



**Criminal
Justice
Alliance**

What excellence
2021
AWARDS **looks like**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to introduce the seventh annual CJA Awards. I was deeply touched and inspired when reading through the entries this year. The outstanding individuals and organisations have empowered people in the criminal justice system to live happier, healthier lives. The entries to this year's awards also show that an increasing number of individuals and organisations are using their frontline expertise to pull the levers and twist the cogs of the criminal justice system for long-term systemic change.

Policy makers should draw on their insights to build back better after the pandemic and create a criminal justice system which is safe, smart, person-centred, restorative and trusted.

We have introduced two new categories to help carry on the legacies of Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones, who tragically lost their lives at the Fishmongers' Hall in 2019. Jack was passionate about equality for Black, Asian and minority ethnic people and Saskia was a fearless advocate for victims. We worked closely with Jack and Saskia's parents to shape the two awards, which celebrate the courageous individuals working to improve the lives of these groups.

This year we have again seen brilliant journalists, documentary makers and digital media champions spotlighting unseen issues, improving public understanding of criminal justice, challenging misperceptions and holding powerful institutions to account. We recently published a briefing on how the media can better report on criminal justice, drawing on interviews with journalists, academics, charities and people with lived experience. We look forward to working closely with journalists and news organisations to implement our findings in the coming months.

Thank you to our incredible judges, who brought their many years of combined sector experience to make some tough decisions. I'm also very grateful to Jamie Morrell, our Communications and Engagement Officer, and Lee Cutter, our Longford Awards Intern, who both worked very hard behind the scenes to make the awards possible.

I'd like to thank our wonderful host, Donna Murray-Turner, who is a shining example of someone amplifying voices in her community and using learning and insights from the frontline to influence systemic change. And finally, a special thank you to the Barrow Cadbury Trust for generously supporting the awards this year and for its ongoing commitment to helping build a fair and effective criminal justice system.

NINA CHAMPION
DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

THE JUDGES



Brendan Ross.
Project Manager at St Giles Trust and winner of Outstanding Individual 2020.



Abimbola Johnson.
A barrister at 25 Bedford Row.



Catherine Hinwood.
Deputy Director for Victim and Witness Policy at the Ministry of Justice.



Chief Inspector Jason Kew. Lead for Drugs and Harm Reduction at the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit.



Ria Chatterjee.
Reporter at ITV News London and runner-up in Outstanding Journalism 2020.



Jacob Dunne.
Winner of Outstanding Documentary 2020 for The Punch.



Gavin McKenna.
Charity leader and runner-up in Outstanding Individual 2020.



Kate Stanley.
Director of FrameWorks UK.

Foreword

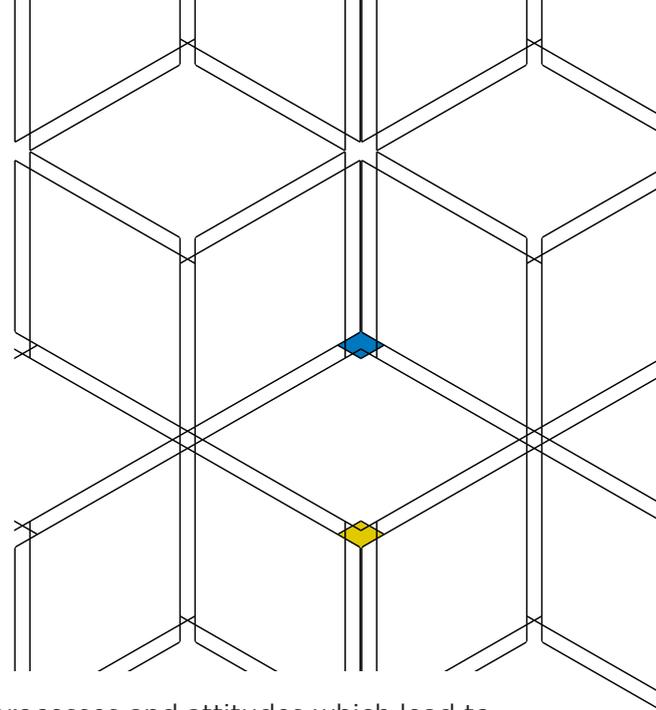


I am thrilled to be presenting the seventh CJA Awards, which is generously supported by the Barrow Cadbury Trust. I work in the London Borough of Croydon — where my family has lived since the 1960s — to facilitate constructive dialogue between my community, the police and other local agencies. And I have been blown away by the calibre of the individuals and organisations shortlisted in this year's CJA Awards, who have met people at their point of need and provided a space for marginalised groups to shape services and design solutions.

We see you, and we thank you.

It has been another difficult year for those of us working towards a fair society where everyone is given an equal chance to thrive. It is clear through all the submissions to the CJA Awards that there are so many inspiring individuals and organisations doing impactful work behind the scenes, often with little praise or commendation. You should all be incredibly proud of your achievements. We see you, and we thank you.

I would like to say a few words about the two new awards introduced by the CJA this year to help carry on the legacies of Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones. The bold and tenacious individuals shortlisted for the Jack Merritt Legacy Award are doing such important work in holding the police and other criminal justice bodies to account, as well as providing safe spaces for young Black, Asian and minority ethnic men and women to build self-esteem and flourish. They are leading conversations about racial equality in their local communities and on a national scale. And they are influencing change in the systemic



policies, processes and attitudes which lead to discrimination and unfairly hold so many back from healthy, fulfilling lives.

There has been renewed public focus on violence against women and girls this year following the tragic, high-profile murders of several women, including Sabina Nessa, Sarah Everard, Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman. Many of the courageous women shortlisted for the Saskia Jones Legacy Award are using their own personal experiences of violence and abuse to support other victims of crime, helping them navigate through the often cold and unfeeling criminal justice system, restoring safety and wellbeing in their lives. They are also working towards systemic change through speaking truth to the media and policy makers, and by educating the police and other criminal justice professionals to take a more victim-centred approach.

