

Re: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

We write to share our urgent concern over the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is soon to be debated in the House of Lords.

This Bill will have a profound impact on the right to protest, constitutes a direct threat to Gypsy and Traveller communities and includes a host of expansive policing and sentencing powers that will further entrench racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

During the second reading debate, parliamentarians from across the political spectrum raised concerns about parts 3 and 4 of the Bill. Many said that they expected the controversial aspects of it to be properly scrutinised and improved during Committee Stage. However, the sections of the Bill which restrict protest, criminalise trespass and expand policing powers have emerged from Committee entirely unamended.

At the same time, we have seen:

- Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights state the Bill's proposals are "oppressive and wrong" and the Equality and Human Rights Commission has stated the measures undermine human rights legislation
- Former senior police officers describe the Bill as "harmful to democracy".
- Over 700 legal academics call for the Bill to be dropped.
- Three UN Special Rapporteurs, and top human rights officials warn that the Bill threatens our rights.
- Over 600,000 members of the public sign petition against the Bill

- Polling showing that nearly two thirds of the public are concerned about a crackdown on their protest rights.

Government has so far failed to seriously engage with public concerns, criticism of the bill from a wide section of society and its claim to be committed to upholding freedom of speech and assembly has been contradicted by numerous experts.

Civil society groups previously highlighted the lack of time parliamentarians were given to read and understand the Bill, with less than a week between publication and second reading. It was disappointing to see that for Report Stage of the Bill, MPs were given only two and a half hours to debate and then vote once again on over 300 pages of proposals. This is deeply inadequate and prevents MPs from properly debating and scrutinising policies that will have a severe impact on the rights, liberties and freedoms of their constituents.

This Bill continues to represent an attack on some of the most fundamental rights of citizens, in particular those from marginalised communities.

We urge the government to fundamentally rethink its approach.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Oxley, Executive Director, RESULTS UK

Abby Traynor, Chief Executive, Acorns (North Tyneside)

Abi Bunker, Director of Conservation & External Affairs,
Woodland Trust

Aderonke Apata, Founder and Chairperson, African Rainbow Family

Ailie Rutherford, Director, Feminist Exchange Network

Alex Jacobs, Director, Joffe Charitable Trust

Alexander Carnwath, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Traidcraft Exchange

Ali Harris, Chief Executive, Equally Ours

Alicja Zalesinska, Director, Tai Pawb

Alison Blackwood, Manager, Southwark Travellers Action Group

Aliya Mohammed, CEO, Race Equality First

Allison Hulmes, National Director for Wales, British Association of Social Workers

Alphonsine, Kabagabo, Director, Women for Refugee Women

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO, Christian Aid

Amy Rushent, Artistic Director, Burning Pages Theatre Company

Andrea Coomber, Director, JUSTICE

Andrea Gilbert, BAME Regional officer, IWW

Andrew Copson, Chief Executive, Humanists UK

Andrew James Brown, Minister, Cambridge Unitarian Church

Andrew Scattergood, Co-Chair, Momentum

Andrew Simms, Co-director, New Weather Institute

Angus Murdoch, Director, Murdoch Planning Limited

Anita Konrad, CEO, Campaign for National Parks

Ank Rigelsford, Church of England, Church of England

Ann Farr, Chair, Pax Christi, England and Wales

Annie Emery, CEO, Manchester Action on Street Health

Annie Viswanathan, Director, Bail for Immigration Detainees

Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Chair, Church and Peace – European
Peace Church Network

Asad Rehman, Executive Director, War on Want

Barbora Bukovska, Senior Director for Law and Policy, ARTICLE
19: Global Campaign for Free Expression

Beatrice Millar, Chair, Psychotherapists and Counsellors for
Social Responsibility

Beccy Speight, Chief Executive, RPSB

Becky Rogerson, Wearside Women in Need, Wearside Women in Need

Ben Jamal, Director, Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Brian Dalton, CEO, Irish in Britain

Calum Green, Director of Advocacy & Communications, Involve

Calvin Laing, Acting Executive Director, Stakeholder Democracy Network

Carina Millstone, Executive Director, Feedback Global

Caroline Mackechnie-Jarvis, CEO, Women's Aid in Luton

Cat Hobbs, Director, We Own It

Cecile Campagne, Director, Sol Cafe C.I.C

Celia McKeon, CEO, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Chris Jarvis, Head of strategy and Development, Left Foot Forward

