



Ways to witness: opportunities for engaging with the adult criminal justice system in Britain

This directory for Friends offers information on:

- A Volunteering in the criminal justice system. An alphabetical list of organisations and groups with opportunities for volunteering in the adult criminal justice system, and with third sector projects in England, Wales and Scotland. Services for young people are not included in this briefing
- B Engaging with legislators
- C Supporting families and friends of prisoners
- D Raising awareness
- E Other contacts
- F Quaker resources

July 2017

Justice should be compassionate, forgiving and healing – restorative, not retributive. We want to change attitudes and encourage the criminal justice system to move towards this vision of justice.

Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee, 2009

A

Volunteering in the criminal justice system

Appropriate Adult

By law, all children and young people aged 17 or under need an adult to be present during a police interview to improve communication, look out for the young person's welfare, and ensure that their rights are represented. Appropriate Adults can also be needed to help adults with specific concerns such as language or learning difficulties, literacy problems, mental health problems, or sensory loss. They support the person during their interview and the outcome, as well as through identity parades, finger printing and searches.

National Appropriate Adult Network (England & Wales)
www.appropriateadult.org.uk

Scottish Appropriate Adult Network (SAAN)
<http://scottishappropriateadultnetwork.co.uk>

Citizens' Panel

Created to enable members of the public to consult with their local council and services to identify work that needs to be carried out in their area to improve public safety and the environment, many cover issues around policing and community justice.

Local Police and Crime Commissioner (England & Wales). See below.

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)

A Circle of Support and Accountability is a group of volunteers from a local community which forms a Circle around a high-risk sex offender (Core Member). In 2002 British Quakers established the model in the UK. It aims to provide a supportive social network that also requires the Core Member to take responsibility (be 'accountable') for his/her ongoing risk management. COSA have been proven to cut the rate of re-offending by sex offenders and to help communities feel safer. Circles UK is the national body supporting the development, quality, coordination and effectiveness of Local Circles.

Circles UK, Abbey House, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BE
0118 950 0068 | www.circles-uk.org.uk

Community Chaplaincy

Community Chaplaincies are independent faith based voluntary organisations working alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, offering practical, social, relational and spiritual support within prison, through the gates and out in the community. Volunteers are mainly people of faith, recruited to work under the direction of a professional co-ordinator, or Community Chaplain, supporting prisoners in re-settling upon release. There is a growing network of these in the UK. (See also Prison Chaplaincy below.)

Community Chaplaincy Association (England & Wales and Scotland)
c/o Peninsula Initiative Community Chaplaincy, Wat Tyler House, King William Street, Exeter EX4 6PD
07960369582 | mattwall@communitychaplaincy.org.uk |
www.communitychaplaincy.org.uk/

Community (or Neighbourhood) Justice Panels

An innovative community-based model of restorative justice being used in a growing number of places; including Barnsley, Doncaster, Manchester, Rotherham, Sheffield, Somerset, Trafford and Wiltshire. The panels use local volunteers to facilitate restorative meetings, building community ownership of solutions without recourse to the criminal justice system. The model brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm together, encouraging those responsible to acknowledge the effect of what they have done and make amends to those who have been harmed and the wider community by apologising and engaging in reparative work.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/process-evaluation-of-the-neighbourhood-justice-panels

Local Police and Crime Commissioner¹ (England & Wales). See Section E.

¹ The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 shifted responsibility for community justice from Community Justice Authorities to local community planning structures. The implications of this are not yet known.

Community Mediation Services (CMS)

CMS create partnerships within the community to bring about involvement, and commitment to, restorative practice, and ensuring that appropriate cases are referred on to mediation. Many also specialise in a particular area – for example working with hate crimes, or developing peer mediation in schools. www.findcommunitymediation.co.uk/ is a searchable database to help locate community mediation services across the UK.

Local Police/Police and Crime Commissioner (England & Wales). See Section E

SACRO National Office, 29 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QN
0131 624 7270 | www.sacro.org.uk

Community Payback Schemes

Many local Police Authorities are now inviting local people to suggest work which could be done by offenders as part of their community sentence.

Local Police and Crime Commissioner (England & Wales). See Section E.

