

Dear Inside Campaigners

Welcome to our 10<sup>th</sup> year JENGBA campaign anniversary edition and I can't work out if that is a good or bad thing. Ten years of lobbying, two Justice Select Committees; MPs support in backbench debate; meetings with CPS, Ministers, Government Officials, Police and Crime Commissioners; marches; Downing Street petition with over 10,000 signatures; a major film by Jimmy McGovern aired to 4.4 million viewers but since seen by many more; lectures at Universities, Youth Groups and human rights groups; House of Commons Events; The Joint Enterprise Appeals project since 2017, Supreme Court Decision R v Jogee "law had taken a wrong turn in 1984"; various media appearances by lots of families; documentaries including BBC 'Not Guilty by Association' by Fran Robertson; funding from established funders such as Trust for London and Lottery Awards For All; Awards from Shelia McKensie Foundation, Liberty, Children & Young People Now, Legal Lawyer of the Year Award for his work on Joint Enterprise – Simon Natas; numerous academic reports all pointing to the discriminate, overcriminalisation of secondary parties and joint enterprise prisoners by leading respected Academics; yet only one (as we all know!) just one conviction overturned Mr Anthony John Crilly.

As you will see from this edition there is still lots of work in the pipeline, including the Joint Enterprise Bill, The Mercy Plea and the ongoing Joint Enterprise Appeals Project 2020 – 21. If you haven't signed up for that but would like to please write to us with authorisation to share papers (we must have your legal papers to share though!) with the Universities who will confirm they are looking at your case. But, and I have been thinking about this for some-time, unless one of us throws ourselves under a horse at the Derby (no I'm not suggesting anyone does!) or a load of us chain ourselves to the Court of Appeal (that one is a possibility!) I think we need a different strategy and that has to involve you. You

Inside Campaigners are the hidden voice in this atrocity and although lots of you have written to MPs you are not being heard because you are in the 'too difficult to deal with' pile of political nonsense we are currently witnessing. Obviously things are very difficult with COVID 19 and lots of you have had to sustain months of solitary abuse, but it doesn't look like anything will change – and if the Government don't care about elderly loved ones in care homes they certainly are not going to give a flying \*\*\*\* about 'criminals'. JENGBA outsiders need you to work out how we get your collective message out there. I know lots of you will know other JE prisoners because of the newsletter, but the only way we are going to get your voices heard is if you start organising collectively and effectively. I'm not sure how that is going to manifest itself – with the lockdown strike action might be difficult but please put your heads together and send us suggestions that we can share back with other prisons. It has to come from you as you are the ones who can unravel flaws in the system and point them out – collectively – solidarity is key here. We have had suggestions of getting rappers and music artists and we have tried that – to no avail. But if you collectively write to them maybe it will move some of them to be arsed. (We think it is most likely their management that want them to avoid contentious issues such as JE convictions – but many rappers and grime artist in particular will have friends Inside.) If you are reading this and thinking what's the point (valid honestly) that is exactly what they expect you to do, you put your head down and give up because you can't beat the system, well all I can say is we can try. It has to change; just last week the son of a JE Insider, just 17 years old was charged with JE murder he has committed. Our children, our grandchildren could be next. Please help us stop it.

So let us know your thoughts – we are getting freepost envelopes printed up so let us know if you would like some sent. Please stay safe and look out for one another.

Love and solidarity always Gloria

## A Word from John

As most of you will recall, it is almost a year since the tragic terror attack in Fishmongers Hall on London Bridge. And, a lot of you will be further aware that the event was part of celebrating the fifth year success of the Cambridge University led prisoner/student collaboration, which allowed for some high-risk offenders (me included) to partake in a real life experience which could actually help us on this road called rehabilitation.

Well, there is a charity bike ride which some of you will already be aware of as I know you are doing it from inside on your exercise bikes. Me, Jack's mum and dad, Dr Ruth Armstrong (Learning Together co-founder) and her amazing 'mum and dad' amongst many more of Jack's and Saskia's friends and family will be riding from the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge to HMP Whitemoor. So, looking forward to riding with you all. No matter where or how you're doing it.

And, I know some of you reading this actually took part in 'Learning Together' and had the privilege of meeting Jack. Sadly, you will have known Jack Merritt (more so than Saskia) due to his day to day 'working' obligations with Learning Together. Although it was Jack's occupation he did it because he cared! He 'really' cared, about us, about YOU. And, let me tell you if he were still alive today instead of losing his life so tragically, he would have been helping JENGBA with 'the fight'.

