (and many of them are from what we once would have termed the working class), there are few ways to achieve recognition. It is against that backdrop that football violence provides some individuals with the chance to be on the front page of the Sun (or more often the local paper) and gain a bit of regional reputation and momentarily to revel in the glory in the pub on the local estate. Such recognition arguably becomes even more attractive when the economy is in trouble and work is scarce as it is for many young people at the moment (there is seemingly less to lose if you are unfortunate enough to come to the attention of the criminal justice system).

Clearly there are many reasons why men become involved in football violence, and they extend well beyond the burgeoning of hooligan literature and football hooliganism in film (another genre growing in popularity) in recent years, and beyond media obsession with celebrity and violence. In talking to men involved in football hooliganism, I heard their motivations: it was done for the buzz, for a laugh or for no considered reason ('I dunno, it's just what you do' was one explanation I was given). Yet away from these reasons, I would argue that many of the reasons for football violence, and violence more generally are found in social and economic factors, particularly what has been

happening to the working class since the large-scale erosion of traditional employment opportunities.

The recession in the early 1980s had a lasting adverse effect on the employment prospects of low-skilled young people aged 16-18, a feature that the current recession seems to share. In the 1980s it was low-educated, low-skilled workers whose employment prospects suffered most, another feature shared with the current recession. The only blessing is that violent crime tends to go down at times of recession (as generally people have less money to spend on alcohol) but then again, football hooliganism in the 1980s stands in stark contrast to this evidence and is selectively omitted from such discussions of economics and crime. So too, as academics such as Oliver James (1995) and Danny Dorling (2006) have argued, the effects of economics may take some time to filter through, only becoming apparent in decades that follow with long term rises in violent crime.

While closed-circuit television and policing tactics kept football violence underground in the last two decades, whether that continues to remain the case is questionable. If we really want to compare the worst period for football hooliganism in Britain (early to mid 1980s) to the present there is much that might be similar, especially where youth unemployment is concerned. While a disturbance on Green Street (a road near the West Ham football ground and immortalised in the 2005 film of the same name) and a few fist fights between rival fans hardly constitutes a wholesale re-appearance of football hooliganism, the current economic situation is definitely reasons to believe that the ugly face of the beautiful game *might* come kicking and punching its way back onto the front pages with greater regularity.

James Treadwell is a lecturer in criminology at Leicester University.

References

Dorling, D (2006) Prime suspect: murder in Britain' *Prison Service Journal*, 166, pp. 3 -10

James, O (1995) *Juvenile violence in a winner loser culture: The socio-economic and familial origins of the rise of violence against the person*, London: Free Association

The Caribbean Court of Justice and the death penalty

A new purpose built prison has just opened in Barbados with its own working gallows. Frederick Cowell discusses the introduction of the court and its impact on the death penalty in the Caribbean.

The creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has increasingly altered the debate surrounding the death penalty in the Commonwealth Caribbean. It has allowed governments in the region to bypass the most significant safeguards that previously commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment. The CCJ was originally created as a forum for members of the Caribbean Economic Community to try disputes arising under community law - much like the European Court of Justice - but following an agreement of member states in 2001 it acquired an appellate jurisdiction¹. There are more prisoners per capita on death row in the Commonwealth Caribbean than in the United States of America and almost all states in the region are death penalty retentionists.

Historically speaking

The death penalty was a creature of English common law and as the British Caribbean Colonies developed their own parliaments and laws they simply enacted British statutes². There were no independence struggles in the Caribbean like those in Africa and Asia. Some Caribbean Colonies, such as St Kitts and Nevis, did not become independent until the early 1980s, and others, such as Grand Cayman are still not independent. The relatively small size of these states meant that they maintained close contacts with their former colonial power long after independence and continued to use the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as their final appellate court. The constitutions of the new states in the Caribbean also kept, through a variety of different legal mechanisms, the death penalty as a punishment for murder³.