Independent Custody Visitor

These are members of the local community who visit police stations unannounced to check on the welfare of people in custody. They come from all walks of life and from all sections of the community. More information from local Police Authority, via Association of Police Authorities/Scottish Police or Independent Custody Visiting Association.

Independent Custody Visiting Association, PO Box 1053, Colne, BB9 4B
0207 837 0078 | info@icva.org.uk | www.icva.org.uk

Independent Monitoring Board

Each Prison and Young Offender Institution in England and Wales must have an Independent Monitoring Board (IMB). IMB members are local people who volunteer at a prison or immigration removal centre in their area. They visit the establishment on a regular basis to check that proper standards of care and decency are maintained.

Board members are appointed by the Home Secretary and are charged with monitoring the rights and well-being of all prisoners within the prison or Young Offender Institution to which they are appointed.

Independent Monitoring Board (England & Wales) | 0207 035 2261 | imb@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk | <http://www.imb.org.uk/>

Justices of the Peace, also called Magistrates

Justices of the Peace (JPs) make up 85% of the judicial community and deal with over 90% of criminal cases, as well as a range of civil matters. They are ordinary men and women with common sense and personal integrity who are able to listen to all sides of an argument and can contribute to fair and reasonable decisions. **JPs are unpaid volunteers** coming from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations. There is no need for any legal qualification. JPs sit as one of a bench of three, including a trained chair who sits in the centre. They deal with a range of criminal cases such as minor theft, criminal damage, public disorder and motoring offences. They also sit in youth and family courts. The role in England & Wales and in Scotland is very similar.

Magistrates Association, 28 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6DD
020 7387 2353 | information@magistrates-association.org.uk
www.magistrates-association.org.uk

Directgov www.direct.gov.uk (England & Wales).

Scottish Government, Legal System Division, Floor 2W, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
0131 244 2691 | jprecruitment@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
www.jpsscotland.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch schemes involve volunteers from local communities, with a volunteer co-ordinator, working with the police to improve the quality of life for local communities.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England and Wales), Beaumont Enterprise Centre, 72 Boston Road, Beaumont Leys, Leicester, LE4 1HB | 0116 229 3118 | enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk | www.ourwatch.org.uk

Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches, Unit 10, Alpha Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, Stirling FK9 4NF
01786 450145 | info@aosnw.co.uk | www.aosnw.co.uk

Police Animal Welfare Visitor

Following the death of a police dog during training, this scheme was established along similar lines to that of Independent Custody Visitors. Animal Welfare Visitors are independent members of the local community who observe and report upon the conditions under which both police dogs and horses are housed, trained and transported.

Local Police Scottish Police Authority – see *Other contacts*

Police and Crime Panels

Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) monitor the Police and Crime Commissioner in each area in England & Wales. PCPs usually have 12–20 members, at least ten of whom must be representing the elected local authorities (councils or equivalent), plus two independent members or co-optees. PCPs can co-opt more members up to a total panel size of 20. The independent members could be experts in a particular area, or representatives of community organisations, or appointed on the basis of other relevant skills and knowledge. How each PCP goes about selecting its independent members is a local decision. They may, for instance, be used to improve the skills, knowledge and experience of the PCP as a whole.

Local Police Police and Crime Commissioner (England & Wales)
Scottish Police Authority – see *Other contacts* below

Police and Crime Commissioners

These elected officials are responsible for overseeing local policing and community safety in their local area. Collectively Police and Crime Commissioners [PCCs] also represent the way in which policing develops in England and Wales. A PCC must be representative of, and accountable to, to their local area. Public engagement, including with young people, is an important part of achieving this. PCCs are required to inform, consult and engage with communities to “ensure that local people have an effective, independent voice for their communities”. PCC websites should provide information about a variety of ways in which individuals and groups can make contact and ask them questions.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (England & Wales)
Lower Ground, 5-8 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JS
020 7222 4296 | enquiries@apccs.police.uk | <http://apccs.police.uk>

HM Government (England & Wales): www.gov.uk/police-and-crime-commissioners

Scottish Police Authority: www.spa.police.uk

Engaging with your local policing bodies: A briefing to help Friends who wish to engage with their Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales and with the Police Authority in Scotland. Published by QPSW Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee, July 2016.
www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/crime-community-justice.