The journalists, digital media champions and documentary makers shortlisted in the Media Awards have done an excellent job in improving public understanding and challenging misperceptions around crime and justice. It is encouraging to see several of the shortlisted pieces focus on child criminal exploitation, a pressing and misunderstood issue which demands the attention of those in power. This year people in prison have spent up to 23 and a half hours a day in their cells and prison building plans have gathered pace. It is fitting that several of the pieces highlighted the urgent need not only to improve prison conditions, but to have an informed public debate about the use of imprisonment full-stop and what the alternatives might be.

It is a true privilege to host the prestigious CJA Awards. I look forward to speaking with the outstanding individuals and organisations at the ceremony.

DONNA MURRAY-TURNER
FOUNDER OF ANOTHER NIGHT OF
SISTERHOOD

2020 winners

OUTSTANDING LOCAL OR REGIONAL ORGANISATION

Children Heard and Seen

'We were so honoured to be awarded the Outstanding Local and Regional Organisation award by the CJA last year for our work in providing online support for families during the pandemic. We are a very small charity and this recognition and stamp of approval meant so much. We were able to use the prize money towards hosting a summer residential for children and families with a parent in prison. The weekend event was attended by over 150 family members that we've supported and gave children a chance to come together and have fun after a year of online calls and isolation.'



OUTSTANDING NATIONAL ORGANISATION

Unlock

'Winning the Outstanding National Organisation was great. It came at a perfect time for us because of the changes to the filtering of criminal records, which we have been fighting for. The award felt like a real vindication of all the work that we had done. We loved attending the CJA Awards ceremony because it was a chance to find out more about all the amazing work that goes on in our sector and also to take a moment to celebrate the wins with the other people involved.'



OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL

Brendan Ross

‘Recognition for hard work from your peers is absolutely priceless. It really took a long time for me to process winning the award after the year we’d had. When I accepted the award, I accepted on behalf of my colleagues, but not myself. It was only when I thought about it later that I realised this award was for the work that I had done over the past decade. I used the prize money for emergency shopping and equipment for people who didn’t have access to other funds.’



OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM

Symeon Brown, Channel 4

‘Journalism has an instrumental role in bringing the institutional failures and inequalities of our criminal justice system to the public and so I am glad that the Criminal Justice Alliance through its award are recognising the contribution of journalists. The award lets media executives and editors appreciate the value of criminal justice reporting and hopefully helps to bridge the gap between practitioners and the press. That relationship is critical in ensuring a better public understanding of how justice really works in Britain.’

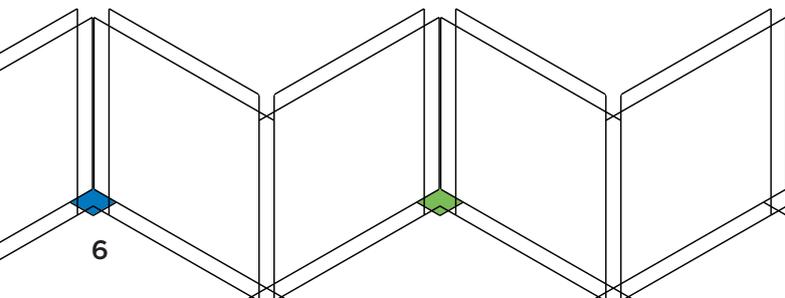


Outstanding National Organisation



CRANSTOUN

Cranstoun is a social justice charity working across substance misuse, criminal justice, domestic abuse and housing. Cranstoun's Arrest Referral Service delivers interventions in police custody and criminal courts to adults and young people using drugs and alcohol. It offers advice, information and referrals to further treatment, as well as providing a sentencing option for judges and magistrates. Another example of Cranstoun's work is the DIVERT™ scheme, a pre-arrest drug diversion education programme that police officers can refer individuals to. It offers individuals caught in possession of drugs the opportunity to engage in advice and education interventions. While the reoffending rate for a normal community resolution is 37 percent, the rate following engagement with DIVERT is just 1.8 percent. Cranstoun has also launched an Alcohol Related Domestic Violence and Abuse Programme as well as an Alcohol Related Violence Programme. These programmes engage individuals who have committed low level domestic violence or other violent offences where alcohol is a factor and could be a trigger in further incidents.



JENGBA's families, supporters and people in prison have found new reserves of strength and hope to continue campaigning.

JENGBA

Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association (JENGBA) has campaigned tirelessly against the injustice of joint enterprise for 11 years. It is now supporting 1400 people in prison who are maintaining their innocence after being convicted and sentenced for crimes committed by others. JENGBA was instrumental in a 2016 Supreme Court decision which ruled that joint enterprise had been misinterpreted for the past 30 years. However, the Supreme Court stipulated that cases couldn't be reviewed unless the individual proves they have faced a 'substantial level of injustice', a high threshold which has meant that only one person has been able to successfully appeal their conviction. Following this disappointment, JENGBA's families, supporters and people in prison have found new reserves of strength and hope to continue campaigning. It has collaborated with researchers to improve understanding of joint enterprise's discriminatory impact and launched projects with 13 universities for students to review convictions under joint enterprise. JENGBA also recently worked with MPs to submit a Private Members Bill, calling for changes to the appeal process.



KEYRING

KeyRing supports people who face barriers to living independently, such as people with learning disabilities or those facing homelessness, and connects them with one another through peer support networks. This year, KeyRing was highlighted as an example of good practice in World Health Organisation guidance on promoting person-centred and rights-based approaches. KeyRing has also supported a group of people with lived experience to demonstrate how neurodiverse people are often disadvantaged by services that don't meet their needs. The Working for Justice Group has informed influential reports, including a joint evidence review by the prison, probation and policing inspectorates on neurodiversity in the criminal justice system. It has also supported Coventry University to develop a phone app which helps criminal justice professionals to understand the needs of neurodiverse people. Previously, members of the group have delivered learning disability awareness training to prison officers from every state-run prison in England and many in Wales.



