

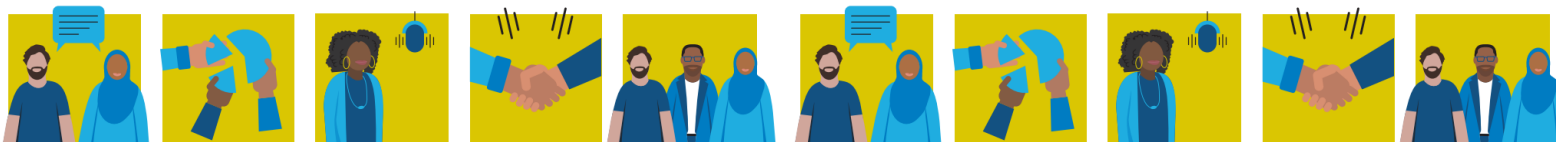


Director's Update

July - November 2022

As the clocks go back and we admire the autumnal colours, it is good to reflect back on the summer and what we have been up to at the CJA to progress our new strategy. 'Re-imagine, re-design, re-build: driving systemic change'.

A highlight for me was the final learning visit of our Erasmus Knowledge Exchange Programme in Prague where we pulled together the strands of our learning on system-change. As well as speaking at a packed conference, we facilitated a workshop on system change using the system map from New Philanthropy Capital as inspiration. I am very excited that our partners from Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Belgium can join our members meeting this month to share some of the discussions and innovation we came across over the past 18 months.



1. Articulating a shared vision for change

We will articulate and promote the sector's vision of a fair and effective criminal justice system to policy makers, commissioners, and the public.

The CJA Vision of a Fair and Effective Criminal Justice System



Pillar 1: Safe

Reform of drug policy: We are awaiting a response to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry on drugs which we submitted evidence to, drawing on the expertise of our members. We are looking to scope a new piece of work in this area in due course.



Pillar 2: Smart

Reducing the use of remand: After co-producing a response to the Justice Select Committee inquiry on remand with members of our expert group, we have been developing a project proposal to improve access to court-based bail information services. The aim is to reduce the use of custodial remand with a particular focus on Black, Asian, minority ethnic and migrant women who are disproportionately impacted. We are now seeking funding for this work.

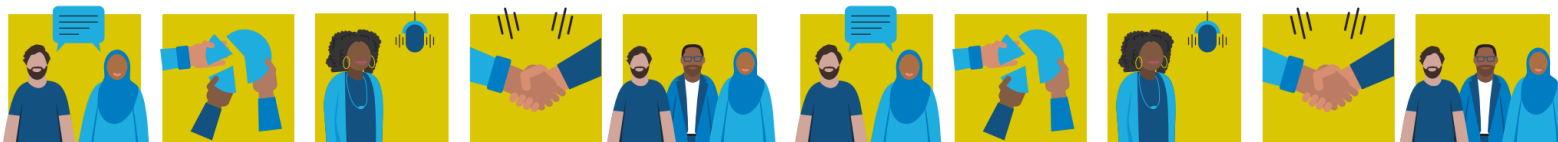


Pillar 3: Person-centred

Improving support for people leaving prison: Following our last members meeting on Employment Advisory Boards, we have had positive meetings to support their development and connect potential employers with the initiative.

Through CJA member Design Against Crime at Central St Martins University, we have worked with MBA students on a system design project looking at improving access to employment for people leaving prison.

CJA Director Nina attended the Conservative Party Conference to speak about reducing reoffending and met with members of the Justice Select Committee. The CJA were also involved in contributing to a publication by the Fabian Society think tank on ideas to better support mothers in prison and their children.



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Pillar 4: Restorative

Increasing the use of restorative justice; improving access to victim services: We were delighted that the [Justice Select Committee](#) took on board many of [our recommendations](#) from our response to their pre-legislative scrutiny of the long-awaited Victims Bill. We worked with 15 of our members to highlight how the draft Bill needs improving in order to improve outcomes for victims and are pleased that our concerns have been heard including increasing victims' awareness of and access to restorative justice and increasing funding and awareness of 'by and for' specialist victims support services.

We also responded to the [consultation](#) on the Criminal Injuries Consultation Scheme to improve access to compensation for victims with criminal convictions, a campaign spearheaded by previous CJA Award winner Kim Mitchell. Read more about her [here](#).

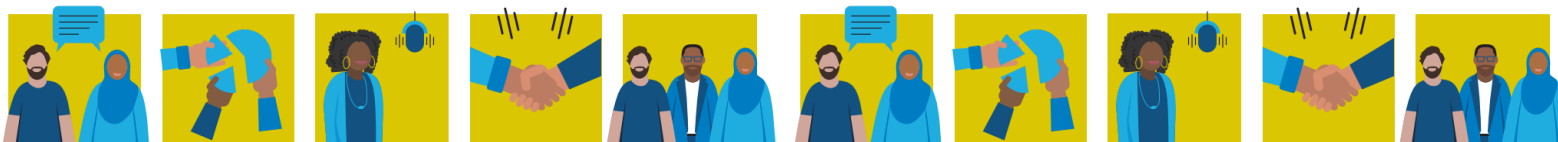
Our Director Nina also spoke at the Howard League Conference on imagining a restorative criminal justice system, discussing practical actions for change as set out in our recommendations for the Victims Bill.