Police Independent Advisory Group

Independent Advisory Groups are groups of community representatives who regularly meet with police or police authorities to form a two way dialogue and provide an opportunity to give feedback, advice and a community perspective on a range of local policing issues. These could range from crime and disorder concerns, specific incidents and community impact, to local policing policies.

Local Police

Police and Crime Commissioner – see above

Police Support volunteer

Police support volunteers are non-uniformed and have no police powers; they provide support to police staff and officers in over 100 different roles, including counter services, training, CCTV control room, chaplaincy and crime prevention activities.

Police

Police and Crime Commissioner – see above

Scottish Police Authority – see *Other contacts*

Prison Chaplaincy

Quaker Prison Chaplains work within multifaith prison chaplaincy teams to offer spiritual support, friendship and what pastoral care they are able, to prisoners and prison staff alike, of all faiths and none. QPCs

work with the chaplaincies of about 110 of Britain's 140 or so prisons (England & Wales and Scotland).

Quaker Prison Chaplaincy Support Officer,
Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk | 020 7663 1143
www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-roles/quaker-chaplains

Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship works through its volunteer members to support prisoners in England and Wales in a number of ways. For example, Angel Tree enables prisoners to give Christmas presents to their children. See also the information about Sycamore Tree, below.

Prison Fellowship (England & Wales), PO Box 68226, London SW1P 9WR | 020 7799 2500 | www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

Prison Visitor

Officially appointed Prison Visitors are independent volunteers recruited by prison establishments on behalf of the Prison Service, who visit prisoners to offer friendship regardless of whether the prisoner has visits from family and friends.

National Association of Official Prison Visitors (England & Wales)
info@naopv.com | www.naopv.com

Prison Visitors' Centre

Many prisons now have a Visitors' Centre just outside the prison. Some are run by the Prison Service, others by independent charities such as Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust). Visitors' Centres aim to provide a welcoming environment where visitors are treated with dignity and respect, and can obtain information, support and advice.

Manager of the Visitors' Centre or the Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator of nearest prison.

Pact (England & Wales) 12 Lawn Lane, Vauxhall, London SW8 1UD |
020 7735 9535 | info@prisonadvice.org.uk | www.prisonadvice.org.uk

To find your nearest prison see Section E

Prison Visiting Committees

Visiting Committees in Scotland are similar to the Independent Monitoring Boards in England and Wales, acting as independent observers as to the state and administration of the prison and, in particular, the treatment of prisoners. More information from Association of Visiting Committees.

Association of Visiting Committees (Scotland), PO Box 2781, Glasgow, G61 3YL | 0141 560 4092 | info@avc.org.uk | avc.bpweb.net

Scottish Government Justice Department, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | 0300 244 4000 or 0131 244 4000
ceu@gov.scot | www.gov.scot/Home

Prisons Week and Prisoners' Sunday

Prisons Week is a Christian initiative to pray for, and raise awareness of, the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of crime, prison staff and all those who care. The week can also be used by other faith communities and secular groups as a time to highlight criminal justice concerns. The Prisons Week committee produces leaflets, cards or posters each year. Prison Advice and Care Trust (pact) produces a Parish Pack for Prisoners' Sunday.

Prisons Week (England and Wales), PO Box 2733, Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 6GZ | www.prisonsw.org

Pact: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Prisoners Week (Scotland): www.prisonersweekscotland.co.uk

Special Constables

Special Constables carry out local patrols, take part in crime reduction projects, help challenge anti-social behaviour and help police local events. While volunteering, they have the same powers as regular police officers, wear the same uniform and are issued with the same equipment.

Local Police

Police and Crime Commissioner – see above

Scottish Police Authority – see *Other contacts* below

Street Pastors

Street Pastors work on the streets in some towns and cities, offering a prayerful presence, a listening ear and simple, practical help. This can include a friendly ear or a shoulder to cry on, defusing a potentially violent situation and assisting a vulnerable person to get home.