PACT

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) supports people in prison, people with convictions and their families. It recently completed a successful two-year pilot of its Routes2Change initiative, which worked to embed a family-first approach into the operational life of HMP Brixton. This successful partnership resulted in a higher level of family casework during the pandemic than in any other prison in Greater London, and in the approach being embedded and extended to HMP/YOI Isis. Pact recently relaunched its Visiting Mum scheme, which identifies imprisoned mothers who risk losing contact with their children and supports them to preserve these relationships. Pact has also employed its own charitably-funded registered social workers in HMP Send and HMP Eastwood Park, in line with Lord Farmer's recommendations, to share learning. Pact uses its frontline expertise and the voices of the people it serves to inform policy and practice. Thanks to grant funding from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Pact now works closely with HMPPS, the NHS and chaplaincy partners, developing communication gateways for families worried about the safety, treatment or wellbeing of someone in prison, and good practice tools for prison leadership and safer custody teams.



WOMEN IN PRISON

Women in Prison (WIP) is a national charity that delivers support for women affected by the criminal justice system in prisons and the community, through women's centres and hubs. Over the last year WIP provided trauma-responsive and person-centred advocacy to over 1500 women in communities, in prisons and through the gate, supporting women to address issues including health, housing, domestic abuse, harmful substance use, sexual violence, parenting, education and employment. WIP has also been at the forefront of calls for early release and vaccination for people in prison during the pandemic. It launched the #StopThe500 campaign against the government's plans to build 500 new women's prison places. It also launched a campaign in collaboration with Birth Companions and Level Up to stop the imprisonment of pregnant women. Alongside this, it has advocated for a new system of justice focused on care and community-based support. Following WIP's lobbying with partners for sustainable funding for women's services, the government provided £2.5m funding towards core costs for women's centres, rather than project costs.

2021 NOMINEES

Outstanding Local or Regional Organisation

“LandWorks literally saved my life.”

LANDWORKS

LandWorks provides placements for people on day release from prison, as well as those at risk of going to prison, to aid their rehabilitation and resettlement back into the community. The project provides a safe, non-judgmental environment in which people can develop a crime-free identity and start to rebuild their lives. Trainees take part in three enterprises — a sustainably-operated market garden, a wood workshop and pottery — all offering produce for sale to the local community. Alongside this LandWorks provides one-to-one counselling and practical resettlement support, such as helping trainees with finding suitable accommodation, financial advice and employment support. In response to the pandemic LandWorks increased its level of contact with former trainees, and it has continued to develop its offer, extending the range of specialist support delivered on-site and agreeing new referral routes. One trainee said: ‘LandWorks literally saved my life. The humility, care and support provided means that I have a real solid platform to move forward in life.’

SAFE!



SAFE! provides support to children and families around the Thames Valley who have been affected by crime or abuse. Its Young Victims Service provides emotional support to children and young people who have been victims of crime and helps them navigate the criminal justice system. Over the past year, 90 percent of children felt safer and more confident as a result of engaging with the service. SAFE! also recently expanded its Building Respectful Families service, which works with families affected by Child on Parent Violence, combining protective behaviours with trauma-informed and restorative approaches. It works with parents and young people to break behaviour patterns such as physical violence against parents, damage to the home and power imbalances, as well as helping families communicate and build stronger relationships. Evaluation from the first year shows stronger relationships and large reductions in reported violence in the home, as well as improved self-esteem and confidence in young people.

In addition, SAFE! has piloted new groupwork approaches to supporting children affected by domestic abuse and young people at risk of exploitation and violence.



STANDOUT

StandOut provides long-term, holistic support to empower men leaving prisons in London to transform their own lives and leave the criminal justice system for good. When COVID-19 stopped StandOut's intensive pre-release programmes, it pivoted to set up a helpline offering through-the-gate support. Over 15 months, the helpline received thousands of calls. Coaches used their skills and cross-sector knowledge to support people with benefits applications and housing and to link them up with other forms of support. Through a bursary fund StandOut provided vouchers for food, travel, clothing, toiletries and mobile phones, as well as grants for safe accommodation until housing was in place. StandOut restarted workshops in the summer, delivering a shorter version of its full programme, to ensure men leave prison with increased confidence, motivation and the offer of one-to-one support after release for as long as required. StandOut also gave a voice to prison leavers, publishing two reports reflecting their views and experiences and establishing a new support group for former trainees, who will help inform policy and strategy.



SYNERGY THEATRE PROJECT

Synergy Theatre Project provides theatre-based creative activity for prisoners, ex-prisoners and young people at risk of offending. Synergy responded to the pandemic by launching a nationwide playwrighting competition named Lockdown Dramas, providing a space for people in prison and those released into the community to express their feelings through short plays. Shortlisted submissions received detailed dramaturgical feedback and six winning entries received a DVD of rehearsed readings of their plays performed by professional actors, which were also screened online. In addition, Synergy delivered digital creative courses via Zoom focused on skills such as acting, playwrighting, filmmaking, stand-up comedy and spoken word. Beneficiaries reported improved communication and social skills, more self-confidence, reduced isolation, a better attitude to learning and a positive impact on their aspirations. Synergy also recently employed 12 people with lived experience to deliver over 40 one-to-one creative projects alongside professional artists for young people at risk of involvement in crime who had been referred by the police.

THAMES VALLEY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICE

The Thames Valley Partnership is a charity supporting victims of crime, people who have committed crimes and their families in the Thames Valley. Its Restorative Justice Service has been running for 20 years. Through restorative justice, the team gives victims an opportunity to be heard and have their say in how the harm can be resolved, while enabling individuals who caused harm to understand the impact of their actions. The Restorative Justice Service has been successfully working with victims of sexual harm using a variety of innovative methods. It also offers the service to people in prison and on release if this will be beneficial to the victim. The team provides a restorative service to local schools after an incident where exclusion or criminalisation is a likely outcome. This can result in a speedy intervention with all parties to avoid escalation and deal with the issues. The Restorative Justice Service also reaches out to public sector bodies and delivers training so that they better understand the benefits of restorative practices and promote the process in a variety of different settings.



2021 NOMINEES

Outstanding Individual

DR REBECCA BANWELL-MOORE

Dr Rebecca Banwell-Moore is a criminologist whose research focuses on restorative justice and the criminal justice system. Her recent research has examined the impact of prisoner suicide and investigations on prison staff and suicide investigators. Dr Banwell-Moore found suicide exposure reduces the ability of staff to support other people in prison, increasing the risk of further suicides. As a result of the research, she is working with the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to influence how prison deaths are investigated and how trauma can be reduced in staff to improve prisoner wellbeing and safety. Dr Banwell-Moore also contributes her expertise to a number of organisations advocating for increased access to restorative justice, and has been working on a voluntary basis with the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to embed restorative justice practices across criminal justice services. Dr Banwell-Moore also works as a community mediator — with neighbours in dispute — preventing violent escalation and subsequent police and court involvement, which has been instrumental during the pandemic when heightened levels of anxiety and stress have led to increased conflict.



