



# **Howard League** for Penal Reform

**Annual Report  
2021-22**



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“The Howard League has an important role in lifting the lid on life in prison and explaining to the public what the politicians already know but refuse to acknowledge: that prison doesn’t cut crime.”



# Chair's Welcome

I am writing this after a period of extensive political turmoil at the top of the UK government, with our third Prime Minister of the year now taking office. Of course, the wider context of this latest political transition includes the tragedy and turmoil associated with the nation's experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. The new administration also faces the inter-related and profound challenges of an ongoing war in Europe and of a protracted energy crisis that threatens to plunge many people into severe hardship and even destitution. Both literally and figuratively, we can all sense the dark times ahead. The prospect of winter and the year to come is now frightening in ways we might have hoped had been consigned to history.



The field in which we work – criminal justice – is in no way immune to the impact of these wider challenges. Indeed, we know that whenever times are hard in society more generally, the hardships and deprivations caused or exacerbated by punishment tend to become even more acute. And our sector has its own challenges and problems. Barristers are on strike. Probation staff in the recently renationalised service are denied the right to express opinions to the parole board on key decisions. Inspection reports continue to show that our prisons are often overcrowded, unhygienic and ineffective in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration. The indictment could go on and on. Yet the government's policy – despite the economic and social crisis that the country faces – is to persist in throwing good (public) money after bad, further bloating our de-habilitating, disintegrating, crime-generating penal system.

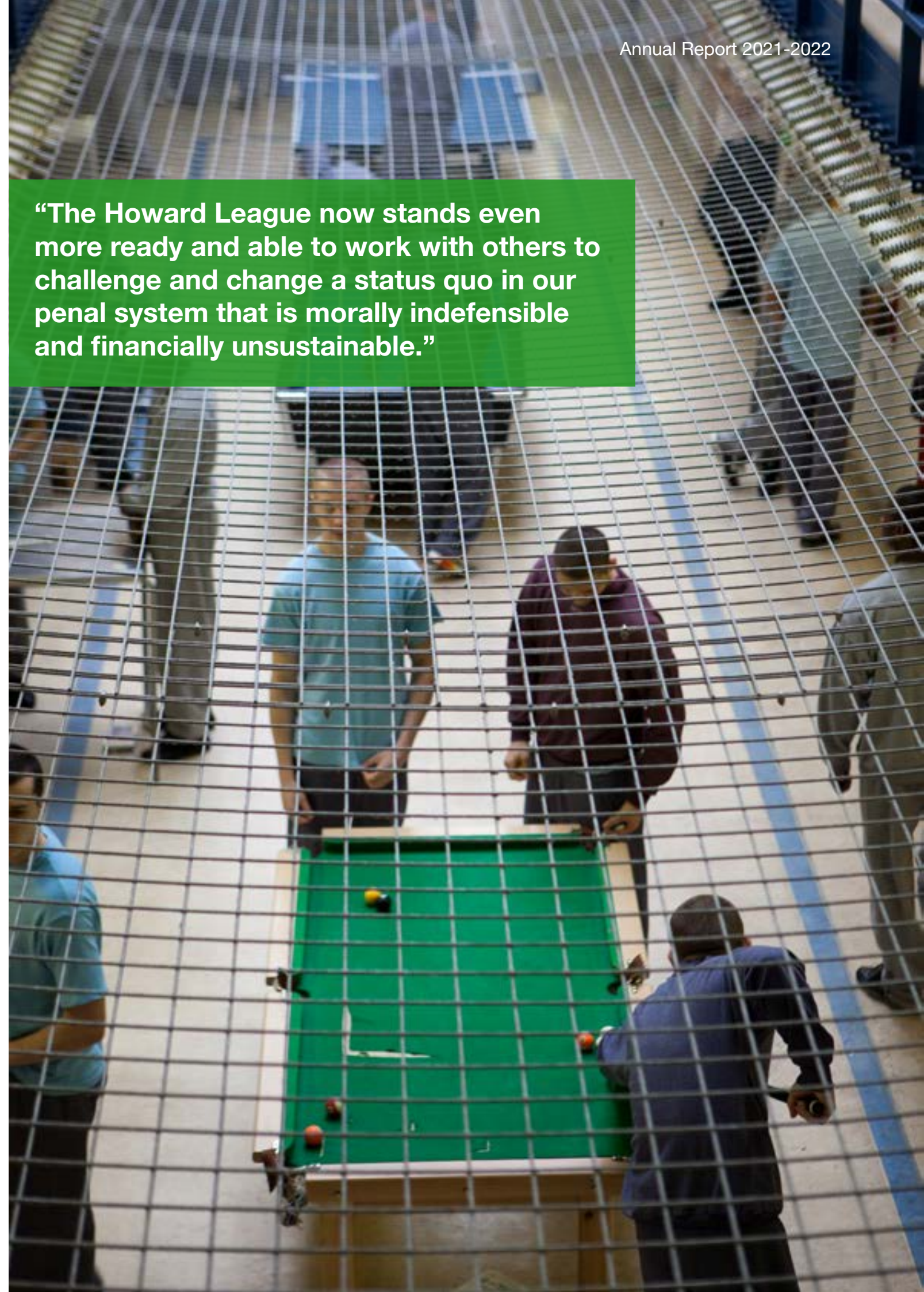
Despite all of this, there is much hope to be found in the pages that follow. Over the last year, the Howard League has seen the most significant and challenging transition in its recent history, and I have confidence that the complex work that our new Chief Executive has undertaken with the Board, the staff and the members, is successfully reshaping and refreshing the organisation. The Howard League now stands even more ready and able to work with others to challenge and change a status quo in our penal system that is, to put it simply, morally indefensible and financially unsustainable. This report provides numerous examples of how our team have worked with diligence, skill and commitment to present that challenge and support that change; sometimes case-by-case, as in our legal work, and sometimes through campaigning and research.

