

# The Howard

● Less crime ● Safer communities ● Fewer people in prison ● 2018: 1

# JUSTICE



**PEOPLE in prison have access to justice after cuts to legal aid were successfully overturned by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Prisoners' Advice Service.**

A four-year legal battle ended with legal aid being reinstated for three key areas of prison law. Calls to the Howard League legal advice line had risen by 62 per cent after the cuts were enforced.

**Full story: Page 2**



## The Howard

Fifteen years of success that have transformed law, policy and practice for children

**ACCESS to justice is the theme of this edition of The Howard as we report two important milestones for the charity.**

The first is that our legal team has celebrated 15 years of successful work. In that time, we have transformed law, policy and practice for children and young adults in the criminal justice system (page 8).

We have challenged the use of solitary confinement on children, unlawful punishments, lack of education and the failure of local authorities to provide appropriate support for children on release from prison. We have also intervened in cases on a wide range of issues.

The legal team's most recent success is our second milestone. Legal aid has been restored for three key areas of prison law after we and another charity, the Prisoners' Advice Service, challenged the cuts in court (page 2). The changes – which relate to pre-tariff reviews, Category A reviews and placements in close supervision centres – will affect prisoners across England and Wales.

This edition of The Howard also reports worrying findings from our programme to end the criminalisation of children in residential care. Police are receiving a high number of call-outs from some children's homes, which increases the risk of children being dragged into the criminal justice system.

The centre pages are devoted to our Community Awards, celebrating more than a dozen fantastic projects that were nominated for reducing crime and transforming lives (pages 4 and 5).

Their success in providing alternatives to imprisonment and guiding people away from crime is vitally important, as is clear from our reports on the shocking levels of violence and self-injury in the prison system (pages 6 and 7).

**This is why the Howard League will keep working for a fairer society with less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison.**



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# Legal aid restored for people in prison

**LEGAL aid has been reinstated for three key areas of prison law, after the cuts were successfully challenged in court by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Prisoners' Advice Service.**

The two charities brought a judicial review more than four years ago following the decision of the then Lord Chancellor, Chris Grayling, to remove almost all areas of legal aid for prisoners. The cuts were ruled to be unlawful by the Court of Appeal in April last year.

The changes were implemented through a statutory instrument, effective from 21 February. It was the first time that any areas of law had been brought back into the scope of legal aid since the cuts came into force in December 2013.

In the years since the cuts were introduced, violence and self-injury in prisons have risen to record levels, with more prisoners than ever before calling the Howard League and the Prisoners' Advice Service to seek help.

Calls to the Howard League legal advice line have increased by 62 per cent since the cuts came into force. Calls to the Prisoners' Advice Service increased from 14,000 to 25,000 in 2017.

The government initially applied to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling, but ministers withdrew the application in October last year.

Laura Janes, Legal Director at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "The cuts have coincided with record high prison

numbers, self-injury and suicide rates. For those of us who visit prisons week in and week out, as I do, it has never been so grim, even for children.

"The government has paid heed to the judgment, and we hope that it will make a positive difference. Our concern is that during the years of drought, as with other areas of legal aid, many providers have given up or lost their expertise.

"The Howard League has tried its best to weather the storm, at great financial cost and creating a huge burden on our staff."

Deborah Russo, Joint Managing Solicitor of the Prisoners' Advice Service, said: "Successive governments have cut the legal aid budget to the bone and we are therefore extremely pleased to

have won this reversal of a part of that cut.

"Many of our clients are in high security prisons and in desperate need of legal aid in order to make representations about decisions regarding their Category A status or placement in Close Supervision Centres.

"Even more so are lifers and indeterminate sentence prisoners who, since the last round of prison law legal aid cuts until now, have faced pre-tariff reviews of their sentence either unrepresented or having to pay lawyers to attend their hearings.