Time to put the handcuffs on!

ERIKA FLOWERS

Erika Flowers is an animator, designer and illustrator who illustrated a postcard each day during her prison sentence. For the last three years, she has shared these postcards daily on Instagram, detailing the realities of prison life for a wider audience. On Christmas day in 2020 Erika shared her final release day postcard. Now, Erika is campaigning for an iconic Women's Building on the site of the former Holloway Prison. She has been helping the campaign to inform the local council, the housing developers and the community what the Women's Building should include to meet the needs of women who have been in contact with the criminal justice system and others who need help in the community. Erika also delivers workshops in prisons and recently produced an animation for the Prisoners' Education Trust, celebrating the achievements of learners at HMP Parc and inspiring others to undertake distance learning.



KIM MITCHELL

Kim Mitchell waived her right to lifelong anonymity as a victim of sexual assault to challenge a blanket rule which prevents victims with convictions from receiving compensation. Kim was sexually assaulted by a schoolteacher aged eight. She wasn't believed despite reporting the abuse, but didn't give up and eventually, many years later, saw her abuser convicted. But Kim was refused criminal injuries compensation due to a minor Public Order Act offence she committed nearly 30 years after the abuse. This blanket rule has been criticised by many advocates for victims, including the Victims' Commissioner, and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommended the rule be revised. The government said it would consult on the IICSA recommendations but failed to do so. In 2021, Kim successfully challenged the decision not to consult and the High Court ordered a public consultation. She waived her right to anonymity in order to reach more victims and help them feel less alone. By bringing the challenge, Kim has ensured a chance for victims and survivors to be heard.



SUNNY DHADLEY

Sunny Dhadley is a lived experience social leader and public speaker who works to influence systemic change in policy and practice related to improving social equity, the criminal justice system, drug policy and individual recovery. He also advocates for lived experience to be at the heart of policy, strategy and operational decision-making. During the past year alone, Sunny has influenced key national reviews such as Dame Carol Black's Review of Drugs and a thematic inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation on community-based drug treatment and recovery work with people on probation. In his role as the National Senior Strategic Lived Experience Advisor for NHS England/Improvement's Health and Justice Team, Sunny has ensured lived experience has influenced programme development across the NHS, including implementing a more inclusive workforce. He has coached and supported other employees with lived experience of the criminal justice system. He also developed an equitable Patient and Public Voice programme, which provides an opportunity for people with lived experience to influence healthcare across the criminal justice system.

RAZIA HADAIT

Razia Hadait founded Himaya Haven four years ago after seeing a lack of support for Black, Asian and minority ethnic families in Birmingham who have a family member in prison. Through Himaya Haven she advocates for families and provides them with emotional and practical support when navigating the criminal justice system. Razia's interactions with families are infused with hope and positivity. She helps families feel at ease, unburdened by the shame and isolation they often carry with them. She also advocates for cross-sector solutions to promote prevention, reduce reoffending and increase social inclusion for people in prison and their families.



During lockdown, Razia raised funds to provide families with food hampers and people in prison with Ramadan packs. Prisoners said this made them feel that they hadn't been forgotten. Staff describe Razia as a brilliant mentor who protects the wellbeing of the organisation's employees while also encouraging them to challenge themselves.

The Saskia Jones Legacy Award

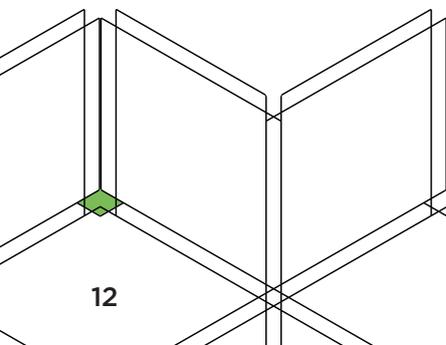


DIANNE LUDLOW

Dianne has led One in Four's London advocacy service for over 20 years. One in Four is a charity supporting childhood survivors and current survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, abuse and trauma and raising awareness of these issues. Her understanding of her clients stems not only from her professional knowledge and expertise but also through her own lived experience. When working with clients, Dianne always looks for positive life change, opportunities for post-traumatic growth and reconnection and engagement with the client's local community. Over the past year, Dianne has further developed and expanded the service, increasing the number of clients she and her team can support. Dianne is regularly called upon to advise policymakers and others devising and improving processes for survivors. She works closely with the police and has influenced the development and shaping of services for survivors. Through her work, she consistently demonstrates the value of multi-agency collaboration.

JANIKA CARTWRIGHT

Janika is a Restorative Justice Ambassador for Why me?, a national charity delivering and promoting restorative justice for everyone affected by crime and conflict. Janika wasn't offered restorative justice when she was the victim of an attempted murder and only found out about it through her own research. This has led her to campaign for greater awareness of restorative justice, particularly for survivors of domestic abuse. In the past year she has spoken passionately to university students and the media about restorative justice and met with youth justice staff to highlight how it can be used in complex and sensitive cases. She also told her story to the Independent Commission into the Experience of Victims and Long-Term Prisoners and gave evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice. Janika is involved in Why me?'s policy influencing and has inputted into its emerging work on restorative justice and domestic and sexual abuse. Janika also played a key role in setting up a restorative justice service in collaboration with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.



JENNI STEELE

Jenni Steele is the Founder of the YANA Project, an initiative that works with young people directly affected by gang-related violence, sexual grooming, exploitation, domestic violence and abuse. Colleagues describe Jenni as transparent, honest, compassionate, inclusive and creative in her work with victims, providing opportunities for positive life change. Jenni survived years of domestic abuse as a teenager, and she often volunteers her own story to connect with young victims in a sensitive but powerful way. Jenni continued to support victims face-to-face throughout the pandemic, often on doorsteps or in front gardens. She has also worked alongside schools to reduce exclusions, delivered family mediation and educated young people on harmful behaviours. Jenni's unique and culturally-aware approach has led social services and police in Lambeth to refer individuals to her for support. She continues to deliver programmes and workshops in her community and speaks publicly to raise awareness of the issues around sexual violence.