This led to the Privy Council Judicial Committee hearing, and in some cases dismissing, death penalty appeals long after the death penalty had been abolished in the UK (see Endnote). The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is not technically speaking a UK court; it puts itself in the place of country it is hearing the appeal from and it follows the laws of the territory or country - for example it is not bound to follow the Human Rights Act. In practice it is a distinctly colonial affair, Geoffrey Robertson QC described appearing before it as 'disconcerting' as the council sits robed and wigged in

¹ See The Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, signed 14th February 2001 <http://www.caricom.org>

² See for a good overview on this subject Simpson B (2001) *"Human Rights and the End of Empire"* Oxford University Press, UK.

³ See Burnham

M.A.(2005) *"Indigenous constitutionalism and the death penalty: the case of the Commonwealth Caribbean"* International Journal of Constitutional Law 3(4), 582-616

Westminster “with red buses and black taxis passing by the windows“, when they are in fact putting themselves as final arbiter of “the slum housing of downtown Kingston”⁴.

In 1993 the Privy Council decided, controversially, that an execution taking place five years or more after sentence should constitute “cruel and unusual treatment”⁵. The immediate practical effect of this across the Caribbean was to automatically commute the sentences of half the prisoners on death row to life imprisonment⁶. Following this case there was an increasing hostile reaction to the judgments of the Privy Council which began to progressively restrict the death penalty and in some cases abolish the mandatory death penalty⁷. It is important, however, to remember that in spite of domestic politicians claiming that British judges were ‘imposing their values’ and evoking populist neo-colonialist sentiments; the Privy Council was in fact deciding cases in line with the constitutional law of Caribbean states. Politicians in the region, under pressure to act on rising crime rates, became increasingly hostile to the Privy Council and its perceived anti-death penalty stance. Recently the Prime Minister of Trinidad of Tobago, in an unfortunate ‘open mike’ moment, said that the Privy Council was an ‘impediment to hanging people quickly’.

The Inter American Human Rights System has also come in for criticism with a number opting out of the American Convention on Human Rights due to frustration at the delays to executions that the appeal process causes. At one point it was technically possible for a condemned person to lodge an appeal on human rights grounds with the Inter American Court knowing that because the case would take so long to come before the Court that the five year deadline set by the Privy Council would pass and the death penalty would be commuted. Some countries went so far as to carry out executions whilst appeals were still pending before the Court⁸.

CCJ introduced

The formation of the CCJ in 2001 was widely perceived as an attempt to circumnavigate these appellate processes and allow for ‘local values’ - a phrase that is fast becoming a local euphemism for hanging - into the appeals process. Only Barbados and Guyana have agreed to the CCJ’s full appellate jurisdiction although other countries have debated



⁴ Robertson G. (1999) “*The Justice Game*” Vintage, London p.85

⁵ *Pratt v Morgan* [1993] 4 All ER 769

⁶ Helfer L.R (2002) “*Overlegalising Human Rights: International Relations Theory & the Commonwealth Caribbean Backlash against Human Rights Regimes*” 102 Col Law. Review at 1872

⁷ See amongst others *Spence and Hughes v The Queen* Crim Appeal Nos.20 [1998] & 14 [1997] where the declaration of unconstitutionality led to the automatic cessation of the mandatory death penalty.

⁸ *Ashby v Trinidad & Tobago* Communication No. 580/1994, CCPR/C/74/D/580/1994

adopting it as their final appellate court. Where these debates occur they are often, in essence, debates about the death penalty. When the Jamaican parliament debated this issue, a regional campaigning organisation Jamaicans for Justice, pointed out that the CCJ not only cost more but also did not any real practical benefits over the Privy Council⁹. They alleged that the real reason behind some politicians' support for the CCJ was the retention of the death penalty. This has led to the perception, both locally and internationally, that the CCJ is a 'hanging court'.