"This is clearly only part of the fight to re-establish a decent, fair and universal legal aid system; however it is a step in the right direction, which we are proud to have been able to take."

## Explained: How the landmark court ruling has enhanced access to justice

**LEGAL Director at the Howard League for Penal Reform, LAURA JANES, explains how the landmark legal case will affect prisoners.**

*What are the changes to legal aid?*

In April 2017, the Court of Appeal ruled that cuts to legal aid for prisoners facing a pre-tariff review, a Category A review or a decision regarding placement in a close supervision centre were unlawful because they were inherently unfair.

The Criminal Legal Aid (Amendment) Regulations 2017 came into force on 21 February 2018, putting into effect the court's judgment. This means that legal aid has become available for people affected by these issues provided that they meet the usual legal aid means and merits test.

Pre-tariff reviews before the Parole Board are a critical stage of the release journey. We understand that legal aid will be available for the whole of this process, including challenging decisions to "sift" people out of the process and not refer them to the Parole Board.

Category A reviews also come back into scope. This means that prisoners are once again able to obtain appropriate legal representation to challenge Category A decisions, including being represented at oral hearings if these are convened.

Decisions to place a person

in a close supervision centre or a separation unit can also be challenged with the benefit of legal aid.

Legal aid providers will be able to work under the legal aid scheme for these areas of law in the same way that parole and adjudication cases work.

*What other legal aid is available for prisoners?*

Prior to the Court of Appeal hearing, the government had agreed that legal aid could be available for certain other types of cases upon application to the Legal Aid Agency.

These are cases concerning mother and baby units, resettlement, licence conditions and segregation. Legal aid might be required to assist prisoners in making representations on these important issues, which can have a huge impact on progress through the system and family contact.

Legal aid providers and prisoners can apply for funding for work on these issues through the exceptional case funding scheme. We believe that there has been only a few successful applications for these cases so far.

Unfortunately, there is no guidance available as to how the scheme will apply to these cases. The scheme has been used for other areas of law, such as immigration. It has been heavily criticised as too slow and too complicated. We have written to the government raising these concerns.

We have been told that the



**LAURA JANES:** Around 85 per cent of the cuts imposed originally are back within scope of legal aid

scheme is going to be reviewed as part of a wider legal aid review this summer and we will be strongly arguing that it is not suitable for people in prison.

*Why are the changes happening?*

These changes are the result of a four-year legal battle by the Howard League and the Prisoners' Advice Service,

represented by prison and public law specialist solicitors Bhatt Murphy.

We are delighted that around 85 per cent of the original cuts imposed on prisoners in 2013 are now either back within the scope of prison law legal aid or can be applied for.

We hope that it will make a positive difference.



# Police forces: Unnecessary calls from children's homes drain our resources

**POLICE forces are receiving a high number of call-outs from some children's homes, which drain their resources and increase the risk of children in care being criminalised, research by the Howard League for Penal Reform has revealed.**

A report published by the charity finds that police take their safeguarding duties extremely seriously, but forces are also spending considerable time and resources dealing with minor issues in children's homes that should not be brought to their attention.

One force told the Howard League that it had been called because a child had squirted a member of staff with water. Another force was called by a home about a boy who had pulled down a curtain.

One police officer told the charity that he felt on occasion that homes called the police to help them 'tuck up' teenagers who refused to go to bed.

More than one officer said that they sometimes felt that the police were being used as a 'taxi service' to pick children up and take them back to homes.

Policing children's homes is expensive. It is not possible to quantify the costs nationally, but one police force told the Howard League that it would be cheaper to place an officer on the door of one of the most demanding children's homes in their area on a full-time basis rather than responding individually to each call from that home.

The findings are outlined in a Howard League briefing paper – the second to be published as part of the charity's two-year programme to end the criminalisation of children in residential care.

The report reveals that many police forces are taking measures to solve the problem, by working closely with children's homes and local authorities to reduce unnecessary call-outs and prevent vulnerable children being drawn into the criminal justice system.