KENDRA HOUSEMAN

Kendra Houseman set up Out of the Shadows to educate, challenge and change the way that criminal exploitation is discussed, viewed and understood. Kendra is a survivor of child criminal exploitation, the care system, domestic violence and sexual violence. She uses these experiences to educate and advocate on behalf of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Kendra has provided training and consultancy to frontline professionals, the police and members of the judiciary to make them aware of the blind spots they might have and to see the multifaceted issues that lie behind an individual's behaviour. Kendra recently launched Blondy's People, a series of 28 video interviews exploring how we can prevent children being failed by providing wraparound care. Interviewees included charity leaders, academics, people with lived experience, a vicar and even a famous spoken word artist — George the Poet. Kendra also recently appeared in the BBC documentary Hidden Girls, bringing the wider public's attention to issues around child criminal exploitation.



NICOLA REES

Nicola Rees is a Restorative Justice Treatment Manager for the Welsh Probation Service. Nicola has been a strong advocate for restorative justice to be made available to victims of sexual harm so they have the option, with specialist support, to communicate with the person who committed the offence, highlight the impact of the harm and ask any questions they may have. She attended the relevant training to deliver restorative justice to victims of sexual harm before arranging specialist training for other facilitators. She has also shared her own knowledge, understanding and learnings with other colleagues doing this work, and has provided peer support as well as opportunities for reflection and ongoing development. Nicola has also built strong relationships with victim liaison officers to provide a safe and inclusive service. As a result, victims of sexual harm are increasingly requesting restorative justice. Colleagues say her empathetic and non-judgemental approach allows victims to identify their needs, begin the process of healing and move on with their lives.



2021 NOMINEES

The Jack Merritt Legacy Award

DAN WHYTE

Dan is Co-Director of DWRM Consultants, a newly-launched community interest company that works with universities to offer a wide range of degree courses to students in prison. Dan left prison in April 2021 after serving a long sentence and since then has dedicated himself to establishing DWRM Consultants, at the same time as navigating all the challenges of leaving prison. He has led on the creation of a peer mentor support programme which offers education and employment coaching and support for people leaving prison, based on his own understanding of the gaps in provision. Dan is an excellent ambassador for further and higher education, especially to those from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds. He recently spoke to young men in HMP Feltham, where his own prison experience began. From a starting point of no educational attainment, Dan achieved undergraduate and postgraduate degrees while in prison and is now studying for a PhD in criminology.

Colleagues describe him as an exceptional person who inspires and motivates people with his enthusiasm, his success and his academic ability.



DESMOND BROWN

Desmond Brown is the Founder and Director of Growing Futures UK, which supports Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, young people and their families disadvantaged through school exclusions, as well as victims and/or perpetrators of serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation. Desmond was part of a group championing justice for Judah, a Black man tasered in Bristol as a result of mistaken identity. This led to the establishment of the Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (SOPP), which scrutinises police actions in Avon and Somerset. Desmond serves as the Vice Chair of the panel. He has helped deliver training to police officers in the region on stop and search, cultural competence and a history of how Black communities have been policed. He has also served as the Chair of the Avon and Somerset Review into Disproportionate Outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People within the Criminal Justice System, with his report due later this year. As a result of this work, criminal justice agencies in Avon and Somerset are already reviewing how ethnicity data is collected and analysed.



EBINEHITA IYERE

Ebinehita is a therapeutic youth practitioner at DIVERT Youth, working with young people who encounter the health and youth justice system and those impacted by violence in the community. Through her work Ebinehita identified that the needs and experiences of Black girls are overlooked. In response Ebinehita created Milk Honey Bees, a Black girl-led expressive safe space that allows young women and girls to flourish through therapeutic one-to-one sessions and creative group projects. Ebinehita is a passionate and powerful advocate for young people who aren't being heard, especially girls and young women. She centres those she works with in her practice, public speaking, contributions to partnership and policy work and now in her doctoral studies. Colleagues say that the way Ebinehita conveys her knowledge and experiences makes you stand up and listen, and she is making strides in partnership with others to bring about meaningful change. She recently gave a TED talk, 'When will you see Black girls?', which asks us all, as individuals and a society, to truly see and support Black girls.

SAMMY ODOI

Sammy is the founder of Wipers Youth CIC, a social enterprise which engages and empowers young people in touch with the youth justice system. Sammy is a qualified social worker, deeply committed to meeting young people wherever they are in their journey and helping them navigate to adulthood. Sammy developed an eight-session personal development and leadership initiative called The Ether Programme, which is aimed towards Black, Asian and minority ethnic young men involved with the youth justice system. This highly motivational and inspiring course directly addresses issues around race, identity and perceptions of self, as well as self-esteem, confidence, attitude and independent thinking. Sammy also leads on change across the probation service, and recently delivered unconscious bias training to over 600 probation officers. Colleagues say Sammy leads on difficult conversations in the community as well as bridging differences and forming strong partnerships across the criminal justice sector.