Street Pastors (England & Wales and Scotland) www.streetpastors.org

Victim-Offender Mediation/Conferencing

Some mediation services train and use volunteers. Facilitating meetings between victim and offender and their families/supporters, mediation/conferencing is used extensively in Youth Justice. Indirect mediation may take place where the offender and/or the victim do not wish to meet, directly; a mediator or facilitator conveys messages and may help them to try to reach an understanding or agreement. In other circumstances, a representative victim may help offenders understand the impact of their offending.

Restorative Justice Council (see above)

SACRO, 1 Broughton Market, Edinburgh EH3 6NU | 0131 624 7270 | info@national.sacro.org.uk | www.sacro.org.uk

Victim Support

Victim Support Volunteers help people affected by crime. They provide confidential support to help victims of crime deal with their experiences, whether or not they report the crime.

Victim Support England & Wales 0800 840 4207 (national volunteering line) | www.victimsupport.com

Victim Support Scotland 0131 668 4486 | info@victimsupportsco.org.uk | www.victimsupportsco.org.uk

Visiting Committees

Visiting Committees provide a necessary outside perspective on the life and work of a prison or young offenders' institution. They act as independent observers on behalf of the community and the Scottish Executive, to whom they are responsible.

Association of Visiting Committees (Scotland)
avc.secretary@btinternet.com | <http://avc.bpweb.net/>

Witness Service Volunteers

Witness Service volunteers will provide practical and emotional support to victims, witnesses, their families and friends, before, during and after the court case. The Witness Service is independent of the court, police and other organisations there. It is there just to help them cope with the experience. The work includes offering witnesses a chance to visit the court before giving evidence, explaining court procedures and accompanying a victim or witness into the courtroom.

Victim Support (England & Wales) | volunteering@victimsupport.org.uk
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Victim Support Scotland info@victimsupportscotland.org.uk | www.victim-supportscotland.org.uk

Restorative justice

Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. Restorative justice is a statutory part of the youth justice system and restorative justice processes are becoming recognised by the criminal justice system as appropriate for adults too. Restorative justice in action can include a number of different processes in which volunteers can participate.

An introduction to restorative justice and its place in the adult criminal justice system in Britain: a briefing for Friends. Published by QPSW Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee, July 2017.

There are several restorative justice-based projects operating in prisons, of which these are two examples:

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) runs workshops in which participants learn from one another through group activities, discussion and role-play, drawing on real-life situations where conflict might happen, and exploring different ways to handle them. AVP runs workshops in various prisons in Britain. AVP Britain (England & Wales and Scotland),

The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT | 020 7324 4755 | info@avpbritain.org.uk | <https://avpbritain.org.uk>

Sycamore Tree is a victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. It is taught in prisons in groups of up to 20 learners by Prison Fellowship volunteers. **Prison Fellowship** (England & Wales), PO Box 68226, London SW1P 9WR | 020 7799 2500 | www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

Restorative Justice Council – see Section E

Writing to prisoners

There are several projects now enabling this important form of communication. Here are three examples:

Prison Fellowship's Letter Writing programme trains volunteers in letter writing, then matches and puts them in touch with prisoners who have signed up to the scheme through the Chaplaincy in the prison. Prison Fellowship England & Wales, PO Box 68226, London SW1P 9WR | 020 7799 2500 www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

Prisoners' Penfriends trains volunteers in letter writing and puts them in touch with prisoners in 52 prisons around the country. Prisoners' Penfriends, PO Box 33460, London SW18 5YB | 020 8870 6939 | gwyn.morgan@prisonerspenfriends.org | www.prisonerspenfriends.org

Emailprisoner (England, Wales, and Scotland) is primarily for family and friends to contact someone in prison but is broadening the lines of communication for all. It enables an email to be sent from any computer via its website to the prison where it is printed and included in the daily mail delivery. Unilink Technology Services Limited, PO Box 1288, Bristol BS39 5YJ | 0333 370 6550 | support@unilink-technology-services.com | <http://emailprisoner.com>

B

Engaging with legislators

Within Britain, there are different legal and criminal justice systems affecting sentencing and prisons. The laws governing Wales are still mostly decided at Westminster, with the Secretary of State for Wales and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Welsh constituencies based there. The devolved Scottish Government is responsible for most of the issues of day-to-day concern to the people of Scotland, including health, education and criminal justice.