Research published by the charity previously has shown that children aged 16 and 17 living in children's homes are 15 times more likely to be criminalised than other children of the same age.



**'TAXI SERVICE':** Calling police to deal with trivial incidents increases the risk of children in care being criminalised

Keeping children out of the criminal justice system helps prevent crime. Academic research has shown that the more contact a child has with the system, the more entrenched they are likely to become, which increases reoffending rates.

Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "The Howard League is proud to have played a key role in reducing child arrests across England and Wales.

"Working together with the police, we have ensured that tens of thousands of children will have a brighter future and not be dragged into a downward spiral of crime

and custody.

"There is still much work to do, however, and our research has found that children in residential care are being criminalised unnecessarily. Police, local authorities and children's homes must work together to rise to this challenge.

"The best scenario for a child living in a children's home is not to have any contact with the police at all, just like any child living at a parental home.

"Ensuring that there is the least possible contact between police and children living in residential care would free up police time to deal with more important matters and

prevent children having their life chances blighted by an unnecessary criminal record."

During the course of its two-year programme of work to end the criminalisation of children in residential care, the Howard League has met and heard from senior officers and their staff in more than half of the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

All the forces told the charity that the total number of calls they were receiving from children's homes was a serious concern.

They reported huge differences in the levels of demand that individual children's homes placed

upon them.

All forces had examples of homes that were perceived to be excellent and of homes that they were very worried about.

The Howard League has been told about cases where police have taken steps to get homes closed down.

Conversely, the charity has also been given examples of children who were frequently getting into trouble or going missing but, when moved to a good home, stopped coming to the attention of the police.

Police forces said that they wanted to improve their responses to incidents of missing children who were at risk of harm.

## Judge calls for reform to enhance child welfare

**CHILDREN in trouble should be dealt with by problem-solving or family courts instead of being prosecuted in the youth courts, the most senior family judge in England and Wales has said.**

Delivering the annual Howard League lecture, Sir James Munby, *right*, suggested that the Crown Prosecution Service should reconsider its prosecuting policy for children.

He said: "I do not suggest that age alone should immunise children from the appropriate application of the criminal law where there has been really serious offending.

"However, in less serious cases it is legitimate to ask what advantage there is in invoking a criminal process in preference to a family court process, especially where the family court is already engaged in careful analysis of and planning for the child's future."

Sir James, the President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales, said that the current legal system was "far too complex, far too little co-ordinated, and serving far too many different and often conflicting objectives, to be effective in furthering the welfare

of children and their families".

He added: "In an ideal world we would be giving very serious consideration to sweeping jurisdictional changes, bringing order to disorder."

Sir James's landmark judgment in 2002 – that children in prison are entitled as a matter of law to support and protection under the Children Act 1989 – was the first major legal case brought by the Howard League.

The Howard League lecture is held annually in memory of Lord Parmoor, a supporter and donor to the charity.





# Champion projects

**SUCCESSFUL projects that reduce crime and transform lives for the better have been honoured with prestigious national awards.**

The Howard League for Penal Reform presented Community Awards and commendations to more than a dozen of the very best schemes in the country.

Projects from Avon and Somerset, Berkshire, Cheshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, East Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, London, Merseyside, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands were among the commended entries.

Catryn Yousefi, Programmes Manager at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "Our Community Awards celebrate the success of projects that guide people away from crime and make us all safer."

"Only the very best schemes in the UK are honoured each year and, once again, we were delighted

to receive so many high-quality nominations."

Rose Mahon, of the Nelson Trust, which runs women's centres in Gloucester and Swindon, was named Criminal Justice Champion.

The judging panel heard that Rose Mahon was passionate when it came to advocating for the disadvantaged in the criminal justice system, and she worked tirelessly to make sure those without a voice were heard.

She has designed, developed and delivered award-winning services that guide people away from crime.