GARRY GREEN

Garry is a leading criminal defence barrister at Doughty Street Chambers. He was a member of the advisory board for the Howard League's practical guide on how lawyers can be anti-racist. The guide provides practical guidance on how to combat discrimination at each stage of a client's journey through the criminal justice system. Garry's knowledge and experience were invaluable to the completion of the guide. Garry was also a member of the working party for JUSTICE's report into discrimination within the criminal justice system. Garry is a determined advocate



who is committed to the principles of social justice. He is not afraid to confront the challenges of discrimination in court. He has been commended for using tools, such as the Howard League's anti-racist lawyering guide, to help courts appreciate the wider context of cases, enabling just outcomes for

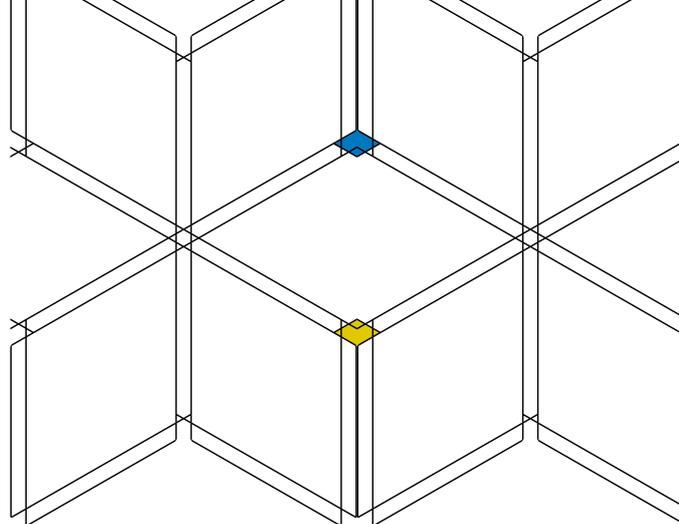
his clients. Garry has been a committed volunteer in his local community for over 20 years and has a particular passion for youth work and the mentoring of young men.



Colleagues say Sammy leads on difficult conversations in the community.

2021 NOMINEES

Outstanding Journalism



SHANTI DAS, THE SUNDAY TIMES

Shanti Das' front-page investigation looked at the case of 18-year-old Annelise Sanderson, who is believed to have died by suicide at HMP Styal. Her story was reported sensitively and humanely, with the goal of persuading readers to look at Annelise as a young person in need of help, rather than as an individual defined only by her offending. The article described Annelise as a child — how she liked to perform in school plays and doted over her niece and nephew — powerfully challenging perceptions about people in prison. The investigation raised questions about why women with mental health conditions are still being imprisoned despite posing little risk to society. Shanti also raised concerns about the lack of suicide prevention training given to staff and the level of support available to people in prison. It led to calls for reform from many, including the chair of the Justice Select Committee, a former justice secretary, prison governors, charities and the families of victims.



JACKIE LONG, CHANNEL 4 NEWS

Over the past 18 months, Jackie Long has been investigating the lives and deaths of young people caught up in criminal exploitation. In her reporting, Jackie humanises the young people and families caught up in county lines and challenges the stereotype that these children are criminals from broken families, making a choice to offend. One report focused on how debt is weaponised to force young people into criminal activity. Another asked whether families caught up in criminal exploitation should be given the same priority as victims of domestic violence when it comes to safe accommodation. Her reports have brought awareness of a national epidemic to the wider public but also to the attention of those working with children. Several of Jackie's reports have been shown at stakeholder conferences to charities, police and social workers, and perhaps most importantly to teachers working in pupil referral units with the most at-risk group of young people.

The investigation raised questions about why women with mental health conditions are still being imprisoned despite posing little risk to society.

DAVID WOODE, THE I PAPER

The fight for racial justice was renewed last year amid the Black Lives Matter protests, and the UK police were again criticised as being institutionally racist. In an investigation for The i Paper, David Woode explored whether institutional racism impacts how the police respond to complaints made against racist conduct. David submitted Freedom of Information requests and found that out of at least 7,837 racism complaints made to UK police forces between 2015 and 2020, just 181 resulted in formal action. The data shed light on what the police define as racist behaviour and how that affects investigations into conduct. Details of complaints and their outcomes were provided, and the investigation featured commentary from police, criminal justice and racial equality experts and people with lived experience. The investigation showed The i Paper's audience how systemic bias can affect interactions between police and Black, Asian and minority ethnic people.



STEVE SWANN AND MICHAEL RACE, BBC NEWS

In an article for BBC News, Steve Swann and Michael Race told the story of a mother whose son had died after becoming involved in county lines. And rather than focusing on the high number of police raids cracking down on county lines gangs during the preceding week, they explored the lack of data on county lines and the need for better collaboration between agencies. By highlighting the voice of a victim, Steve and Michael humanised the issue and demonstrated how difficult it is for families and agencies to protect children at risk of exploitation. In another piece for BBC News, Steve looked at how prosecutors are increasingly using drill and rap music in murder cases, exploring concerns that these types of music may be misunderstood and criminalised. Steve amplified hidden voices by interviewing a rapper whose lyrics were used as evidence in his trial, which Steve positioned in the wider systemic context by speaking to academics and gathering data on the increasing use of drill and rap in trials.

By highlighting the voice of a victim, Steve and Michael humanised the issue of county lines.



SARAH TURNNIDGE

In an article for HuffPost UK, Sarah Turnnidge exposed how police forces, unconsciously or not, are perpetuating racist stereotypes by publishing a disproportionate number of press releases featuring people from minority ethnic backgrounds. Sarah gathered data by reading hundreds of press releases and every conviction and sentencing outcome published by the Metropolitan Police over a six-month period. She found the force's PR team is more likely to publish a press release on a case involving a Black person, which then makes its way onto social media feeds and newspaper pages read by millions of people. A subsequent Freedom of Information request revealed that the force had no policy in place to prevent its communications department from over-representing marginalised communities. While data made the article possible, interviews with Black campaigners and journalists humanised the story. The story demanded change, and in response a spokesperson said the department would now 'consider whether there is a need for further monitoring of our releases for ethnic disproportionality.'

Outstanding Digital Media

A BIT OF A STRETCH PODCAST

Lots of media coverage of prisons excludes the voices of people in prison. In the A Bit of a Stretch podcast, documentary maker Chris Atkins — who wrote a bestselling book about his experiences serving a sentence in HMP Wandsworth — sets out to amplify their voices. The podcast takes listeners over the high walls and highlights the everyday realities of living in prison, such as what happens when you first arrive and what the food is like. It also explores systemic issues, such as the impact on children of having an imprisoned parent, the experiences of prison officers and the mental health crisis in prisons and what support is available. The podcast has had a large reach, with over 200,000 downloads. It received 4 stars in a review by The Times and was covered by other newspapers. A Bit of a Stretch provides a space for individuals to tell their stories while also powerfully contributing to the wider debate on the use of and conditions within prisons.