In all of this, we rely on the support of our members and our funders. One important aspect of our changing approach concerns how we engage with and mobilise our membership. If we're going to find a way out of the darkness of UK penal policy, then we may well need thousands of lights and torches. So, I want to end by asking, as you read what follows, please consider what part you might play in the work that lies ahead.

**Professor Fergus McNeill**

**Chair**

**“The Howard League now stands even more ready and able to work with others to challenge and change a status quo in our penal system that is morally indefensible and financially unsustainable.”**





# Report of the Chief Executive

This annual report is published as I reach a year of leadership at the Howard League. On appointment, I inherited an organisation with a rich and proud history of penal reform, with a highly committed and experienced staff and with a strong public profile.

The three pillars of the current strategy – stemming the flow of people into the criminal justice system, increasing the quality of justice in prison, and strengthening the charity – provide a solid foundation upon which to build the work of the organisation and the impact of its activities. With this strategy ending in 2023, the coming year will see a refresh in line with a changing, and increasingly challenging, context.

Much of my time at the Howard League to date has revolved around clarifying and developing our values and a culture which will allow our staff, and therefore the work, to flourish. While this is an ongoing process, the coming year will see us build on these foundations by refining the strategies and methodologies that will maximise our impact as an organisation. We will develop a theory of change that clearly identifies the role of the Howard League as a leading commentator and actor in the criminal justice sector in England and Wales, and that sets out activities against which we can measure our impact.

This is a critical time for the criminal justice system generally and prison policy in particular. In the context of a cost-of-living crisis, the government has committed to increasing the prison population by 25 per cent in the next three-and-a-half years. This is despite an abundance of evidence that prison does little to deter crime; instead it disrupts, derails and devastates lives in a way that feeds criminality. Many of our prisons, even the ‘good ones’, are hot beds of poor mental health, violence and hopelessness, which see nearly half of those released reoffend within a year. And it costs the taxpayer a fortune.

The Howard League has an important role in lifting the lid on life in prison and explaining to the public what the politicians already know but refuse to acknowledge: that prison doesn’t cut crime. It follows that we have to support politicians to develop the courage required to make evidence-based policy. We will also hold them to account for the harms they cause when they fail to do so. The Howard League has always challenged injustice in the criminal justice system, and we will continue to do this, through campaigns and policy work, as well as through litigation.

In recent months we have reshaped staffing around our communications function, which will see us refresh the way we speak to our members, supporters and the public. This will include redesigning our website, honing our messages and reinvigorating our social media presence. We will launch an events programme,



online and in person.

I am particularly keen to make more of our membership, using members to shape and advocate for our work. We will build on our membership survey and find ways to build the membership and to bring members closer to our work, including the experience of members in prison and their families.

We will continue to build our development function, diversifying income streams. We will focus fundraising efforts on deepening relationships with existing donors and on developing new relationships, focusing on unrestricted, multi-year funding opportunities. We will establish a Development Board, and with its support start to build a major donor funding programme, providing opportunities for supporters to engage meaningfully with our work and beneficiaries.

I have invested a lot of time in the past year updating our ‘back office’, which is vitally important for a sustainable, effective organisation. This process should be completed by the end of the coming year.