Chris Johnson, Partner, Community Law Partnership

Chris Jones, Executive Director, Statewatch

Chris Saltmarsh, Chair, Steering Group, Labour for a Green New Deal

Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON

Claire Bass, Executive Director, Humane Society International UK

Daniel Bruce, Chief Executive, Transparency International UK

Daniel Randall, Co-organiser, Free Our Unions

Daniel Gorman, Director, English PEN

David Cutler, Director, Baring Foundation

Debby Kennett, CEO, London Gypsies and Travellers

Deborah Coles, Director, INQUEST

Deborah Gold, Chief Executive, National AIDS Trust

Deborah Sangster, Director, StopWatch UK

Deborah Tomkins, Co-Chair, Green Christian

Deniz Ugur, Deputy Director, End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)

Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive, Oxfam Great Britain

Diarmaid McDonald, Lead Organiser, Just Treatment

Doug Parr, Policy Director, Greenpeace UK

Dr Fatima Rajina, Co-founder and Member, Nijjor Manush

Dr Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretaries,
National Education Union

Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, Director, UK Women's Budget Group

Dr Mary-Ann, Stephenson, Director, Women's Budget Group UK

Dr. Ksenia Bakina, Legal Officer, Privacy International

Dr. Tom Mills, Chair, Media Reform Coalition

Duncan Gall, Head of Federation Support, Emmaus UK

Ellie Gellard, Campaigns Director, 38 Degrees

Ellie Mae O'Hagan, Director, CLASS

Ellie Rogers, CEO, Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (GATE)

Elsie Gayle, Director, Midwifery Conversations

Emily Wilson, Head of Programmes, FOUR PAWS UK

Emma Slawinski, Director, Advocacy and Policy, RSPCA

Erin Aniker and Jess Nash, Founders, WeAreHere UK

Faith Gakanje-Ajala, Community Development Officer, Fagee Fashions

Felicia Willow, Interim Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society

Fiona Dwyer, CEO, Solace

Fiona Gwinnett, CEO, Wight DASH

Fiona Weir, CEO, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd

Frances Longley, CEO, ActionAid UK

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

Gisela Valle, Director, Latin American Women's Rights Service

Gloria Morrison, Campaign Coordinator, JENGBA

Gracie Bradley, Interim Director, Liberty

Graeme Hodge, CEO, All We Can

Graham Gardiner, CEO, Age UK Lambeth

Greg Sproston, Policy & Campaigns Manager, Traveller Movement

Gus Alston, CEO, Stonegrove Community Trust

Guy Shrubsole, Co-founder, Right to Roam campaign

Hannah Yates, Head of Communications, The Humane League UK

Hannan Majid, Director, Rainbow Collective

Hasan Dodwell, Director, Justice for Colombia

Hau-Yu Tam, Head of Campaigns, End the Virus of Racism

Heidi Chow, Executive Director, Jubilee Debt Campaign

Helen Belcher, Chair, TransActual CIC

Helen Close, Research Associate, Omega Research Foundation

Helen Moulinos, Chief Executive, POhWER

Helen Pankhurst, Convener, Centenary Action Group

Henna Cheema, Co-Director, Biofuelwatch

Henry Lopez, General Secretary, Independent Workers Union of Great Britain

Horace Trubridge, General Secretary, Musicians' Union (MU)

Huffty McHugh, Centre Co-ordinator, West End Women and Girls Centre

Hugh Knowles & Miriam Turner, Co-Executive Directors, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Hugo Tagholm, CEO, Surfers Against Sewage

Humie Webbe, Strategic Equality and Diversity Lead, National Training Federation for Wales

Ingrid Tennessee, Chief Executive Officer, Quo Vadis Trust

Iona Soper, Associate, Secure Scotland

Isaac Blake, Director, The Romani Cultural and Arts Company

Isobel Ingham-Barrow, Head of Policy, Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND)

Jackie Bolton, Founding Member, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Work Association