Her nomination read: "Rose makes a big impression on all who come into contact with her; she has the ability to engage the most entrenched hard-to-reach complex women away from the criminal justice system and into a life of independence."

The Organisation of the Year

category was won by two projects – 41 Goodison Road, a scheme run by Everton Football Club; and Giroscope, a charity based in Hull.

41 Goodison Road is a house that provides a unique home-like environment for young people to have a safe place where they develop their skills, access education and employment opportunities.

The scheme's nomination read: "Our youth justice programme reaches into some of the most challenging and hard-to-reach groups across Merseyside."

"We operate across the entire spectrum, (from) helping and supporting young people in the youth justice system itself to a focus on crime prevention in areas of high anti-social behaviour and crime."

Giroscope operates in the St. Andrews and Newington wards of west Hull, two of the most deprived wards in the country with high levels of violent crime, substance abuse and anti-social

behaviour.

The charity buys run-down houses in the area and converts them to a high standard to provide affordable rented homes, with no deposits or fees taken.

Tenants are actively supported by the charity, and many are volunteers who have worked on their own property.

The awards were presented during the Howard League's Policing the Community conference in London.

The event gave delegates the opportunity to find out more about best practice in policing and diversion from crime and custody.

Speakers at the conference included Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League; Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive of Criminal Justice Scotland; Olivia Pinkney, Chief Constable of Hampshire Police; and Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

## Winners

**Organisation of the Year:** 41 Goodison Road and Giroscope

**Criminal Justice Champion:** Rose Mahon

**Women:** Enrich Programme – Alana House

**Restorative approaches:** The Skill Mill (commended)

**Policing and adults:** Problem Gambling – Cheshire Constabulary and Beacon Counselling Trust

**Policing and children:** Divert, Youth Justice Services – Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington

**Liaison and diversion:** Coventry Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service

**Residential care:** Pan Dorset Children in Care Protocol – Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police (commended)



**PANEL:** Sophie Linden, Olivia Pinkney and Andrew Neilson answer questions from the audience at the Policing the Community conference



# that transform lives



**WINNER:** Howard League trustee Gerry Marshall presents the Criminal Justice Champion award to Rose Mahon of the Nelson Trust



**SUCCESS STORIES:** Gyroscope (left), CJ Burge (centre) and 41 Goodison Road (right) all collected awards after impressing the judges



## Filthy jail with rats, bugs, and blocked, leaking toilets

**THE Howard League for Penal Reform has called on the government to act urgently after a prison received one of the worst inspection reports in years.**

Inspectors visited Liverpool prison in September 2017 and found the worst conditions that they could remember, with a backlog of some 2,000 maintenance tasks.

A report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons stated that prison leaders, from local to national, had presided over an "abject failure" to provide a safe, decent and purposeful regime.

Drugs were easy to find. Violence was so rife that men were too afraid to leave their cells. Self-injury was rising.

Four men had died by suicide since the previous inspection, and two more died while the inspection report was being prepared.

Research by the Howard League has shown that more than 3,500 additional days of imprisonment were imposed on men in Liverpool prison following disciplinary hearings, known as adjudications, in 2016 – an indication of a troubled jail.

Andrew Neilson, Director of Campaigns at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "Infestations of rats and cockroaches. Filthy, blocked, leaking toilets. Piles of rubbish. Broken windows.

"This is a litany of failure, and being caged in such squalor is never going to help people to turn their lives around.

"This report is one of the worst that the Howard League has seen in recent years.

"As the Chief Inspector of Prisons has said, the issues found in Liverpool prison require resolution at a national level.

"Strong leadership and bold action are required to reduce the prison population and make jails safer.

"This would save lives, protect staff and prevent more people being swept into deeper currents of crime and violence."