I have spent much of the last year meeting others in the sector to understand their work and where they see the Howard League advancing change in the criminal justice space. I have spoken to our members, people in prison, prison governors and staff, civil servants, politicians of all shades, and NGOs in the criminal justice sector. I have been invited to prisons, to women’s centres and drug rehab centres, and to see advice lines and innovative services in action. I have been overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome and by the spirit of collaboration and support that has greeted me. There is enormous goodwill for the work of the Howard League and a strong belief in the importance of the Howard League as a powerful voice for and of the sector.

Finally, I would like to thank our members, donors, funders and staff for their support during this period of transition. Frances has built a fantastic organisation with an important and distinct voice; I look forward to seeing it grow in stature and impact over the years to come.

**Andrea Coomber KC (Hon.)**

**Chief Executive**



# Report of the Trustees

In 2019 the Board of the Howard League set the following strategic vision and priorities for the following five years:

The Howard League for Penal Reform recognises the humanity of all people involved in criminal justice.

We seek to uphold their dignity and respect their human rights.

We strive to minimise the human suffering and social harms that are both causes of crime and consequences of punishment.

We stand for constructive forms of justice that contribute to building a safer, fairer society.

We stand against abuse and mistreatment and all forms of unlawful discrimination in the criminal justice system.

To these ends, we are committed to:

- Remaining fearlessly independent, radical and critical in our campaigning, as well as being pragmatic, engaged and influential
- Sustaining high-quality, high-profile public engagement and education around criminal justice concerns
- Being evidence-based and research-informed
- Maintaining the culture of curiosity and ingenuity that allows us to respond to penal reform challenges in ways that are flexible, dynamic and agile
- Using the law and the courts to challenge injustice
- Being well-managed, well-governed and sustainable as a charitable organisation
- Being committed to working in partnership with others who share our values and goals.

In the five years to 2024 we are focused on three broad strategic priorities:

1. stemming the flow;
2. better justice;
3. and strengthening the charity.

**“We continue to devote efforts to grow our membership, expand our influence and maintain our independence.”**

## 1. Stemming the flow

We are focusing work on stemming the flow of people into the system, advocating for solutions which as much as possible lie outside of the criminal justice system.

The criminal justice system is not a static repository of people. It is better understood as a flow of individual lives, from point of arrest, through community interventions, all the way to the population in penal custody and beyond.

For the past three years, a key activity in respect of ‘stemming the flow’ has been the work of the Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms, which is run by the Howard League. We have also undertaken significant work in respect of the arrests of women and children.

## 2. Better justice

We are focusing work on better justice which emphasises rights and remedies. When solutions must be sought from within the system, these should be as non-invasive and flexible as possible. Prison must be a true last resort.

Our legal team focuses on the quality of justice for children and young people in custody. Through our access to justice service, we advise hundreds of children and young people each year in advocating for their rights in prison and supporting their return to the community. In the past year we have undertaken several projects that aim to improve and better understand their experience in custody.

Our campaigns team are committed to sharing the experiences of people in custody with the public, amplifying key findings from reports from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons and Independent Monitoring Boards. We also respond to government consultations and developments in Parliament, with a view to reducing the prison population and improving conditions in prisons.

## 3. Strengthening the charity

We are focusing work on strengthening the charity, which speaks to our vision of being a well-managed, well-governed and sustainable charitable organisation. In particular, we continue to devote efforts to grow our membership, expand our influence and maintain our independence.

In the past year the new Chief Executive – supported by the Senior Management Team – has pursued significant change in respect of the governance and management of the charity.

The charity has renewed its focus on its values as an organisation. The Board has agreed to six core values, which inform all of our work, internally and externally. These values are: **Excellence, Courage, Integrity, Learning, Collaboration and Accountability**. These values are the foundation of our work and the way we treat others and each other. To bring them to life, the staff has elaborated a Cultural Compass that details the behaviours and mindsets that should accompany each value. These are kept under regular review by the staff and by the Board.



# Stemming the flow

## The Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms

We set up the Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms in 2019 to find new and better ways of preventing crime linked to gambling. This work is funded by the Gambling Commission.

Chaired by Lord Peter Goldsmith KC, the Commission was initially called the Commission on Crime and Problem Gambling but changed its name in 2022 to reflect learning from research findings about people's lived experience.

Its work has been largely focused on research, building on the evidence base developed through an international literature review, and oral evidence sessions.