Jackie Longworth, Chair, Fair Play South West, the women's equality network

Jackie Murphy, CEO, TGP Cymru

Jacky Peacock, CEO, Advice for Renters

Jacqui Hunt, Head of Office, Equality Now

Jago Russell, Chief Executive, Fair Trials

Jake Bowers, Founder, Gypsy Media Company

Jake Lake, Policy, Public Health and Prevention Lead, MAC-UK

Jamie Cresswell, Director, Centre for Applied Buddhism

Jan Hutchinson, Director of Programmes, Centre for Mental Health

Jane van Zyl, CEO, Working Families

Janet Fenton, Organiser, Secure Scotland

Janet Thorne, Reach Volunteering, Reach Volunteering

Jasmine Brar, Development Officer, East End Community Foundation

Jay Kennedy, Director of Policy and Research, Directory of Social Change

Jemima Hartshorn, Founder/Director, Mums for Lungs

Jen Persson, Director, defend digital me

Jenni levine, Facilitator, Rising spirit

Jeremiah Cash, Chair, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Equally Essex (GATE Essex)

Jerry Barr, Chair, Transition Cleeve

Jess McQuail, Director, Just Fair

Jessica Mullen, Acting Co-Chief Executive and Director of Influence and Communications, Clinks

Jessica Turtle, Co-founder, Museum of Homelessness

Jinsella Kennaway, Executive Director, Demilitarise Education

Jo Grady, General Secretary, University and College Union (UCU)

Jo Hobbs MBE, CEO, British Youth Council

Jo Maugham, Director, Good Law Project

Joan Edwards, Director Policy and Public Affairs, The Wildlife Trusts

Joel Lewis, Chief Executive, The Foyer Federation

Joeli Brearley, CEO, Pregnant Then Screwed

John Cooper, Director, The Fellowship of Reconciliation

John Drysdale, Chair of Trustees, Gypsies and Travellers Wales

John Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer, International Nepal Fellowship UK

John White, CEO, Global Care & Global Care Volunteers

Josie O Driscoll CEO, GATE Herts

Jules Hillier, Chief Executive, Pause

Julie Bishop, Director, Law Centres Network

Julie Ward, Committee Member & Public Spokesperson, No to Hassockfield Campaign

Kafiluddin Chowdhury, Volunteer, Eyst Swansea

Kamran Mallick, CEO, Disability Rights UK

Karen Onyekachi, Odidika, Coordinator, SOAS Detainee Support

Kate Hudson, General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Kate Paradine, Chief Executive, Women in Prison

Kathy Evans, CEO, Children England

Katrina Ffrench, Director, Unjust C.I.C

Katy Ashton, Director, People's History Museum

Katy Styles, Founder, We Care Campaign

Kenneth Simpson, Chief Executive, VSA

Kevin Keith, Chair, UK Open Government Network

Khatuna Tsintsadze, Co-Director, Zahid Mubarek Trust

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive, Bat Conservation Trust

Kunle Olulode, Director, Voice4Change England

Kyle Lischak, Head of UK, ClientEarth

Lauren Nickolls, Senior Project Manager, Maslaha

Leigh Morgan, Senior Legal Officer, Rights of Women

Leila Usmani Founder, BeDiverse

Len McCluskey, General Secretary, Unite the Union

Lesley Storey, CEO, My Sisters Place

Liz Fekete, Director, Institute of Race Relations

Liz O'Neill, Director, GM Freeze

Louisa McGeehan, Chief Executive, Just for Kids Law

Louise Davies, Chief Executive, The Vegan Society

Louise Hazan, Co-founder, Tipping Point UK

Louise King, Director, Children's Rights Alliance for England

Luci Ransome, Inverclyde Community Food Development Worker, Inverclyde Community Food Network

Lucie Russell, CEO, StreetDoctors

Lynn Jamieson, Chair, Scottish CND

Lynne Chamberlain, Secretary, Greenwich and Bexley TUC

Maari Nastari, Interim CEO, The Outside Project

Manuel Cortes, General Secretary, Transport salaried Staffs' Association

Marc Willers QC, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers

Maria Lorena, Dolan Chandler, Senior Family & Systemic Psychotherapist CAMHS

Mark Cridge, Chief Executive, mySociety

Mark Freeman, CEO, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service

Mark Hoda, Chair, Gandhi Foundation

Mark Kieran, Chief Executive, Open Britain

Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)

Martin Drewry, CEO, Health Poverty Action

Martin Pennington, Chair, Red Leicester Choir

Martin Thomas, Editor, Solidarity (Alliance for Workers' Liberty)