Look out for consultations produced in advance of new proposals. The websites for the three legislative bodies carry information about which government department or agency has open consultations. See links in section E.

Monitor laws and regulations by looking at government reports, Bills and consultation documents. These are all usually available on the websites in section E.

Look at information available from non-governmental organisations, including specialist campaigning and/or lobbying bodies such as the Criminal Justice Alliance and the Howard League for Penal Reform which are listed with others in the section E.

QPSW Crime, Community and Justice (CCJ) Sub-Committee responds to legislation on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting. Information on current work is available from the CCJ Programme Manager (see contacts below) and at www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/crime-community-justice

Several national campaigning organisations produce briefings on a range of issues and on relevant legislation and usually make their own responses available on their website. They also often run campaigns individuals can get involved with – see section E.

Make and maintain contact with your legislators. Whether a Member of Parliament (MP), Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP), or Member of the National Assembly for Wales (AM), it is important to support her or him to take a balanced view of how best to tackle offending, particularly at a time when legislation is being debated. It is their responsibility to respond to the views of their constituents even when they do not agree with them. Most parliamentarians do welcome letters that are presented reasonably and well-argued, and will usually reply personally.

You can also ask them to pass on your comments to the relevant minister: the Secretary of State for Justice and other UK Ministers as appropriate (e.g. Minister for Prisons) for England & Wales, and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and other ministers as appropriate (e.g. Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs) for Scotland. Ministers do not normally see letters unless they come through an MP/MSP. If you write direct you will probably get a reply from a civil servant. Friends who have contacts in the House of Lords may also wish to write to them.

Ask to meet your MP, MSP, AM (and even Member of European Parliament) to discuss your concerns with them. Go to their surgery; invite them to meet you at your meeting house; invite them to attend or speak at an open event (e.g. during Quaker Week).

Asking questions can draw to the attention of policy-makers to a Quaker vision for a more compassionate criminal justice system. Getting answers to the questions should enable you to make informed representation to policymakers when you are trying to change (or support) their proposals.

Questions can be put to the people responsible for formulating policy, and those who implement it; and to people standing for election to serve on public bodies as well as during government elections. This might include:

- government departments for justice, home affairs, health, education, housing, employment, social affairs, women and children
- ombudsman offices and other national human rights institutions; police, legal aid, probation and prison services and their professional bodies
- courts, judges, prosecutors, local government, social services, employment, housing and children's services, physical and mental health institutions and providers
- independent quality control and monitoring bodies
- specialist civil society organisations (for example those working on women, children, healthcare and health promotion, prison and criminal justice reform)
- the leaders of local authorities and councillors (about local strategies and services)
- the Police and Crime Commissioner for your area responsible for the funding relating to policy and reducing crime, and for the strategic direction and aims for the police force.

The Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to ask any public body for all the information it has on any subject you choose. There are no restrictions on your age, nationality or where you live. You can ask for any information at all, but some might be withheld to protect various interests. It is usually more effective to ask for information on clearly defined specific areas than to request a lot of information at one time. If a public body withholds requested information, they must tell you why. Scotland has its own Freedom of Information Act, which is very similar to the England, Wales and Northern Ireland Act.

Although Scotland has a different criminal justice system to its neighbours, Friends in Scotland may wish to add their voice to those of Friends in England and Wales. This can be done by writing in support when there is a corporate statement to the UK parliament from the Britain Yearly Meeting, particularly when there are examples of good practice from the situation in Scotland to offer.

C

Supporting the families and friends of prisoners

A prison sentence affects many more people than the person who has been convicted. It affects their family and friends; the victim and their family and friends; and the wider community. The person in prison may have family and friends whose lives will be disrupted by their absence, and who will need help and support of some kind, usually across a range of everyday issues, and often very quickly. Here are some of the organisations providing access to advice, information, help and support, using volunteers:

Citizens' Advice Bureau (England & Wales)

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

(Scotland) www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland

(Wales) www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales

Families Outside (Scotland)

Offers support and information to families affected by imprisonment.