*State of Play*, a briefing published in October 2021, summarised the evidence uncovered to that point and made some initial recommendations to government and policymakers. This briefing was published in tandem with the Commission's first research report, *Sentencers' understanding and awareness and treatment of problem gamblers*, conducted by Sarah Page of Staffordshire University in partnership with the Magistrates Association.

In 2022, the Commission published two further research reports: *"Surviving, not living": Lived experiences of crime and gambling* by Dr Lauren Smith of the University of Lincoln; and *Police awareness and practice regarding gambling related harms* by Dr Helen Churcher of the Howard League.

Building on Dr Lauren Smith's findings, the Commission developed two additional research projects, in partnership with BetKnowMore. These projects use peer research methodology to amplify the voices of women and people from racially minoritised communities who have been directly affected by gambling harms and crime. The research teams are due to report to the Commission in late 2022, with reports published shortly after.

The Commission's final research project explores prison culture and gambling. This peer research project is being conducted in a men's prison and is due to report to Commissioners in late 2022.

The Commission has been promoting its work and broadening its horizons in various ways, including through a submission to the NICE consultation on a draft clinical guideline for gambling: identification, diagnosis and management.

In June 2022, the work of the Commission was featured in 'Gambling on Justice', a File on 4 programme broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

Howard League staff and research teams have continued to disseminate the work of the Commission to the Ministry of Justice, to Local Criminal Justice Boards, to Police and Crime Commissioners, and at political party conferences. The research has also been promoted at academic conferences, including the Howard League's 'Crime, Justice and the Human Condition' event at Keble College, Oxford.

The Commission is expected to make a final report in early 2023.

## The All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System

We provided secretariat and policy support to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System (APPG), latterly chaired by Jackie Doyle Price MP and Kate Green MP. We thanked Baroness Corston, who stood down as Co-Chair in October 2021 and was appointed the Honorary President of the APPG.

We submitted evidence to the government consultation on the Prisons Strategy White Paper, questioning the rationale behind the proposed expansion of prison places for women. The submission also drew attention to the fact that women continue to receive short prison sentences, which contradicts the government's Female Offender Strategy.

The APPG gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. The submission supported the aims of the Female Offender Strategy, namely to reduce the number of women in contact with the criminal justice system. It highlighted good practice by police services such as West Yorkshire, Durham, Avon and Somerset and Surrey to reduce arrests and divert women to support. Our Chief Executive appeared before the committee and much of our evidence was picked up in its final report.

The APPG concluded a three-year programme to reduce arrests of women, funded by the Lloyds Bank Foundation. The fourth and final report under this grant, *Arresting the entry of women into the criminal justice system: Briefing four*, was published in July 2022.

We met representatives of several police forces – including Durham, Lancashire, Humberside and Cambridgeshire – to learn more and discuss initiatives for reducing arrests of women. We responded to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan consultation and welcomed proposals for a distinct gender-informed approach for women in contact with the criminal justice system.

As the arrests project has come to an end, we have reflected on successes and challenges in the work. We are pleased to have acted as an information hub for police

services, Police and Crime Commissioners and NGOs working with women. We have recognised and shared good practice, encouraged forces to learn from their peers and develop good practice based on local needs. While we have been able to build good relationships with police services that are developing good practice, we have found it difficult to engage those who are not.

The APPG also held an inquiry into women's health and wellbeing in prison, which reported in April 2022. Evidence sessions were held on mental wellbeing, disproportionality, treatment and conditions and remand for own protection. This work was funded by a trust that has requested anonymity.

The inquiry resulted in the publication of a report that highlighted the damaging impact of prison on women's lives. It noted that prisons are designed around the needs of a majority male population, meaning that women's health needs – physical and mental – are rarely met. Poor outcomes for women in public health outside prison are amplified in prison; this is particularly true for women from racialised minorities. Most women enter prison with mental health problems, which are made worse through the prison experience. Fundamentally, most women in prison need not be in prison – very many are held on remand or on short sentences. Prison does little for these women, who in most cases need support and treatment rather than punishment.

We secured publicity for the report. Jackie Doyle-Price MP, as Co-Chair of the APPG, spoke about the inquiry on 'Woman's Hour' on BBC Radio 4 and the APPG's findings were covered in the *Telegraph*, the *Independent* and the *Justice Gap*. The briefing paper was circulated to MPs and Peers as well as the Minister for Prisons and the Minister for Equalities, members of the Justice Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. It was covered in the Clinks e-bulletin on women in the criminal justice system.

In light of the inquiry's work, the Howard League submitted evidence to the Justice Committee consultation on the use of adult remand. The submission referred to the disproportionality in the use of remand for women and people from racially minoritised communities and the use of remand for own protection for women.