Mary Ann Clements, Interim CEO, ADD International

Matt Shardlow, CEO, Buglife

Matt Shephard, Director, Likewise Community

Matt Smith, Senior worker, TravellerSpace

Matt Wrack, General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union

Maurice Mcleod, CEO, Race on the Agenda

Maurice Mcleod, CEO, Race on the Agenda

Melanie Jameson, Founder, Malvern Individuals for Peace

Melvin Bradley, CEO, Mental Health Independent Support Team

Mia Hasenson-Gross, Executive Director, René Cassin

Michael Chandler, CEO, Union Chapel Project

Michael Chessum, National organiser, Another Europe Is Possible

Michael Lynch, General Secretary, RMT (The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers)

Michelle Le Vine, Occupational Therapist, OTcareservices

Michelle Stanistreet, General Secretary, NUJ

Mick Whelan, General Secretary, ASLEF

Mike Clancy, General Secretary, Prospect

Mike Podmore, Director, STOPAIDS

Miriam Donaghy, CEO, MumsAid maternal mental health support

Nancy Kelley, Chief Executive, Stonewall

Naomi Smith, CEO, Best for Britain

Natalie Samarasinghe, CEO, United Nations Association – UK

Neal Lawson, Executive Director, Compass

Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy and Communications, CAFOD

Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release

Nicholas Hepworth, Executive Director, Water Witness International

Nick Dearden, Director, Global Justice Now

Nick Lowles, CEO, HOPE Not Hate

Nicola Round, Director, Adfree Cities

Nicolas Hatton, CEO, the3million

Nik Hartley OBE, Chief Executive Officer, Spinal Injuries Association

Nina Champion, Director, Criminal Justice Alliance

Nina Kaye, Admin, Epsom Refugee Network

Nusa Urbancic, Campaigns Director, Changing Markets Foundation

Oli Rodker, Director, Landworkers Alliance

Olivia Fuchs, Coordinator, Eco Dharma Network

Paddy Lillis, General Secretary, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW)

Patrick Roach, General Secretary, NASUWT – The Teachers' Union

Paul Cook, Head of Advocacy, Tearfund

Paul Davies, CEO, British Mountaineering Council

Paul Farmer, Chief Executive, Mind

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain

Paul Streets, Chief Executive, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales

Paul W Fleming, General Secretary, Equity

Paul W Fleming, General Secretary, Equity

Pete Radcliff, Convenor, Labour Movement Solidarity with Hong Kong (UK)

Philippa Bird, Convenor Creation Justice and Peace Network, Third Order of the Society of St Francis

Philippa Carrick, CEO, Tibet Relief Fund

Philippa Childs, Head of Bectu, Bectu sector of Prospect

Pippa Goodfellow, Director, Alliance for Youth Justice

Polly Neate, Chief Executive, Shelter

Pragna Patel, Director, Southall Black Sisters

Rachel Bentley, CEO, Children on the Edge

Raheel Mohammed, Director, Maslaha

Razia Hadait, CEO and Founder/Director, Himaya Haven

Rebecca Williams, Deputy General Secretary, Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)

Reem Abu-Hayyeh, Interim Co-Director, Medact

Remi Joseph-Salisbury, Kerry Pimblott and Laura Connelly,
Steering Group Members, Northern Police Monitoring Project

Representatives, Black Protest Legal Support

Representatives, Psychologists for Social Change

Representatives, Remember and Resist

Rev Sonia Hicks, President, The Methodist Church

Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of General Assembly, United
Reformed Church

Revd Dr Darrell Hannah, Chair, Operation Noah

Revd. Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great
Britain

Richard Robinson, CEO, Hourglass

Rita Chadha, CEO, Small Charities Coalition

Rob Yeldham, Director of Policy, Chartered Society of
Physiotherapy

Robert Freudenthal, Chair, Kehillah North London

Robert Moore, Company Secretary, North Wales Regional Equality Network

Rocio Cifuentes, CEO, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST) Wales

Roger Geffen, Policy Director, Cycling UK

Roger Wilson, Director, Unite to Reform

Rohan Kon, Chair of Board of Directors, ACORN

Rose Caldwell, CEO, Plan International UK

Roy Rickhuss, General Secretary, Community

Ruth Cashman and Simon Hannah, Co-Secretaries, Lambeth Unison

Ruth London, Co-director, Fuel Poverty Action

Ruth London, Co-director, Fuel Poverty Action

Ruth Power, Chief Executive Officer, Shelter Cymru

Ruth Smeeth, CEO, Index on Censorship

Sabby Dhalu, Co-Convenor, Stand up to Racism

Sacha Deshmukh, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Amnesty International UK

Sally Zlotowitz, CEO, Art Against Knives

Sam Bjorn, Member, Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants

Sam Gisagara, Equalities officer, Unite's Community Branch
Camden Town! Unite the Union!