So, yeah! I will be riding in memory of Jack and Saskia because they were both genuinely, really caring, and supportive of miscarriages of justices within our judicial system that they could tangibly see upon their entering our prisons as part of Learning Together.

Well, along with some of you inside who I know are doing the bike ride with us Jack's amazing parent's will be there too. They are obviously riding in memory of their much loved and dearly missed son, Jack.

However, knowing Dave and Anne as I do now, I know that whilst remembering Jack they are also brave enough to be very mindful of those in prison for whom their son was fighting so hard for; so that we! you! definitely me!! ...could hopefully see that there is a different way for us to live, to grow. For us all to realise that we are more than these (false) labels we have been given again and again, time after time we were told we were worthless. We would/COULD never amount to nothing.

Well, Jack (and Saskia) were not happy about that and unlike most before them, they were trying to influence change!/? And, yes, for Jack especially, following our

numerous and personal in-depth conversations around JE he wanted to hear more, to suggest legal solutions and had mentioned even rallying some Uni friends to attend our future JENGBA marches.

Sadly, me and JACK can never expand on that 'TOGETHER' now. Although! Jack being Jack, and Anne and Dave be Jack's parents? Jack is still helping us in his absence. Anne and Dave, Dave and Anne!?? Whichever way we choose to call them, they are both equally as amazing as the son that 'they' so clearly raised (and, Dave will be first to admit that Jack never got his good looks from him!?). They have so generously donated money raised in Jack and Saskia's names towards JENGBA's continued battle for justice because they care about the things that their son did. And, for that reason they have further offered to kindly meet and discuss the work that JENGBA do with a view to helping in anyway they can.

So, if you can think of Jack and Saskia on the 26th September and all those taking part, also remember that although we have lost Jack personally we still have people taking on Jack Merritt's virtues and principles in his name and therefore in your name too.

Yes, it's still quiet out here and there does not appear to be a lot of progress happening, well, that is true in as much as we can't go and march on number 10 or the (in) supreme court for instance. However, people are still fighting for you lads! They truly are.

What I hope to convey to everyone in their respective prisons/cells is a little sense of hope. Belief!? ...that things are really happening out here and that we are not all just 'going with it'. Oh no, not a chance. We are all still fighting to find ways in which to gather support and to more importantly affect tangible change. And, that change is focused on dismantling the courts outrageous loophole that is their 'substantial injustice' test. That which has prevented so many of you being given your RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL. I do not know what else to say guys only that you must keep hope. We really are all continuously day in and day out doing what we know worked last time yet still working on new ways to do what needs doing.

And, finally, be well guys. I know it must be extra hard to stay focused right now, but you must. We all must. It's what the courts and the whole CJS wants to happen. That we are all just going to lose focus and well, give up on you guys. Well, never. I am going to continue to do my delegated tasks within our family run business just like all your personal loving family members will be doing too. So, stay strong guys and good luck to those able to partake in our forthcoming bike ride. (Jack and Saskia gone but never forgotten).

John Crilly

The Innocence Project London is a licensed innocence organisation. Its pro bono work aims to undertake thorough and objective investigations into the alleged wrongful convictions of convicted individuals who have maintained their innocence and exhausted the criminal appeals process. The organisation was established in 2010 and is based at the University of Greenwich, School of Law and Centre for Criminology. In January 2016, the Innocence Project London became the first member of the Innocence Network, which is based in the United States.

The logo for Innocence Project London, featuring the words "Innocence Project London" in a white, sans-serif font on a black rectangular background.

Law and criminology students deconstruct the evidence in a case to identify a claim of innocence. The students are supported by academic Director Dr Louise Hewitt and practicing lawyers and barristers. In nearly all cases an applicant will have already appealed their conviction or sentence, therefore the work of the organisation centres on drafting an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC).

The CCRC is an independent body which reviews possible miscarriages of justice in the United Kingdom. They have the ability to refer a conviction back to the Court of Appeal on the basis that there is a real possibility the Court will find the conviction unsafe, in the context that it would have changed the decision of the jury had they had been aware of it. The requirements for the CCRC to do this are fresh evidence or a new legal argument, neither of which were adduced at trial or appeal. The Innocence Project London reviews all of the evidence and available case files in an attempt to satisfy these requirements. The cases we work on should have the prospect of fresh evidence or new legal argument so as to have the best possible chance for us to make an application to the CCRC.