Families Outside, 13 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QW | 0131

557 9800 | admin@familiesoutside.org.uk | www.familiesoutside.org.uk

Families & Friends of Prisoners Service [FFOPS] (Wales)

Offers support and information to families and friends and ex-offenders. FFOPS, HMP Swansea, 200 Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SR | 01792-458645 | Info@ffops.org.uk | <http://ffops.org.uk/>

Family Lives (England)

A family support charity providing help and support in all aspects of family life including the effects of imprisonment. **Family Lives Head Office**, 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ | 020 7553 3080 | www.familylives.org.uk

Prison Advice and Care Trust [PACT] (England & Wales)

Offers support to prisoners, people with convictions, and their families through a range of services. PACT, 29 Peckham Road, London SE58UA | 020 7735 9535 | info@prisonadvice.org.uk | www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Prison Visits Play Project

Many children visit a parent in prison and it is important to provide supervision and entertainment for them to allow their parents time to talk and to make the experience as positive as possible. Play projects provide a variety of opportunities for children to have fun and be creative. Many children who make use of the play areas will have experienced a great deal of emotional upset and instability in their lives and may exhibit challenging behaviour.

Kids VIP (England & Wales) c/o Pact www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Kids VIP (Scotland) c/o Families Outside www.familiesoutside.org.uk

Project HAPPY [Helping And Protecting Prisoners' Youngsters] (Scotland) c/o Barnardos, Suite 5/3 Skypark SP5, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU | 07932 139022 | samantha@project-happy.org.uk | www.h-a-p-p-y.org.uk

D

Raising awareness

Write to newspapers that appear to be whipping up a fear of crime without good cause, distorting crime statistics, misrepresenting young people, undermining confidence in judges and magistrates and using un-necessarily derogatory language to describe offenders.

Telephone phone-in programmes on local radio stations. Share your own experiences, and contribute to discussions that lack balance.

Use a variety of techniques to contact the media, organisations and individuals, e.g. email, twitter, social networking.

Use the links in Section E to find out when consultations and invitations for public involvement appear on government and civil society websites..

Raise and test concerns through Quaker discipline in your local meeting, area meeting and Meeting for Sufferings (*Quaker Faith & Practice* 13:02-18).

Join national specialist bodies such as Howard League, Prison Reform Trust, Restorative Justice Council and SACRO, who all produce briefings on a range of issues and on relevant legislation and usually make their own responses available on their website. They also often run campaigns individuals can get involved with.

Tell your F/friends of your experiences, and contribute to discussions that seem to lack balance.

Find out about standards of treatment for people in prison, especially those who may be particularly vulnerable (e.g. women, people with mental health or addiction problems) and about alternatives to custodial (prison) sentences.

E

Other contacts

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

Membership organisation to support PCCs discharge their role. Website gives information about the role of commissioner and about individual PCCs. <http://apccs.police.uk>

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

An organisation that advances public understanding of crime, criminal justice and social harm. They are independent and non-partisan, though motivated by our values and stand with those most vulnerable to social harm. www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/

Clinks

National umbrella body for voluntary sector organisations that work with offenders and their families. www.clinks.org

Criminal Justice Alliance

A coalition of over 100 disparate organisations committed to improving the criminal justice system. V308 Vox Studios, Durham Street, London, SE11 5JH | 020 3176 1153 | info@criminaljusticealliance.org | <http://criminaljusticealliance.org>

Finding a prison in England & Wales: www.justice.gov.uk/contacts/prison-finder

Finding a prison in Scotland: www.sps.gov.uk

HM Government

Public information about the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and how to find individual PCCs. www.gov.uk/police-and-crime-commissioners

HM Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC)

Independently assesses police forces and policing across wide range of activities and publishes an annual assessment of policing in England and Wales. www.hmic.gov.uk

Home Office

The lead UK government department for policies including policing, drugs and crime <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

Howard League for Penal Reform (England & Wales)

Ardleigh Road, London, NI 4HS | 020 7249 7373 | info@howardleague.org | www.howardleague.org