Sam Walton, CEO, Free Tibet

Sanchita Hosali, Director, The British Institute of Human Rights

Sara Kirkpatrick, CEO, Welsh Women's Aid

Sarah Greenfield Clark, Director, Climate 2025

Sarah Hiron, Trustee, One World Week

Sarah Mann, Director, Friends, Families and Travellers

Sarah Miguel, Head of Fundraising, Campaign Bootcamp

Sarah Robinson, Director, Hope for the Future

Sarah Vibert, Interim Chief Executive, National Council for
Voluntary Organisations

Sarah Woolley, General Secretary, Bakers Food and Allied
Workers Union (BFAWU)

Satbir Singh, Chief Executive, The Joint Council for the Welfare of
Immigrants

Shanon Shah, Director, Faith for the Climate

Sharon McKenzie, Treasurer, St Mary's Centre

Shashi Ioannides, Acting CEO / Fundraising & Communications Manager, Migrants' Rights Network

Shavabah Tah, General Secretary, Wales TUC

Sheniz Tan, CEO, Asfar CIC

Sherrie Smith, Co-Chair, Drive2Survive

Siân Summers-Rees, Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary UK

Silkie Carlo, Director, Big Brother Watch

Simon Ruston, Director, Ruston Planning Limited

Sinéad Nolan, Communications Manager, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Sondhya Gupta, Campaign Manager, SumOfUs

Sophie Livingstone, CEO, Little Village

Stephanie Draper, Chief Executive, Bond

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, National Secular Society

Steve Crawshaw, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Freedom from Torture

Steve Trent, CEO, Environmental Justice Foundation

Sue Claydon, Chair, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Sue Holt, Coordinator, Havant Friends of the Earth

Sue James, CEO, Legal Action Group

Sue James, Chair, Havant Climate Alliance

Sue Tibballs, Chief Executive, Sheila McKechnie Foundation

Sue Ward, Church Representative: Christian Aid, Fairtrade, Climate Change, Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Sufina Ahmad MBE, Director, John Ellerman Foundation

Susan, Cueva, Co-founder and Trustee, Kanlungan Filipino Consortium

Suzanne Duval, BAME Mental Health Manager, Diverse Cymru

Suzanne Jeffery, Chair, Campaign against Climate Change

Symon Hill, Campaigns and Communications Manager, Peace Pledge Union

Tabitha Morton, CEO, More United

Terence Brown, Coordinator, Wandsworth Friends of the Earth

Tessa Khan, Director, Uplift

Theo Gavrielides, Founder & Director, Restorative Justice for All International Institute

Tim Allard, Development Manager, MensCraft

Tim Naor Hilton, CEO, Refugee Action

Timothy Pulford, Team Manager, CAMHS, NELFT

Tiziana Oliva, Managing Director, Global influencing and Programmes, Leonard Cheshire Disability

Tom Baker, Director of Campaigns and Organising, Save the Children UK

Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy

Tom Brufatto, Director, March for Change

Tony O'Sullivan, Co-chair, Keep Our NHS Public

Tracey, Lazard, CEO, Inclusion London

Umme Imam, Executive Director, The Angelou Centre

Vicky Browning, Chief Executive, ACEVO

Violet Margaret Cannon, Director & CEO, York Travellers Trust

Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director, The Equality Trust

Wendy Micklewright, Member, Friendship Group

Weyman Bennett, Joint Secretary, Unite Against Fascism

Will Stephens, Communications Coordinator, United Voices of the World (UVW-SAW)

William Rhind, Minute Secretary, Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition

Win Lawlor, Strategic Policy & Partnerships Lead, Irish Community Care

Yasmine Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch

Yvonne Field, Founder/CEO, The Ubele Initiative

Yvonne McNamara, CEO, Traveller Movement

Zita Holbourne, National Chair and co-founder, Black Activists Rising Against Cuts (BARAC) UK

Zrinka Bralo, CEO, Migrants Organise