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# Crisis in prisons as assaults rise to record levels

**VIOLENCE and self-injury in jails have soared to record levels as overcrowding continues to put pressure on the prison system, figures seen by the Howard League for Penal Reform reveal.**

Official data published by the Ministry of Justice show that 28,165 assaults were recorded in prisons in England and Wales in the 12 months to the end of September 2017 – a 12 per cent rise on the previous year.

They included 7,828 assaults on prison staff – a 22 per cent rise compared to the previous 12 months.

Incidents of self-injury rose by 12 per cent to 42,837 over the same period.

It means that incidents of assault and self-injury are at their highest levels since current recording practices began in 1978.

The figures show that 295 people died in jails in 2017, including 70 people who lost their lives through suicide and 184 who were recorded to have died of natural causes.

Investigations into the deaths of a further 38 prisoners remain incomplete, with more information awaited. There were three apparent homicides in prison in 2017.

The number of prisoners losing their lives through suicide has fallen significantly. In 2016, 120 people died – the highest number on record – including 12 women.

Two women lost their lives in prison through suicide in 2017.

Andrew Neilson, Director of Campaigns at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "Against a



Andrew Atchison Photography

**UNDER PRESSURE:** Prisons are affected by overcrowding and staff shortages

backdrop of continued problems affecting prison safety, there has been a welcome reduction in the number of people who have lost their lives through suicide.

"Given that 2016 was the worst year on record in this area, improvement was a must. There is no room for complacency when it remains the case that a prisoner dies by suicide every five days.

"We have no way of knowing how many more lives have been saved by

quick-thinking staff, many of whom are working in intolerable conditions.

"As the prison system buckles under the weight of chronic overcrowding and staff shortages, the wave of violence and self-injury rises higher and higher.

"The new Secretary of State for Justice and his minister for prisons must respond boldly and urgently to this national emergency, to prevent more people being hurt.

"Reducing the prison population

would save lives, protect staff and stop others being swept into deeper currents of crime, violence and despair."

Six men lost their lives through suicide in Nottingham prison last year.

Five died by suicide in Exeter prison. Durham, Liverpool, Norwich and Swaleside prisons each recorded three incidents of men losing their lives through suicide.

## Rising tide of violence and self-injury

### 42,837

The number of incidents of self-injury recorded in prisons in the 12 months to the end of September 2017. That's one every 12 minutes.

### 28,165

The number of assaults recorded in prisons in the 12 months to the end of September 2017. One every 19 minutes.

### 7,828

The number of assaults on staff recorded in prisons in the 12 months to the end of September 2017. One every 67 minutes.

### 295

The number of people who died in prisons in 2017. One every 30 hours.



# Cleaning dirty jails won't cover cracks in system

**CLEANING filthy jails will not be enough to tackle the longstanding problems within the prison system, the Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform has warned.**

Frances Crook welcomed a pledge by the new prisons minister, Rory Stewart, to address poor conditions in jails – but she urged him to go further when the pair met for the first time since his appointment.

She said: “It was made very clear during my meeting with the new prisons minister that addressing the problem of sentence inflation, the over-use of prison and the challenge of the failing private community rehabilitation companies are issues that are simply not on the government’s agenda.

“I welcome the fact that ministers are concentrating on the poor condition of prisons, and I agree that something must be done about the cockroaches, the filth and dilapidated state of the buildings, but – and it is a big but – the problems are so much more than this.

“System change is the only way to deal with these problems in the long run. We can slap some whitewash on the prison walls, but the cracks will show in both prisons and probation. We need ministerial stability, expertise and accountability to face up to the big stuff.”



Andrew Aitchison Photography

**CHALLENGE:** The government has been urged to take bolder action to tackle problems in prisons and probation

## Staff: We want to help turn prisoners' lives around

**ACTION on staffing levels, rates of pay, and officer development is urgently required in English and Welsh prisons, research by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the justice sector trade union, Community, reveals today.**

Dangerously low staffing levels, a poorly-defined job description, insufficient training and a perceived lack of decision-making power have left officers feeling ignored, ineffective and unable to achieve their aims. Morale is low among staff in private prisons and few see a long-term future for themselves in the service

The report, *The role of the prison officer*, presents the findings of focus groups and surveys with 27 prison officers working in the private sector for a range of companies. A number of officers working in public-sector prisons also gave evidence to the project.