Some critics have pointed to the decision in *Attorney General of Barbados v Joseph and Boyce* and argued that the CCJ is developing its own jurisprudence with respect to the place of human rights in domestic law and the prerogative of mercy¹⁰. The President of the Court however, stated in his judgment that the death penalty "falls within internationally accepted conduct on the part of civilised states". More recently, the CCJ has dismissed death penalty appeals¹¹. Although judges at the Court have frequently spoken of the need for a greater protection of human rights they are also aware of the highly politicised nature of the death penalty in the region. Whilst the Court may be striving to establish its independence and develop its own jurisprudence, the perception of the CCJ as a 'hanging court' is further entrenching pro-death penalty sentiments in Caribbean societies, weakening the political capacity of the anti-death penalty lobby and undermining the work of human rights groups.

Frederick Cowell is the London Liaison and Programmes Officer for the Commonwealth and Human Rights Institute, he is also studying for a PH D in International Human Rights law and theory within regional human rights organisations.

Endnote

The Howard League for Penal Reform was established in 1866, the year that it was proposed that public executions were proposed for abolition in this country. In the early days of the Howard League for Penal Reform, it embodied the National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment in this country.

In 1908 executions of children under 16 were abolished here. In 1931 pregnant women were exempt. In 1933 the age limit was raised to 18.

⁹ See Jamaicans for Justice Brochure on the Privy Council and the CC at www.jamaicansforjustice.org

¹⁰ O'Brien D. (2007) "*Attorney General of Barbados v Joseph and Boyce: The Caribbean Court of Justice Answers its Critics?*" Public Law, Summer 2007, p 189-197

¹¹ *Gazette v The Queen* [2009] CCJ 2 (AJ) & *The Queen v Cadogan* [2006] CCJ 4(AJ)

Between 1948 and 1964, Sydney Silverman MP introduced bill after bill into Parliament seeking the end of the death penalty – only to be defeated by the Lords.

The last people to be executed were Gwynne Evans and Peter Allen in Manchester and Liverpool on Friday 13th August 1964 - so there was no one last person hanged.

Parliament suspended capital punishment for a five year period in October 1965 and its abolition was confirmed on 18th December 1969.

The Howard League for Penal Reform hopes to mark the 40th anniversary of the abolition of capital punishment later this year.

Opinion

What do you think ... about the future role of the Youth Justice Board?

In September, the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children Schools and Families announced a review of the YJB's governance and operating arrangements. This means an examination of its powers, accountability and capacity to meet the statutory functions and delivery the government's priorities on youth justice.

The review is being undertaken by Dame Sue Street (former permanent secretary at the Dept. Culture, media and sport) and the current chief executive of the YJB, Frances Done.

The full terms of reference for the review can be found at <http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/yjb/News/TermsOfReference>. The deadline for sending comments about the review to the YJB is 11th November.

The Howard League for Penal Reform is currently putting together its submission to the review. Our director, Frances Crook, is on the record saying:

"We would certainly be in favour of splitting up the YJB. It should be a body similar to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence that looks at what works effectively." (Children and Young People Now, 8 October 2009)

What do you think about this idea? What is your response to the review?
How do you see the future of the YJB?

Please let us know your thoughts either by emailing anita.dockley@howardleague.org or joining our facebook group (see below). A selection of comments will be published in the next Early Career Academic's Bulletin – so please indicate if you don't want your views published.

Suggestion box

The Early Career Academic Network (ECAN) bulletin is all about enabling up and coming thinkers. We want you to

- let people know what interests you,
- identify people who are working on similar issues,
- be kept up to date with events and issues for penal reformers,
- get involved in discussing policy and campaigning issues that we are grappling with at the Howard League, and
- what else?

Let me know what else you would like to see in the bulletin. Please forward ideas to anita.dockley@howardleague.org

We are also keen to receive short feature articles for publication in the next ECAN bulletin. These articles should be about 1,000 words long. Guidelines are at the end of this bulletin. If you have an idea for an article or want to submit something, contact me on the email address above.

