



All Party Parliamentary Group
Women in the Penal System

Co-chairs: Baroness Corston
Kate Green MP

Officers: Baroness Hamwee
Baroness Uddin
Imran Ahmad Khan MP

20 May 2020

The Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Dear Robert Buckland

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System welcomes the Ministry of Justice announcement regarding the release from prison of pregnant women and women and babies in Mother and Baby Units who do not pose a high risk of harm to the public. We are pleased that some women and babies have already been released.

We urge the Ministry of Justice to act swiftly to release mothers and mothers-to-be in prison who are eligible immediately. In addition, women eligible for end of custody release and who meet the criteria for compassionate release on licence should also be enabled to return to the community.

The release of all these women will help to save lives and is the right thing to do. It will help to keep women, babies and prison staff safe.

The announcement of the release of women prisoners was the right decision and we know you would want to see this followed by bold action to ensure that it has real impact and saves lives.

Yours ever,

Rt Hon Baroness Corston
Kate Green MP
Co-chairs, APPG on Women in the Penal System

Baroness Hamwee

Baroness Uddin
Officers, APPG on Women in the Penal System

Rt Hon Baroness Armstrong
Paula Barker MP
Baroness Benjamin DBE DL
Baroness Bennett
Rt Hon Baroness Bottomley
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