EACHOTHER

EachOther uses digital storytelling, filmmaking and independent journalism to put the human into human rights. Over the last year it has produced content on crime prevention, policing, courts and prisons in a range of formats, from articles to livestreamed panel discussions to short videos and longer films. Most notably, its Excluded documentary challenged perceptions of school exclusion by giving a platform exclusively to the young people most affected, and its Black Lives Matter Takeover encouraged debate on questions of race in the criminal justice system. EachOther is guided by its 'nothing about us without us' principle, which puts amplifying lived experience at the heart of all it does. And when EachOther surveyed its audience during the year, 72 percent said that EachOther's work had enhanced their knowledge of human rights, 61 percent said it had made them more confident discussing human rights and 9 percent said that EachOther's content had actually changed their mind on a human rights issue.

FOOD BEHIND BARS

Lucy Vincent set up the Food Behind Bars charity to improve prison food. In her initial research, Lucy found few accounts from people with lived experience of prison of what the food is really like. What's more, she was frustrated by the misinformation around food in prisons, often driven by the media, with many people believing people in prison eat three course meals around a table together. The Food Behind Bars podcast was launched earlier this year, challenging perceptions about prison food and helping listeners understand the negative impact poor diet can have on individuals serving sentences. The podcast also showed what is working, highlighting examples of good prison food and how this motivates the people eating it. Lucy elevates the voices of people who are currently or previously served sentences in prison, as well as speaking to their family members, catering managers, psychologists and nutritionists. The podcast encourages listeners to think about the impact a simple plate of food can have on someone's life.



THE F WORD

The F Word Podcast from The Forgiveness Project examines the complex, messy and gripping subject of forgiveness. In each episode, Marina Cantacuzino, a journalist and Founder of The Forgiveness Project, speaks to a guest who has found their way through pain or trauma. Some have forgiven the person who harmed them, some have learned to forgive themselves after causing harm, but not everyone has made complete peace with their past. Guests include Bjørn Ihler, who survived the far-right terror attack on Utøya Island in Norway, and Lis Cashin, who caused a fatal accident as a child. The Forgiveness Project recognises that stories can harm as well as heal and supports individuals to tell their stories in a way which encourages healing and reconciliation. In a society where the media often focuses on tragedy and devastation, The F Word podcast aims to redress the balance by sharing stories with an emphasis on recovery and restoration.



FIGHTING KNIFE CRIME

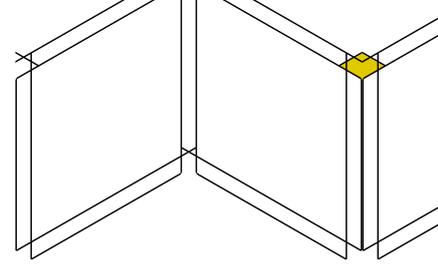
Fighting Knife Crime is a new online resource which explores solutions to violent crime. It was launched by Bruce Houlder QC, who told The i Paper that he'd heard the most 'tragic personal stories' behind violent crimes when he was a Crown Court judge, and said that 'sentencing policy can only be, at best, a crude solution to the problems society faces.' The website and the accompanying 40-page magazine explore issues such as employment, mental health, domestic violence, racial discrimination, the care system and more, showing what works as well as what is broken. Articles are penned by police officers, politicians, academics, trauma surgeons and charities working with young people. Fighting Knife Crime also provides a central point for all the latest information and data on violence, with a regularly updated database of major reports, research and statistics, as well as directory of youth organisations working across Greater London. The initiative has received widespread coverage in publications such as the London Evening Standard, the Telegraph and BBC Radio 4.



The F Word podcast shares stories with an emphasis on recovery and restoration.

2021 NOMINEES

Outstanding Documentary



HOPE HIGH, BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

Hope High is a seven-part podcast which focuses on a small community in West Yorkshire where children are being exploited by county lines gangs and serious violence is part of everyday life. Journalist Annabel Deas spent over a year in the community, working with families, youth groups and a secondary school to tell the story of five boys affected by county lines. Hope High showed listeners that children affected by county lines are victims, not perpetrators. The podcast was picked up across mainstream media from The Guardian and Woman's Hour to The Daily Mail and The Sun. It has been praised by police, outreach workers, teachers, and parents for finally telling the truth about the frequent lack of support for families, the vital role schools and social workers can play and why school exclusion doesn't work. The podcast drew the attention of the wider public, who came on BBC Radio to express their surprise and discuss how to tackle these issues.



BEHIND THE CRIME, BBC RADIO 4

In Behind the Crime, co-produced by the Prison Radio Association and BBC Radio Current Affairs, forensic psychologists Sally Tilt and Dr Kerensa Hocken conduct a long-form interview with Courtney, a young woman who spent time in prison. The psychologists take Courtney through her story, placing her crime in the context of her life in a way that most reporting of crime and justice does not. Sally and Kerensa also explain some of the methods they use to understand what leads people to harm others, and how they work with them to prevent further harm. The producers and presenters had the safety of Courtney at the forefront of their minds. She retained full ownership of her story and was offered emotional and psychological support throughout production, to broadcast and beyond. Courtney's voice is one we rarely get to hear on national radio, and certainly at such length. The programme was given a primetime slot on BBC Radio 4 and used Courtney's story to raise issues that affect the whole justice system.



FRESHWATER, THE GUARDIAN TODAY IN FOCUS PODCAST

This five-part documentary podcast explores the case of the Freshwater Five - the men convicted in 2011 of one of the largest drug smuggling plots in British history. All five have maintained their innocence. Through incisive, investigative reporting the documentary carefully analyses key discrepancies and controversies in the case, including fresh evidence uncovered by the charity APPEAL. The audience is taken on an atmospheric journey through stormy seas, diving into fishing communities, explaining how maritime navigation technology works and describing the impact on the men's families. We learn of the rules governing police disclosure and how they compare with much fairer rules in the US. Following the podcast, the men and their families received a large number of messages of support via the APPEAL website after the Court of Appeal decision. It was clear from many of these that the podcast had prompted the public, and even some local residents, to think differently about the case and the issue of disclosure of evidence.