Every wrongful conviction damages the legal system, wherever in the world it takes place. Every wrongful conviction damages society, especially the friends and family of the person convicted. It is unrealistic to change entire legal systems in one go, but collectively we can create awareness of their flaws and look at how to improve them.

To apply to the Innocence Project London please write to Dr Louise Hewitt for an application pack at:

Innocence Project London, University of Greenwich, Park Row, London SE10 9LS

## SENTENCING REFORM PROPOSALS

Sentencing reform white paper proposals are highly unlikely to be retrospective and I cannot see how they could be, the main proposals are:

- Abolishing automatic halfway release for specified serious violent and sexual offenders who receive sentences between 4 and 7 years;
- Preventing automatic early release for suspected terrorists;
- Whole life orders for premeditated murder of a child;
- Longer tariffs for discretionary life sentences.

We have a Government wanting to “talk tough” on crime, but are doing nothing to fix the sentence. Recently had an IPP recall client, who has been recalled for ABH and his trial date is in 2022, yes 2022, absolutely absurd. I’ll be fighting this.

### Parole

For all of you who are approaching your tariff (last 5 years) it is worth submitting applications to OMU to enquire about pre-tariff reviews. They usually start when the person has around 4 years left to serve, although with the pandemic I would suggest it’s best to be having the conversation earlier. The idea with a pre-tariff review is that you get to open, complete ROTL’s and then are effectively in a very strong position to be released on tariff expiry. If in any doubt, please write to me direct and I’ll be happy to advise. We have recently received a release decision from the Parole Board on a **JENGBA** case. The reason I say this is because the Board is much more reasonable with JE issues than the court has ever been.

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## Cosign200

We are launching a campaign on the 31st October with the aim to catalyse the appeals process of those wrongfully convicted under Joint Enterprise. Our ultimate goal is to have your voices heard through social media and youth activism. Building a new kind of Social Justice Collective. Tell your friends and relatives to follow us on Instagram @cosign200.

**Founders, Gloria Dei ad Nisha Waller**

## COVID IN PRISONS

Everyone is concerned as well as interested in how prisoners are, and how you have dealt with lockdown since March.

We can't comment on your behalf unless you tell us. And we certainly can't do anything about any negative experiences if we are unaware of them. So this is me asking you to send a quick letter to the **JENGbA** office detailing some of your thoughts and experiences.

My concern is whether this has had an effect on your mental health. No gym or physical contact with family must have impacted on all of you. However, unless you tell us we can only make assumptions and as you know **JENGbA** doesn't make assumptions, we campaign only on facts.

I look forward to hearing from all of you, not just some of you but all of you. Until then stay strong, all my love and support, Jan xx



UP!

It's your chance to get your voice heard in a video being made by **JENGbA**. Leave a message when you call home, tell us how much you miss your loved ones, give a shout out to **JENGbA**, tell us what conditions you are living in, it's your choice. We hope to release it for Christmas, but it will take some time to edit, so get it done ASAP.

Or get your family/friends to send us a recording on our WhatsApp group, tell them to join Facebook or email [jointenterpriseinfo@gmail.com](mailto:jointenterpriseinfo@gmail.com) for more info. Or just drop us a line. Include photos too if you'd like (we need permission to publish pics of your children).

However you get it to us—just do it!

## INTERNATIONAL WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY 2020

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have taken part in International Wrongful Conviction Day 2020 which this year was on Friday 2nd October 2020.

**JENGbA** did you proud, spreading the word of all of your wrongful convictions on social media. One of our younger campaigners produced a video which no-one could watch without feeling the injustice and pain joint enterprise can bring to families.

STAY STRONG .....

**JENGbA family—never giving up!**

## WOMEN AND JOINT ENTERPRISE

Becky Clarke and Kathryn Chadwick at Manchester Met Uni are working on final draft of the report on women's experiences of JE. All being well 'Stories of Injustice' will be launched in November 2020. The project has benefited from the support of an amazing advisory group, including Lawyers such as Felicity Gerry and Harriet Wistrich, other academics and policy experts but also (and not least) women subject to JE punishments, some now released but many still serving. The team want to give huge thanks for all the support and contributions from our inside campaigners. Watch this space!

## Contact Us

Write to us at:  
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LONDON W11 4TL**

**New!! OFFICE: 0203 582 6444  
07709 115793 or 07725 727520**  
Visit us on the web at [www.jointenterprise.co](http://www.jointenterprise.co)

The office phone has now been fixed so do add to your pin if you wish. Any diversion will be landline cost