Prison officers said that they were enthusiastic for change and wanted to play a role in helping people to turn their lives around. They want systemic change so that they are able to continue to develop their skills and receive the support that they need to succeed in their roles.

The report calls on private companies, ministers and officials to demonstrate that they value prison officers. They must recognise their staff as professionals, fulfil their potential and ensure that officers are able to build rewarding careers.

Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: “This report, based on findings from focus groups and surveys with people working on the front line, underlines the need for urgent reform of the whole system. The Howard League’s experience is that staff morale is low in public prisons as well as private prisons.

“The problems will not be solved by simply recruiting more prison officers. While devolving responsibility to governors, ministers ought to take steps to ensure that the workforce is motivated, empowered, educated and allowed to exercise professional discretion.

“This must come hand-in-hand with bold action to reduce the prison population, which would protect staff, save lives and make the public safer.”

All who participated in the project said that there were not enough officers working in their prisons.

In some, there were staff shortages and prisons were recruiting. Other prisons were technically fully staffed, but the staffing levels were so low that they did not have enough people to achieve the basics of keeping people safe and delivering a full regime.

One officer said: “[O]n our house block we have 60-odd on a wing and I work it by myself. I work 0715 to 2000 and I might only see and speak to another officer a couple of times a day...I cover two floors and so might not know about an incident in a cell until the following day”.

Inadequate staffing meant that prisons were fundamentally unsafe for staff and prisoners, researchers heard.

One officer said: “[W]e had a murder a few months ago. There wasn’t enough staff on at night and nobody came when the alarm was rung. They thought one experienced staff member could run the house block on their own.”

Many officers no longer felt that they could make a difference as the conditions in their prisons meant that they could not form quality relationships with prisoners.

One said: “[W]e’re at rock bottom and it’s going to take a lot to get that back.”



The role of the prison officer  
Research briefing

### Howard League for Penal Reform

#### Key points

- The Howard League for Penal Reform and Community worked together to examine the role of the prison officer, primarily in private sector prisons. This joint report presents the findings of focus groups and surveys with 27 prison officers.
- Prison officers are undervalued and their role has been neglected. Low staffing levels, a poorly defined job description, insufficient training and a feeling of a lack of decision-making power has left officers feeling ignored, ineffective and unable to achieve their aims. Staffing levels and patterns of working are dangerous. One officer said, ‘I work from 7.15am to 8pm and I might only speak to another officer a couple of times a day’.
- The officers we spoke to felt unable to establish a fulfilling career in private sector prisons. Progression opportunities are almost non-existent in many prisons and

officers find themselves on low or stagnant pay despite years of service.

- Morale is very low amongst officers and few see a long-term future for themselves in the prison service. Few of the officers we spoke to wanted to stay working in prisons in the medium or long term.
- Prison officers are enthusiastic for change and want to play a role in helping people turn their lives around. All officers we spoke to described wanting to make a positive difference by developing relationships with prisoners. They want systemic change so they are able to continue to develop their skills and receive the support they need to succeed in their roles.



# Legal team celebrates 15 years of support for young people in custody

**THE Howard League for Penal Reform has reached an important milestone – clocking up more than 15 years of vital legal work to help children and young people.**

The charity's legal team is the only frontline national legal team specialising in the legal rights and entitlements of children and young people in custody.

It works to provide legal solutions for individuals, as well as wider policy changes to prevent the problems reoccurring for other young people.

The team runs a free and confidential legal advice line, which helps more than 1,000 children and young people a year.