THE TRUTH ABOUT STOP & SEARCH, CHANNEL 4

The Truth About Police Stop and Search examined stop and search through a ground-breaking real-world experiment, highlighting the experiences of 40 Black men and teenagers by asking them to record their interactions with the police. This meant that the documentary provided a platform for voices that are rarely heard in our society and across the media. The approach took viewers beyond politicians' soundbites, investigating the application of stop and search and its effects on individuals and communities. It highlighted how the blanket deployment of stop and search leads to communities losing trust and confidence in the police and provided solutions about how to repair this. Ex-footballer Jermaine Jenas presented the documentary and discussed his own experiences of stop and search. It had a large reach and impact, leading to debate and discussion in both traditional media — such as The Daily Mail and LBC Radio — and on social media.

A DEATH SENTENCE? BBC RADIO 4

A Death Sentence? from File on 4 investigated healthcare in prisons and discovered serious shortfalls in the quality and availability of healthcare for people in prison. It told the heartbreaking stories of two men who had lived and died in prison, while discussing the systemic context in interviews with prison staff, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, the Prison and Probations Ombudsman and the Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody. The programme uncovered evidence of repeated failings, including the failure to properly complete health screenings for new prisoners on arrival, a failure to consult community GP records which meant vital information was being missed and calls for help from prisoners not being acted upon. The programme had a large reach, with File on 4 having over one million listeners every week, including those who make and change policy. It included the voices of prisoners and their families directly and shed light on a little discussed, but vitally important, aspect of the prison experience.



Lifetime Achievement Awards

Frances Crook

As Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform for over 30 years, Frances Crook has worked tirelessly for less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison. Now that she is retiring there is no doubt both the Howard League, and the wider criminal justice reform sector, will miss her campaigning energy and championing of our values.

When Frances came to the Howard League, the organisation was on the brink of bankruptcy. Under her inspirational, dynamic and tireless leadership, it has developed into one of the most effective and respected criminal justice reform organisations in the world.

During Frances' time at the Howard League, she led work with the police to reduce child arrests in England and Wales by two-thirds over the last decade. As a result, hundreds of thousands of children have been spared the trauma and stigma that arises from criminalisation; a process which we know does more to promote rather than prevent further offending.

Frances oversaw the establishment, twenty years ago, of an in-house legal service for children and young people. This service has helped thousands of children and young people, who because of their institutionalisation are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect, to receive better treatment both within custodial institutions and on release. Under her leadership, the Howard League's determination brought an end to the routine strip-searching of children in custody.

Frances has also been an eloquent and authoritative contributor in the public sphere, often contributing through the media so as to enhance the quality of public debate about criminal and youth justice, and playing a key role in public (and professional) education.



Her work also led the UK government to change its policies around prisoners' access to books and to suspend the criminal courts charge. She has led the Howard League's work on deaths in custody, ensuring that the authorities are held to account and that care for vulnerable people in our prison system is improved. More than anything, Frances is adamant that no-one is forgotten. Frances also set up and contributed to major inquiries hosted by the Howard League, such as the Commission on English Prisons Today.

Under Frances' leadership, the Howard League has also supported practical and progressive innovations in prison; for example, launching a graphic design studio in Coldingley prison – the first such social enterprise to be run in a UK prison – which enabled prisoners to develop skills, receive a real wage, and pay tax and national insurance. For over 30 years at the Howard League, Frances has been an inspiring leader; a passionate, articulate and authoritative voice in public debate; a practice innovator; a tenacious fundraiser; and a tireless advocate for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

At the Howard League – and I'm sure across the sector – we will miss Frances very much; but I'm also sure we will redouble our efforts to pursue the vision of a smaller, fairer and more effective justice system that she has done so much to clarify and advance.

FERGUS MCNEIL
CHAIR, THE HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM

Darren Coyne

Darren Coyne unfortunately passed away on the 25 May 2021, leaving behind a legacy of inspiration as he was an ally of the vulnerable. Darren was a dedicated father to Gemma and loyal friend to many. He became the Project Manager at the Care Leavers Association (CLA) in 2010. Although leaving school with no GCSEs, he later obtained a BSc (Hons) 2:1 in Sociology and a MSc in Social Research at Leeds University. He would tell anyone that would listen as he was rightly *extremely* proud of himself. Darren campaigned for the care system and criminal justice system (CJS) to work together to improve outcomes for vulnerable people with the intersectional experience of both systems. He developed the Access to Records Campaign Group in 2013, a coalition aimed at improving access to care files and also co-developed the Memory – Identity – Rights in Record – Access (MIRRA) research project.

One of Darren's key strengths was his ability to engage with a wide range of individuals involved in all levels of the care system and CJS. Darren undertook policy work directly with influential politicians, academics and officials. Darren's activist approach involved working collaboratively with organisations such as the CJA, children's social work services, youth justice services, probation services and prisons up and down England and Wales. Darren was relentless in his pursuit to improve outcomes for care leavers in the CJS in various ways. One was to challenge the systems to work together in the most effective way to meet the needs of this vulnerable group.

He also worked directly with looked after children and care leavers, inspiring them to believe that they can make a positive contribution to a society which they often felt was unjust.



One example is the Clear Approach participation programme which was recognised as good practice by the Laming review *In Care, Out of Trouble* in 2016.

When you know Darren's personal story, you connect with his passion to make the world a better place for children in care and care leavers in the CJS. Darren was open about his experience of family breakdown, leading to his own experiences of borstals in the 80s and subsequent incarceration in the 90s. He managed to overcome these intersectional adversities and became a driver for social and system change for the better of others. Darren never accepted current systems as *good enough* and was never afraid to express his views to those in positions of authority.

Darren was an authentic man with an uncompromising pursuit to create fairness. He was unwilling to sacrifice his authenticity to be diplomatic or deliver his message in a way that he knew those in positions of influence would prefer to hear it. He often stated that 'if they are not ready to hear it this way, they should not be leading services for the vulnerable children they are trying to help.' This statement epitomised Darren's position of fighting for the rights of those that society marginalises. This award recognises the difference Darren made at all levels of the care system and CJS and that his work will be forever held in the hearts of many.

GEMMA COYNE, DARREN'S DAUGHTER
AND ANDI BRIERLEY, UNIVERSITY TEACHER
AT LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY

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