After the APPG published a briefing in 2020 on the topic of remand for own protection, members of the APPG used the passage of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in 2021 to table an amendment to see the practice ended. While the amendment was dropped at the Committee stage, the government committed to review the issue and new draft legislation published this year amends provisions in the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Bail Act 1976, which allow courts to remand people to custody because they are in mental health crisis. The Howard League has welcomed this development and will continue to press for repealing remand for own protection or welfare in all circumstances, including where courts mistakenly believe that it will protect someone from exploitation or abuse.

In the summer of 2022, it was agreed that the secretariat function for the APPG should be transferred to the charity Women in Prison. This was in recognition of Women in Prison's significant reach in service provision and therefore expertise on issues affecting women in the penal system. In the 14 years in which we have hosted the APPG, we have benefited greatly from the support and advice of countless MPs and members of the House of Lords, from women's prison advocates and support workers and from women with lived experience of prison. Our thanks to them all, but particularly to Baroness Corston. We wish the APPG all the best for its future success based at Women in Prison and look forward to supporting its work in the years to come.

## Racial disparity in youth justice

We launched a new programme addressing racial disparity in youth justice, which builds on previous work to reduce child arrests and our guide for anti-racist lawyers, published in 2021. Funded for the next three years by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the project commenced in May 2022 with the recruitment of a new policy officer.

Work to date has focused on setting up the parameters and key elements of the project, which include the formation of an Advisory Board. With partner organisations, we are exploring key challenges for the fair treatment of children from racialised minorities in the criminal justice system. While areas of work are emerging, we expect to explore themes of 'adulthood', overuse of remand and considering 'joint enterprise' convictions through the prism of racial disparity.

## Supporting crime-cutting projects

The Howard League Community Awards attract a flood of entries every year and, once again, it was striking to see so many schemes deserving of recognition and praise for their excellent work in the community. The range and diversity of the nominated programmes, each delivering services under such difficult circumstances during the pandemic, was remarkable.

A new category, 'Racial Disparities in Youth Justice', was introduced into the awards this year to reflect the importance of this issue and our new work stream. Also, a new criterion this year asked for the nominated organisations to demonstrate the use of lived experience in shaping the work they do.

Thirty-two nominations were shortlisted across seven categories, and the winners were announced at an online ceremony in November 2022.



## Government and public affairs

The most significant political developments for criminal justice policy in this reporting year were the passage of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the publication of the Prisons Strategy White Paper.

In late 2021, we worked on amendments addressing the issue of sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) in the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Bill. Although these amendments were not successful, the government did commit to reviewing current policies in light of a Justice Committee inquiry into the sentence. We made our own submission to this inquiry, and the committee's report was published in October 2022.

In February 2022, we published our response to the Prisons Strategy White Paper consultation, raising serious concern about the direction of travel of prison policy in increasing the prison population by 25 per cent. While the White Paper is aimed at improving both the experience of imprisonment and the outcomes for prison leavers, it is unclear to us how this could possibly be achieved in a context of an ever-expanding prison population.

We have also responded to dozens of government and statutory consultations on a wide range of issues including human rights, law, sentencing and the treatment of children.

We are consulted regularly by ministers, officials and parliamentary committees. In June, our Chief Executive gave evidence in a private session to the House of Lords Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Queen's Speech. Our Chief Executive has regular meetings with relevant ministers, as well as with the shadow justice teams, senior judges and senior civil servants.

Staff maintain strong relationships with senior officials across statutory agencies including the Parole Board, Sentencing Council, HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Probation, the Youth Custody Service and the Youth Justice Board.

**"We are consulted regularly by ministers, officials and parliamentary committees."**





# Better justice

## Advice and legal representation for children and young adults

Children and young people in custody have distinct needs and are a growing, under-supported group of the prison population. Highly vulnerable and often facing long sentences, they need support in advocating for their own rights, as well as advocacy on their behalf.

We are proud to run the country's only dedicated advice line for children and young people in custody. With support from BBC Children in Need, this year we were able to extend the hours of the advice line, allowing us to support more children and young people in distress.

In the year ending 31 July 2022, the legal team provided advice and assistance to 132 children under the age of 18 and 240 young people between the ages of 18 and 21 in 526 separate matters.

We gave these children and young people specialist legal advice about a range of different issues, including their treatment in custody, adjudications, transfers, and release planning. We explained their legal rights and entitlements, advised them on how they could take action themselves and took action and advocated on their behalf. We also signposted and referred them to other firms of solicitors and organisations.