Howard League Scotland

www.howardleaguescotland.org.uk

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPPC)

Independent body that oversees the police complaints system in England & Wales and sets the standards by which the police should handle complaints. www.ipcc.gov.uk

Inside Information

A comprehensive guide covering all UK prisons and prison related issues. (England, Wales, Scotland). PO Box 251, Hedge End, Hampshire SO30 3XJ | 08443 356483 | www.insidetime.org/info-home.asp

Justice Select Committee (England & Wales)

Appointed by House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Justice and associated public bodies. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/justice-committee/>

Justice Committee (Scotland)

Scrutinises the policies and performance of the Scottish Government and its agencies in matters related to justice. <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/29845.aspx>

Ministry of Justice (England & Wales)

Responsible for the courts, prisons, probation services and attendance centres; works with other government departments and agencies to reform the criminal justice system, to serve the public and support the victims of crime. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations>

NACRO

A social justice charity that builds on its proud heritage of working to enable social inclusion and reduce crime. (England & Wales) 46 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH | 0300 123 1889 | www.nacro.org.uk

National Assembly for Wales

Information about the work of the Assembly and its members, contact details and publications www.assemblywales.org

Prison Advice and Care Trust [PACT] (England & Wales)

29 Peckham Road, London SE58UA | 020 7735 9535 | info@prisonadvice.org.uk | www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Prison Reform Trust:

Works to ensure that prisons are just, humane and effective. 15 Northburgh Street, London, EC1V 0JR | 020 7251 5070 | www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Police Foundation

An independent think tank focused on developing knowledge and understanding of policing and crime reduction, while challenging the police service and the government to improve policing for the benefit of the public. www.police-foundation.org.uk

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC)

Promotes quality restorative practice for everyone. It sets and champions clear standards for restorative practice, supports practitioners, advocates the widespread use of all forms of restorative practice, including restorative justice, and raises public awareness and confidence in restorative processes. More information from Restorative Justice Council (England & Wales and Scotland), Canterbury Court, Unit CC3.14, 1-3 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DE | 020 7831 5700 | info@restorativejustice.org.uk | www.restorativejustice.org.uk

The European Forum for Restorative Justice

Aims to help establish and develop victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices. Their website, states that every person in Europe should have the right of access to restorative justice services, at any time and in any case. www.euforumrj.org/

SACRO

Helps create safer and more cohesive communities across Scotland. 29 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QN | 0131 624 7270 | www.sacro.org.uk

Sentencing Council for England and Wales

Promotes greater consistency in sentencing, whilst maintaining the independence of the judiciary by producing guidelines on sentencing for the judiciary. <http://sentencingcouncil.judiciary.gov.uk>

Scottish Sentencing Council:

Promotes consistency in sentencing, assists the development of sentencing policy and promotes greater awareness and understanding of sentencing. www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk

Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO)

Created by Scotland's churches to build fruitful relationships with the Scottish Government, and with the UK Government. www.scpo.scot

Scottish Government

For information about strategies, policies and proposals on courts and the legal system, crimes and crime prevention, and public safety. www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice

Scottish Parliament

For information about the work of the Parliament and its members. www.scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish Parliamentary engagement officer

BYM staff member Mairi Campbell-Jack assists Quakers to engage with the Scottish parliament. Email: mairic@quaker.org.uk

Scottish Prison Service

Scottish Prison Service Headquarters, Communications Branch, Room G20 Calton House, 5 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9HW | 0131 330 3500 | gaolinfo@sps.pnn.gov.uk | www.sps.gov.uk/corporate/prisons/prisons.aspx

Welsh Government

Information about the government's organisation, programme, publications etc. www.wales.gov.uk

F

Quaker resources

Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee (CCJS)

CCJS is part of Britain Yearly Meeting's centrally managed work in Quaker Peace & Social Witness. The aim of the work is to support Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting in making their witness in the area of crime and community justice. The main focus is the promotion of restorative justice, trying to keep all those who are harmed by crime at the centre of processes and criminal justice systems.

