

## Howard League for Penal Reform

4 November 2019

1 Ardleigh Road

London N1 4HS

Tel: 020 7249 7373

Fax: 020 7249 7788

Email: [info@howardleague.org](mailto:info@howardleague.org)

Web: [www.howardleague.org](http://www.howardleague.org)

Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Boris Johnson

Now that a general election has been called, we call on all party leaders to temper their language in regard to law and order so that sensitive issues of intense public concern are not exploited but are used to contribute to a reasoned and constructive public debate.

We call on party leaders to base policies and announcements on the evidence. The evidence on desistance is clear: it must include a sense of hope and confidence in a better future; positive and collaborative relationships based on respect; social networks; testing new identities like being a student, an employee or parent; and recognition of what people can contribute to their community.

Academic evidence published by the Ministry of Justice shows what does not work. This includes using language that confirms a criminal identity, trying to 'scare' someone out of crime and focusing on the damaging consequences and telling people that you have given up on them.

We all want to reduce crime and prevent victims, and we want policies and practices that promote a safer society. As organisations with expertise in criminal justice and social justice we ask that you provide a positive model for your party and the country.

Yours sincerely

Frances Crook

Frances Crook, CEO, Howard League for Penal Reform  
Andrea Allbutt, president, Prison Governors' Association  
Nina Champion, director, Criminal Justice Alliance  
Andrea Coomber, director, Justice  
Peter Dawson, director, Prison Reform Trust  
Anne Fox, CEO, Clinks

Richard Garside, director, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies  
Penelope Gibbs, director, Transform Justice  
Sara Llewellyn, CEO, Barrow Cadbury Trust  
Christina Marriott, CEO, Revolving Doors Agency  
Joyce Mosely OBE, chair, Transition to Adulthood Alliance  
Kate Paradine, CEO, Women in Prison  
Campbell Robb, CEO, Nacro  
Katharine Sacks-Jones, CEO, Become  
Martha Spurrier, director, Liberty  
Carolyne Willow, director, Article 39

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Adam Price  
Leader of Plaid Cymru  
Tŷ Gwynfor  
Anson Court  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff CF10 4AL

*Deen Adam Price*

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Jonathan Bartley  
Co-Leader of the Green Party  
The Biscuit Factory  
Unit 215, J Block,  
100, Clements Road  
London SE16 4DG

*Dear Jonathan Bartley*

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Sian Berry  
Co-Leader of the Green Party  
The Biscuit Factory  
Unit 215, J Block,  
100, Clements Road  
London SE16 4DG

Dear Sian Berry

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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon  
Leader of the Scottish Nationalists  
3 Jackson's Entry  
Edinburgh  
Scotland EH8 8PJ

*Dear Nicola Sturgeon*

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Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn  
Leader of the Labour Party  
105 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QT

Dear Jeremy Corbyn

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Rt Hon Jo Swinson  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats  
8-10 Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AE

Dear Jo Swinson

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Arlene Foster  
Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party  
91 Dundela Avenue  
Belfast BT4 3BU

Dear Arlene Foster

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Nigel Farage  
Leader of the Brexit Party  
83 Victoria Street  
London SW1 0HW

*Dear Nigel Farage*

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