We pursued 74 cases, funded by Legal Aid, to help children and young people with treatment issues in custody, adjudications, recall and parole and resettlement. Half the cases saw us argue for young people to receive help with accommodation and support that their local authorities had a statutory duty to provide to them after leaving prison.

In July 2021, the Supreme Court ruled against our challenge – in *AB v Secretary State for Justice* – on behalf of a child who had been held in solitary confinement for 55 days. In December 2021, we submitted the case to the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that this treatment was inhuman and degrading, and that this represented an interference with his private life. We await the communication of the application to government.

In May 2021, we issued a challenge to the use of restraint on a child in his own cell in a young offender institution for compliance purposes. We argued that this was unlawful and a breach of the client's rights under the Human Rights Act. In July 2022, the Ministry of Justice settled, committing to review the draft policy frameworks on behaviour management and physical restraint in youth custody and on body-worn video camera footage taking into account the client's experiences among other things.

Our client also received a financial settlement. We await publication of the final versions of the policy frameworks.

The Howard League has worked for years on issues of 'adulthood' and last year we commissioned Chocolate Films to produce four four-minute films on the distinct needs and characteristics of young adults in the criminal justice system. The films were launched with the Transition to Adulthood Alliance at a joint event, which was hosted by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service so as to encourage attendance from court and probation staff. We are working with stakeholders to ensure that the films are used to train practitioners across the sector, including probation staff, judges, magistrates and lawyers.

## Project work on better justice for children and young people

We have pursued several projects aimed at improving the quality of justice for children and young people in custody.

### *Improving children's understanding of their rights*

In May 2019, we were granted four years of funding (including a year of extension funding) by BBC Children in Need to work to improve children's knowledge of their rights and skills at dealing with authority, and to promote their rights through advocacy and intervention on their behalf. We have used this funding to advise children in custody about their legal rights and entitlements through our access to justice service. The funding has allowed us to extend our advice line hours.

We ran two rights-based workshops with children in a secure children's home. These were run with the UK Comics Laureate and used the medium of comic books about heroes, monsters, and mythical creatures to allow children to share their own experiences and discuss their key rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The workshops empowered children to understand their rights and that lawyers can be accessible and helpful. We subsequently used vouchers donated by a member to buy comic books for the secure children's home's first comic book library.

### *Empowering young people in custody*

In April 2020, we received three years of funding from the Big Lottery Fund to work on empowering young people in custody to understand and use the law to achieve better outcomes for themselves, to embed good practice, and to encourage lasting systems change.

This year we used the funding to launch a project to understand and support children on remand in prison with their unmet legal support needs. The aim was to understand,



in discussion with professionals, why children had been remanded to custody and to see if they could be supported to get bail. Alongside legal casework, we talked to children about their experiences on remand and their perceptions of what led to it.

During the project we advised 13 children and young people and published two briefings. The first summarised the legal issues faced by children on remand. The second, published in May 2022, focused on the experiences, voices, and lessons to be learned from five of the young people. We are working with a barrister who specialises in youth justice to produce further resources for lawyers working with remanded children.

The final year of the project will focus on strengthening information on in-cell technology. We surveyed 130 children across three different prisons about how they use in-cell technology, with a view to producing accessible legal education resources for children which they can access in their cell.

### ***Understanding young adults on remand***

In July 2022, we received a grant from the Barrow Cadbury Trust to complete a seven-month project about young adults on remand. We want to better understand the personal experiences of young adults on remand and help them, and the professionals working with them, to have a better understanding of the law and their rights. The project started in August 2022, and we will be working with young people on remand at Wormwood Scrubs prison.

## **Justice and fairness in Prison**

Beyond children and young people, we continue to be a leading and sought-after commentator on the state of justice and fairness in prisons. This work was supported by the Hogg Trust.

Though Covid-19 has moved into the background of daily life outside prison, it continues to cast a long shadow over life in prison. In order to better understand the realities of the pandemic and beyond, we asked our members in prison and their families to share their experiences of prison over the past two years. We learned that responses to the pandemic have exacerbated poor mental health in prison, with the suspension of family visits increasing the sense of isolation and desperation of many. The loss of experienced prison staff during the pandemic has slowed the return to normal regime in many prisons, with thousands of people still locked in cells for 22-and-a-half hours a day.

Beyond informing our policy work, we have brought these experiences to public attention over the past year, through work with the media and blog posts. We regularly speak to the media in response to reports of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and Independent Monitoring Boards, providing context.