Howard League lawyers have challenged the use of solitary confinement on children, unlawful punishments, lack of education and the failure of local authorities to provide appropriate support for children on release from prison.

The team has also intervened in cases on a range of issues, from the need for appropriate adults for 17-year-olds in police stations to discrimination against women as a result of the sparse geographical spread of approved premises.

These achievements are celebrated in a new report, *Justice for Young People: 15 years of successful legal work*, which explains how the team was initially set up to provide prison and civil law support to children in custody, but was expanded in 2007 to include young adults under the age of 21.

The legal work began with a landmark case in 2002, which changed the law to ensure that the protections of the Children Act

1989 apply to children in custody.

Laura Janes, Legal Director at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "More than 15 years ago, the Howard League introduced legal work to its approach to achieving less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison.

"The Howard League has transformed law, policy and practice for children and young adults in the criminal justice system.

"Our legal team has helped to achieve this through legal cases, tailored advice and participation work with hundreds of young people each year."

Laura Janes said that the Howard League's legal education work empowered young people and professionals to understand and use the law to improve outcomes.

She added: "We represent young people to establish and enforce local authorities' duties to support children, care leavers and vulnerable adults in and at risk of custody.

"Our legal work reduces the intensity and duration of criminal justice system contact with young people.

"We have achieved this through legal challenges and participation work at all stages of the criminal justice journey, from sentencing to supervision on release."

A young person, who has been supported by the legal team, said: "The Howard League gives me a sense of hope.

"The legal team has helped me through every stage of my sentence. I feel like they make me a priority every step of the way – knocking down barriers as we go along and, without each one, I would never have been able to get

to where I am now.

"Through the participation work, I know the Howard League aims for less crime and less people in prison, so they are not just helping me.

"What they are doing is part of something a lot bigger than just my case, but they always put their heart into it as if they were only doing mine."

Sophie Lumsden, Membership

Development Manager at the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "The Chief Inspector of Prisons has stated that no prison he inspected last year was safe to hold children and young people. Yet thousands of teenagers are locked up.

"The legal advice line is a lifeline, helping to solve children's problems and make them safer. Our specialist

lawyers receive more than 100 calls per week. We help young people to secure accommodation and get support for their safe release into the community.

"We could not do this without the generous support of our members. People who join the Howard League are not only adding their voice to our movement; they are helping us to change lives."

## Students are top of the class

**THREE researchers have been awarded prizes by the Howard League for Penal Reform for submitting outstanding Masters dissertations.**

Ailsa Bridges, Jordan Konell and Michelle Brown were winners of the John Sunley Prize, which rewards students whose work offers new insights into the justice system.

Ailsa Bridges, who studied at the University of Oxford, conducted primary research based on interviews with prisoners to understand how the therapeutic regime at Grendon prison impacted on them compared with their mainstream prison experience.

Fellow Oxford student Jordan Konell won a prize for his analysis of the relationship between policing, race and Britain's community cohesion agenda.

Michelle Brown, who studied at the University of Cambridge, explored the challenges that families experience when one of their number is convicted of a sex offence.

Zarek Khan, of the University of Cambridge, and Olivia Tolaini, of SOAS University of London, were both highly commended.

Pictured (clockwise from top): Ailsa Bridges collects her certificate from Digby Nelson, Director of the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation; Jordan Konell; Michelle Brown with Digby Nelson.



Andrew Aitchison Photography

# Join today

By becoming a member, I would like to give a monthly amount you add your voice to our movement and help ensure its success. Our members are our strength, our advocates and our most important source of knowledge and financial support.

With your help, we can continue to achieve real and lasting change in the criminal justice system. Please join today.

Return to: The Howard League for Penal Reform, 1 Ardleigh Road, London, N1 4HS

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• This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits

• If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the Howard League for Penal Reform will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the Howard League for Penal Reform to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

• If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by the Howard League for Penal Reform or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society

• If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the Howard League for Penal Reform asks you to

• You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.