

# PUBLICATIONS

## DOES CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORK? THE RIGHT FOR THE WRONG REASONS DEBATE

Richard Garside examines claims that crime can be reduced by driving up criminal justice performance, arguing that criminal justice reform and crime reduction are different policy challenges. His essay is published alongside responses from leading academics, penal reformers and politicians.

## CRIMINAL OBSESSIONS. WHY HARM MATTERS MORE THAN CRIME

Paddy Hillyard, Christina Pantazis, Steve Tombs, Dave Gordon and Danny Dorling provide an innovative and groundbreaking critique of conventional criminological approaches to social issues. The contributors show how social harm relates to social and economic inequalities that are at the heart of the liberal state.

## CRIME, PERSISTENT OFFENDERS AND THE JUSTICE GAP

This paper criticises the government's strategy to target known offenders, pointing to the many hidden crimes that never come to the attention of the authorities. The paper also criticises the use made by the government of crime statistics.

## OTHER RESOURCES

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Is the criminal justice system – as the Prime Minister has argued – ‘utterly useless for getting on top of 21st century crime’?

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# IS THE PRIME MINISTER RIGHT FOR THE WRONG REASONS?

In *Does criminal justice work? The 'Right for the wrong reasons' debate*, the Crime and Society Foundation argues that whilst the Prime Minister is right to suggest that the criminal justice system is not working, his understanding of this failure is fundamentally flawed.

The government's drive to improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system is failing to address some of the most serious offences, so ignoring the suffering of many thousands of victims.

When the true scale of victimisation of serious offences such as child abuse and sexual assaults are acknowledged, it is clear that the criminal justice system is never likely to have anything but a marginal impact.

## DOES CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORK?

If you would like to respond in writing to the debate contained in *Does criminal justice work?* then please email your comments to [comment@crimeandsociety.org.uk](mailto:comment@crimeandsociety.org.uk)

### The five key propositions in *Does Criminal Justice Work? The 'Right for the wrong reasons' debate* are:

- 1** Criminal justice reform and crime reduction are different policy challenges. It is a fundamental error to confuse reforming criminal justice with reducing crime.
- 2** Crime is far more common, everyday and widespread than official statistics would have us believe.
- 3** In the face of such widespread crime, the criminal justice system has very little impact.
- 4** The criminal justice system does have a role. It is there to regulate certain types of crimes and criminals, rather than to resolve crime and make society safer.
- 5** The crime reduction challenge involves being honest about the scale and nature of crime and related harms, and developing a far broader range of policies to address them than those afforded by the criminal justice system.

## About Us

The Crime and Society Foundation is a social policy and criminal justice think tank based at the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College London.

The Foundation stimulates debate about the role and limits of criminal justice and enhances understanding of the foundations and characteristics of a safer society.

## Our Vision

The vision of the Crime and Society Foundation is of a society in which fundamental human needs are met and crime and other harms are less prevalent.

## Our Aims and Objectives

The Crime and Society Foundation aims to catalyse a fundamental shift in social and criminal justice policy.

The Foundation has three objectives:

- To stimulate an informed debate about the realistic limits and the appropriate role of a just and effective criminal justice system in the UK;
- To enhance understanding of the social, economic and political foundations of a society in which crime and other harms are less prevalent;
- To work with others in the criminal justice and broader social policy sectors to develop a consensus around our first two objectives.