We have responded quickly to issues of serious concern in prison, for example to the official statistics on deaths in custody, which in 2022 reached the highest level since current recording practices began.

Our experienced communications team have worked hard to ensure that issues relating to justice and fairness are in the news. *Politics.co.uk* ran an article by our Chief Executive, Andrea Coomber, reflecting on the last 12 months in prisons and looking ahead to the changes we need to see in 2022. We wrote an article for *the i* about the government's White Paper on prisons. And we spoke to the *Bloomberg Westminster* podcast about the projected rise in the prison population and the problems this would cause. The *Guardian* came to us for comment after it obtained data on the number of misconduct investigations faced by prison staff. The story was also covered by *Inside Time*.

In the last year, we have shared our expertise and set up meetings with media outlets for smaller single-issue NGOs with limited communications capacity and contacts. This has been motivated by a renewed commitment to collaborative, partnership working, and also by recognition of the importance for our cause of amplifying the experiences captured by NGOs close to the ground.

We continue to improve our ways of communicating our work. At the end of October 2022 we had almost 35,000 followers on Twitter and more than 5,600 followers on Facebook. Our website attracted almost 95,000 visits in the year to August 2022, with more than 185,000 pages viewed.

## **Consolidating the research base**

Our deep and long-standing connections to academic research in the criminal justice field are unparalleled. This year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Howard Journal of Crime and Justice and planned an international conference to explore contemporary challenges. Our research team led on six large research projects as part of the Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms.

Over the year, we published five issues of the journal. One – Volume 60 S1 – was an online-only publication to celebrate the centenary, mirroring the content of the very first journal with contributors reflecting on the relevance of concerns raised in 1921. The issue was discussed at a well-attended webinar chaired by Howard Journal Editor-in-Chief Professor Ian Loader.

The journal has continued to grow in its reach and impact. The past year has seen a marked expansion in readership, with a 39 per cent increase in downloads, and it enjoys a 60 per cent acceptance rate, with an increasing proportion of contributors from abroad.

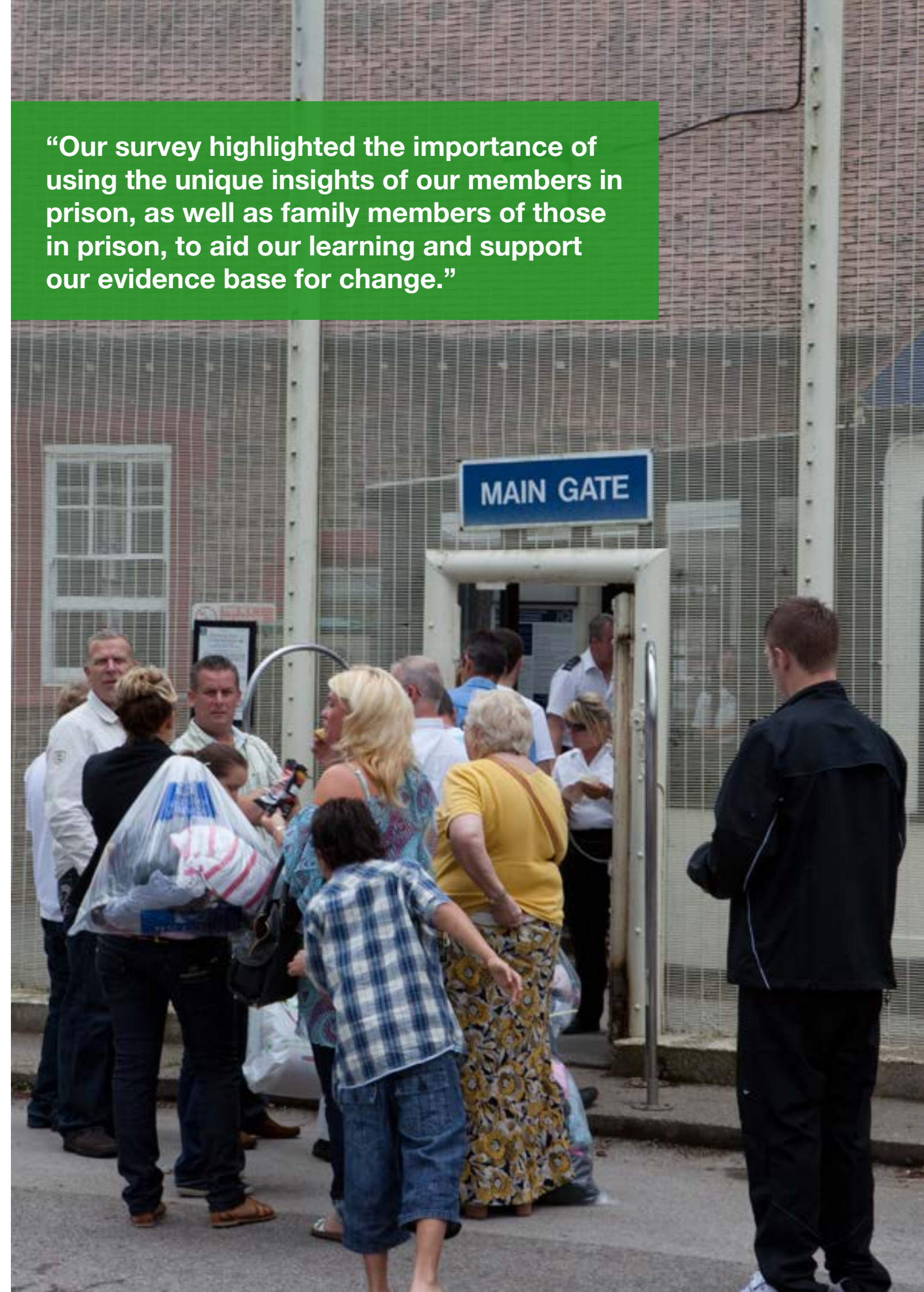
Our Research Advisory Group (RAG) continues to grow, with five new academics