ECAN Facebook Group



The Howard League for Penal Reform is active on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Delicious](#). There is a special page dedicated to the Early Careers Academic Network that you can reach either by searching for us on facebook or by clicking on the button above.

We hope to use the facebook site to generate discussions about current issues in the criminal justice system. We are currently seeking your views on the future of the Youth Justice Board (p15 above) – so perhaps you could share your views on facebook?

Also, if there are any topics that you would like to discuss, please start a discussion.

Member profile

Each Early Academic Career Network Bulletin will feature a profile of one of the network's members. This time it is the turn of ...

Liz Campbell, lecturer, University of Aberdeen



"I am a graduate of University College Cork, Ireland, where I completed my doctoral studies as a Government of Ireland scholar. My PhD thesis was focused on "Responding to Organised Crime in Ireland: Reconstituting the Criminal Process". I was supervised by Dr Shane Kilcommins and my external examiner was Prof Andrew Ashworth.

I joined the School of Law at the University of Aberdeen in 2007, where I teach criminal law, evidence, and criminology, and I participate annually in the Aberdeen Summer School for US law students. I also publish widely in the areas of criminal justice, criminal procedure, penal populism, and on legal responses to organised crime.

I am a regular participant at international conferences, and have given guest lectures in Ireland and the UK. In summer 2009 I was visiting lecturer at the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland.

Broadly speaking, my work relates to the changes made to conventional legal norms and processes in the desire to deal adequately with serious criminality. My current research examines gun crime in Ireland and critiques the legal means adopted by the State in seeking to counter this phenomenon. I am carrying out this research with funding from the Carnegie Trust. In addition, I am involved in a project concerning the adaptations made to the criminal justice systems in England, Scotland and Ireland to protect intimidated witnesses.

The *Howard League's Early Career Academic Network* will provide an invaluable means of developing links with like-minded and similarly positioned researchers and teachers in the field of criminal justice, beyond the traditional approach of conference attendance and so on. Such connections will facilitate the sharing and criticism of ideas at the development stage, and will provide opportunity for future collaborations. The Network will be a very useful resource in terms of the dissemination of research ideas and the circulation of works in progress. In addition, I envisage the Network will provide support in a broader sense, as a forum in which the tribulations of an early career academic may be discussed. "

Get Involved

Get the most out of the ECAN network ...

become a member of the Howard League for Penal Reform

The Howard League is the oldest and most influential penal reform charity in the world. We work with Parliament and the media, with criminal justice professionals, students and members of the public, influencing debate and forcing through meaningful change to create a safe community.

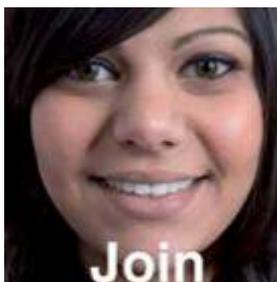
The best way to support our work is to become a member! Our members receive a welcome pack telling you all you need to know about the Howard League, a free copy of our newspaper the Howard, priority information and booking on our seminars, lectures and social events. Members also receive a free copy of The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, published five times a year, which provides in depth analysis of contemporary criminal justice issues.

Our members also get access to the members' section on the website which is full of membership action ideas, competitions and news. You can also view a variety of our books, reports and submissions on issues such as parole, children in custody and suicide and self harm. Many members also like to get involved in our campaigns ranging from writing to their local MP to requesting extra materials to hand out to friends and family.

The Howard League organises a variety of events ranging from our AGM which always features a guest speaker, to our annual wine reception at the Howard of Commons. Members get priority notification and booking on all our events.

Our members mean a great deal to us as their support allows us to continue our campaigns, research and legal work. By joining you are adding your voice to our campaign for a more humane criminal justice system

For more information on joining the Howard League for Penal Reform please visit www.howardleague.org, email sophie.lumsden@howardleague.org or click on the join button below



Joining forces with your students

Hannah McFaul, the Howard League's national student organiser, explains how.