Pillar 5: Trusted

Improving equality monitoring in police and prison custody: Our super-complaint into community scrutiny of stop and search and the use of suspicion-less searches is ongoing, and we look forward to the report being hopefully published in early 2023. We also worked with members to [respond to the draft Police Race Action Plan](#) facilitating a meeting with Programme Director Tyron Joyce, as well as working with the National Police Chiefs Council, College of Policing and Independent Scrutiny Oversight Board to improve the next iteration of the plan.

Following the launch of our 'Towards Race Equality' report highlighting the shocking levels of racism and discrimination in women's prisons, we have followed up with the IMB and are pleased that there has been positive progress on the recommendations in some women's prisons. In August the report was covered on [ITV news](#) featuring our Director Nina Champion, Agenda director Indy Cross and Poet Lady Unchained. We are continuing to work with the steering group to promote and embed the recommendations.



2. Co-ordinating collaborative working

We will enable greater collaboration, connection and learning. We will build a greater shared understanding of how to achieve systemic change together.

We have started planning our first Research Symposium in partnership with the University of Westminster on the theme of a 'trusted' criminal justice system. We are also excited to announce that we will shortly be opening CJA membership to individual academics and researchers to enable greater collaboration and shared learning between policy, practice and research.

We are also looking forward to our annual CJA Awards in November and have been busy preparing for the in-person ceremony in Birmingham which will celebrate outstanding organisations and individuals in the criminal justice sector. See [here](#) for the shortlists.

3. Changing narratives

We will promote and amplify constructive criminal justice journalism to shift narratives and build a more conducive environment for positive change.

We have worked with Frameworks UK to support the development of their new research into narratives about support for prison leavers and are delighted the report has now been published. We look forward to promoting this report, using the findings and helping with the promotion of the toolkit.

We are looking forward to the Media Awards 2022 which will be held in person in Birmingham. We have some fantastic, shortlisted journalists, digital champions and documentary makers to celebrate and promote good criminal justice reporting.

We also worked with our members to respond to the Justice Select Committee's inquiry on [public understanding of sentencing](#).

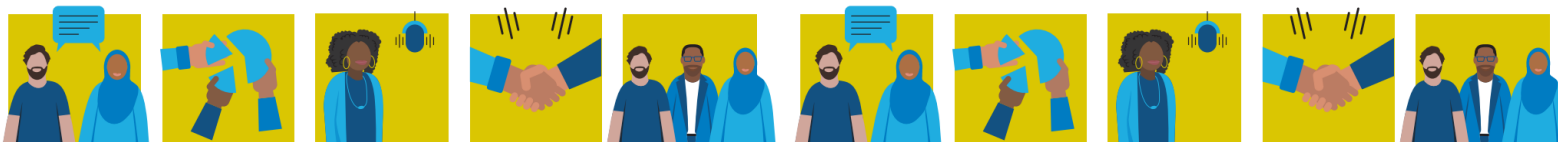
4. Promoting power sharing

We will promote informed decision making by supporting lived experience leaders into positions of power and influence and by supporting sector employers to develop inclusive workplace policies, practices and senior leadership teams.

We held the [ELEVATE CJS Taster Day](#) with our partners at University of Westminster to give people a flavour of our lived experience leadership programme due to start in January. The day included networking, a panel discussion about lived experience leadership, workshops on communications, vulnerability and photo voice action research. We ended the day with a powerful keynote speech from Romarilyn Rolston, an alumna of Just Leadership USA, the programme which inspired ELEVATE CJS. We are excited to announce that applications for the programme will open on 11 November.



We have been delighted to have our sixth Longford Trust Intern Jamie Breen join us in August supporting our communications and preparation for the CJA Awards.



5. Tackling racial inequality

We will identify and challenge institutional and structural racism across the CJS and promote adherence to the Public Sector Equality Duty by criminal justice agencies.

We have continued to work with specialist and pro-bono lawyers on the Tackling Race Equality project, which is focused on improving adherence to the Public Sector Equality Duty. We are developing an advocacy toolkit on the PSED for civil society organisations, which we plan to launch and disseminate in early 2023. We have also now appointed Dr Karen Graham as an independent evaluator for the project. We have now launched a [website page](#) where you can find more information on the project's aims, members of the Equalities Expert Group who are advising us on the project and subscribe for regular updates.

In September, we ran an interactive session on the project with over 30 people at the Runnymede Trust's We Move: A Race Equality & Migrants Rights summit, along with members of our expert group from Young Justice Advisors and Growing Futures.



This quarter we said goodbye to two of our long-standing trustees Caroline Drummond and Tebussum Rashid. We thank them both for their passion and support of the CJA.

Nina Champion
Director of the CJA