joining on the back of a competitive process. We are working with the RAG to drive membership and engagement among new thinkers. Our Early Careers Academics Network (ECAN) seeks to engage new academics on issues relating to our work. In the past year we have published three ECAN bulletins, one of which focused on reuniting probation.

Both groups were involved in the development of Crime, Justice and the Human Condition, our conference at Keble College, Oxford. The two-day event in September 2022 brought together more than 300 academics, practitioners and activists concerned about criminal justice. We were overwhelmed by the volume and quality of abstracts submitted.

**“Our survey highlighted the importance of using the unique insights of our members in prison, as well as family members of those in prison, to aid our learning and support our evidence base for change.”**



# Strengthening the charity

## Membership

In February 2022, we surveyed our members for the first time. The survey revealed that a high proportion of our members work in education, criminal justice and the law. Members want to be more involved in our work and want their knowledge and experience to be utilised where appropriate. Our survey also highlighted the importance of using the unique insights of our members in prison, as well as family members of those in prison, to aid our learning and support our evidence base for change.

With a new Membership Officer in post, we are reviewing our membership strategy and refreshing our approach to membership benefits, recruitment and retention. We hope that our members will help spread the word about our work and why prison is not the answer to crime.

## Fundraising

We are immensely grateful to all the individuals, trusts and foundations that have supported our work.

This year, we have strengthened our development function, shuffling staff internally to increase focus on fundraising and recruiting a Development Support Officer to generate a pipeline of funders and applications.

We have received grants or donations from a number of trusts and foundations: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; Big Lottery Fund; BBC Children in Need; Legal Education Trust; Lloyds Bank Foundation; Hanley Trust; Jolanta and Max Neufeld Charitable Trust; Oakdale Trust; WF Trust; and William P Bancroft Charitable Trust.

## Events

The reverberations of the pandemic continued into this year, with most of our events held online. Three 'In Conversation' events – with our outgoing Legal Director Dr Laura Janes, social care worker and author Angela Kirwin, and journalist Tristan Kirk – were held online, and free for the public.

In May 2022, our new Chief Executive delivered the annual Howard League Lecture in memory of Lord Parmoor, entitled 'Son of a Convict: law, human rights and the politics of punishment'. We are grateful to Clifford Chance LLP for generously hosting the event.

We held a Law and Practice Seminar in June 2022 on 'Crime, Care, Discrimination and Remorse: Children in the Justice System', hosted by Doughty Street Chambers. In addition, our staff regularly attended and spoke at a wide range of conferences and events.

## Financial review

Figures for the year ended 31 May 2022:

### *Income*

Donations and legacies £248,643

Charitable activities £533,193

Trading activities £14,755

Investments £50,735

Other £7,394

**Total income £854,720**

### *Expenditure*

Charitable activities £1,568,612

Cost of raising funds £73,004

**Total expenditure £1,641,616**



# Staff and Trustees

## *Honorary President*

**Lord Ken Macdonald KC**

## *Trustees*

**Professor Fergus McNeill Chair**

**Elizabeth Morony Vice Chair (until July 2022)**

**Sally Lewis OBE Honorary Treasurer**

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