Is there a Howard League student group at your university? If there is you could help them on their way, but if there isn't why don't you help get one started?

The Howard League has active student groups in many universities in England and Wales; campaigning, fundraising and raising awareness of penal reform issues and the work the charity does. We support our students with free materials, training and opportunities for volunteering and internships. I work to help set up student groups and will speak to students at any level: I have often spoken at your colleagues' lectures.

The Howard League believes that students are tomorrow's leaders and opinion formers. That is why we want to encourage you to get involved by joining or even helping to set up a Howard League society at your university. Helping run a student society will develop new skills and enhance your CV and those of your students. Students involved in Howard League societies are studying a variety of subjects including law, politics, criminology, social studies, health care, media, finance and education.



Over the past year our student groups held a National Day of Action; raised money at music festivals including Glastonbury and Latitude; organised club nights, speaker events and fringe meetings at NUS Conference. They have also lobbied MPs, Ministers and other key decision makers.

We have an active Facebook group: Howard League students. We also send a monthly e-bulletin to our student mailing list. This brings news from each of the areas of the Howard League, as well as events run at your own universities and a fantastic competition each month.

To find out more please join our Facebook group, check out the student section of the Howard League website: www.howardleague.org/students or contact me Hannah McFaul, National Student Organiser Hannah.mcfaul@howardleague.org

Campaigning to prevent more Lost Daughters

Andrew Neilson, Assistant Director, Policy and Public Affairs explains.

The Howard League for Penal Reform is currently running the [Lost Daughters](#) campaign, which seeks to prevent the deaths of women in prison by campaigning for the full implementation of the Corston report's recommendations into women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system.

In the last decade the women's prison population has gone up by 60%, with most women imprisoned for non-violent offences. These women are not the dangerous criminals one might imagine, but often sad victims of circumstance and violence - more than half have been victims of domestic violence, a third have experienced sexual abuse, and 25% have been in care as children. Two-thirds of women in prison have dependent children under 18; of these, just one in 20 remain in their own home once their mother has been sentenced.



For these women, prison is not effective in cutting crime; 64.3% of women released from prison in 2004 were reconvicted within two years of release. Prison is also not safe; between 2004 and 2008 self-harm incidents went up by 42% in female prisons. Despite women constituting only 5% of the overall prison population, they commit over 50% of all self-harm.

The **Lost Daughters** campaign has two stories at its heart: One daughter lost, one daughter saved.

Sarah was 18 and died within 24 hours of arriving at Styal prison. The response to her overdose was slow and she died in hospital.

Susan was imprisoned after a deeply traumatic childhood and severe self injury left her in a life threatening condition. The Howard League obtained an emergency injunction that moved her from prison to a secure hospital. She was one of the lucky ones.

This year already three women have died in prison by their own hand. We don't want any more Lost Daughters.

There are a number of ways in which members of ECAN are able to support the Lost Daughters campaign:

- [Sign up](#) to the campaign
- [Read more](#) about the campaign
- [Donate](#) to the campaign
- Contact the campaign with ideas for events and fundraising, or to arrange a Howard League speaker, by emailing hannah.mcfaul@howardleague.org

Guidelines for submissions

Style

Text should be readable and interesting. It should, as far as possible, be jargon-free, with minimal use of references. Of course, non-racist and non-sexist language is expected. References should be put at the end of the article. We reserve the right to edit where necessary.

Illustrations

We always welcome photographs, graphic or illustrations to accompany your article.

Authorship

Please append your name to the end of the article, together with your job description and any other relevant information (eg other voluntary roles, or publications etc).

Publication

Even where articles have been commissioned by the Howard League for Penal Reform, we cannot guarantee publication. An article may be held over until the next issue.

Format

Please send your submission by email to anita.dockley@howardleague.org.

Please note

Views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect Howard League for Penal Reform policy unless explicitly stated.