Crime, Community and Justice Programme Manager, QPSW, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ | 020 7663 1073 | ccj@quaker.org.uk | www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/crime-community-justice

Committee members are appointed by QPSW through the usual Quaker nominations process. Further information about offering yourself for this kind of service is available from the BYM website at www.quaker.org.uk/qpsw-nominations-process.

Crime, Community and Justice Local Activity Groups

Groups of Friends are already engaged in a range of activities arising from their concern about the criminal justice system, crime and community justice, and restorative justice. Crime, Community and Justice Sub-committee offers support to them through an email-based Activity Group Network, available to any and all such local Quaker groups. The Network is designed to complement Quakers in Criminal Justice.

Crime, Community and Justice Programme Manager | ccj@quaker.org.uk | 0207 663 1073.

Vision for a criminal justice system: A view from the Quaker Peace & Social Witness Crime, Community and Justice sub-committee

Arising from a long and careful process of discernment, we, CCJS, have encapsulated our own view of a criminal justice system in the two

sentences at the top of this briefing. In the *Vision for a criminal justice system* document we now articulate for ourselves what we 'are for' and what we 'are against' in the British criminal justice system for adults as measured against this vision. We offer it to Friends as a starting point for your own consideration and/or for conversations with policymakers and others concerned with the criminal justice system.

Crime, Community and Justice Programme Manager | ccj@quaker.org.uk | 0207 663 1073.

'Why Prison?' A Framework to encourage discussion about the purposes, effectiveness and experience of imprisonment as a response to criminal actions.

Published by QPSW CCJS, this includes suggestions for discussion groups and workshops. Members of Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee are always happy to facilitate 'Why Prison?' workshops for Friends in their local and area meetings, or at other events Friends may be organising.

Crime, Community and Justice Programme Manager | ccj@quaker.org.uk | 0207 663 1073.

Quakers in Criminal Justice

Many individual Friends involved in the criminal justice system are also members of Quaker in Criminal Justice. This is an informal network, offering mutual support for Friends based in the UK in any way involved in the criminal justice system, professionally, as volunteers directly or in any related organisation, and also those who have personal experience of such as ex-offenders and ex-prisoners. It provides an annual conference and regular newsletters. More information is on their website at www.qicj.org.

To join QICJ, contact the Membership Secretary Ann Jacob at annj83@googlemail.com.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

An international team of FWCC volunteers attends the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, based in Vienna, and its Congress held every five years in differ-

ent parts of the world. FWCC is also a member of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council to the UN Criminal Justice Programme; representatives attend its annual meetings and conferences in Italy. FWCC focuses on promoting the concept and use of restorative justice, as well as women in prison and children of prisoners.

FWCC World Office, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX | 0207 663 1199 | world@fwcc.quaker.org | www.fwccworld.org

Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)

A Quaker body at European level with strong links to Britain Yearly Meeting, through membership of QCEA's governing body, funding and networking. QCEA works with both the Council of Europe and the European Union structures – the UK being a Member State of both – thus linking European level international work with work in those Member States where there are significant Quaker populations.

Quaker Council for European Affairs, Square Ambiorix 50, B-1000 Brussels | +32 2 230 49 35 | info@qcea.org | www.qcea.org

Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO)

Through research, publications and advocacy, and often working together with the FWCC representatives, QUNO engages with the UN human rights and criminal justice systems on issues of women in prison, children of prisoners, and restorative justice both in the regular criminal justice system and in post-conflict situations. It has a large collection of resources regarding women and children in prison.

Quaker United Nations Office Geneva, 13 Avenue du Mervelet, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland | +41 22 748 4800 | quno2@quno.ch | www.quno.org

This briefing was prepared by:

Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee
Quaker Peace & Social Witness
July 2017

The information in this briefing is correct
in July 2017 and will be revised annually.

You are welcome to make photocopies of this document. If reproducing any part of the document elsewhere, please give full attribution to the source. Further printed copies are available free on request from Quaker Peace & Social Witness. It can also be downloaded from the Quakers in Britain website as a PDF.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) is part of the centrally managed work of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. Its' Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee (CCJS) supports and represents Quakers in this area of work.

QPSW Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee
Contact: Teresa Parker | ccj@quaker.org.uk | 0207 663 1073

