



# INNOVATION OF JUSTICE

## PLAN OF ACTION

### THE EVENTS

- We will be aiming to host conferences across weekends over the course of about a year, in different areas of England and Wales. The aim will be to unite as many people as possible, and work with the Police and Crown Prosecution Service to create a dialogue for change. We are not working for any organisation and therefore not being organised under any organisation's name, but we will be working very closely with many organisations and individuals.
- There are a number of topics we are aiming to cover, such as: disclosure failings during the trial and post-conviction, funding, the attractiveness of a career in Criminal Law, joint enterprise, false accusations, the Court of Appeal and the pressures within and upon the Criminal Cases Review Commission and generally the law and practice of criminal appeals.
- The locations pencilled in are Manchester, Cardiff, Sheffield and London. We will aim for each conference to begin on a Saturday afternoon and end on a Sunday late afternoon. The Saturday will consist of talks covering a variety of miscarriages of justice cases and issues. The

Sunday will begin with a panel answering questions, asked by the audience. In addition, the panel will read out proposals sent to us before the conferences, to facilitate an open discussion amongst the audience and the panel about how to initiate change. Proposals will also be accepted during the conferences to be taken to and discussed at future events. This will allow an opportunity for everyone to communicate, relax and create strong bonds that will help bring about the right changes together. We hope the Sunday will assist with the theme of creating unity amongst miscarriage of justice organisations, the legal world, Parliament and the public. An exact schedule will be sent out at a later date once we have an idea of funding, time restrictions and a full list of confirmed speakers.

- MP's from areas local to the conferences will be invited to each of these events, as will law firms, Barristers' chambers and students. Organisations will also attend and contribute to planning the event, with a variety of speakers (mostly victims of miscarriages of justice) to raise awareness and support throughout.
- The final event in London will be held over just three days. The third and final day will be in the House of Commons. Once the movement has gathered sufficient support from the conferences, we will present the miscarriage of justice speakers/ contributors to as many Members of Parliament as possible, as well as the leading representatives from within the Crown Prosecution Service, Police and other influential stakeholders.

- We will propose that they each join the fight to prevent miscarriages of justice and request a platform in which the Crown Prosecution Service, Police and Justice Committee agree to meet a board of representatives for miscarriages of justice, twice a year. The aim is to allow us to pitch our proposals to these leading Criminal Justice System stakeholders with the power and influence to make the necessary agreed changes.
- The board of representatives will be a team of people that are democratically elected by, and represent, all those who come together as a result of these conferences. Their main role will be to meet with the leading stakeholders, Police leaders and the Justice Committee. They will discuss our proposals for change. They will also be the focal point for the media after these conferences, as one united voice.
- For change to happen in the right way, the approach must be respectful to real victims and it must be balanced. This event will approach miscarriages of justice and victims in the broader sense in a way that is fair, respecting victims, complainants and the police.
- Our plan is focused solely on helping the innocent people that have been wrongly convicted and resolve the issues within the Criminal Justice System. Our intention is in no way to discourage real victims of crime coming forwards and we would like together with the Police and Criminal Prosecution Service to achieve our aims.

- The provisional dates, are as below. Please register your interest using the link for the event you want to attend. We will be releasing the link to book your actual ticket closer to the date.
  - Manchester  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2018
  - Cardiff  
16th - 17th February 2019
  - Sheffield  
30th - 31st March 2019
  - London  
22nd - 24th June 2019
- Ticket prices will be £10, with appropriate concessions, and will be free of charge to members of parliament. Money raised from ticket sales will be used to cover event expenses.

## **WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?**

- There are many individuals, organisations, law firms, Barristers' chambers, politicians and victims fighting for innocent individuals that were unfairly treated by the Criminal Justice System and in some cases wrongfully imprisoned. These conferences hope to offer an event that

connects and strengthens the work of all those interested in making a change.

- To present a powerful, collaborative and collective voice to the Crown Prosecution Service, police, Justice Committee, and decision makers, we need to be united, and these conferences intend to create that collective voice that offers tangible solutions to the police and other agencies to help initiate change.
- Members of the public are now being more and more exposed to the failings of the criminal justice system, which means there is an opportunity to use the momentum to bring about the necessary change. The problems we will discuss can affect anyone - rich or poor, young or old, whatever their ethnic identity. No-one should consider themselves immune to being affected.

## **WHAT DO WE NEED?**

- We would like as many people to attend as many of the conferences as possible, so please pass on this Plan of Action to your contacts and friends: supporters, victims of miscarriages of justice, practising criminal appeals solicitors and Barristers, journalists - everyone is crucial, regardless of profession, position or social status, to ensure that our voice is heard.
- Support within the media. Annie and I are consistently making sure our voice is out there on platforms such as

twitter: @abrodieakers @liam\_allan95, so please follow and offer support. It is vital that this plan is shared across twitter as well as via word of mouth and email, to ensure everyone has a possibility of seeing this, including "ordinary" members of the public. It's an opportunity to display the urgency needed for change in the criminal justice system and for people to know how it could impact upon them.

- Proposals. These are imperative for future plans. It's easy to call for a change but it's harder to propose how and what things should change. We need to be able to utilise this platform, should we succeed, and show our political and judicial decision makers exactly what needs to be done to make sure the system does not continue to fail. Such proposals will be discussed at the events and also through the Q&A panel.
- Make some noise. Retweet this from Liam and Annie's twitter account, with #innovatingjustice. Constantly shout about this initiative and conferences and join the crescendo of voices to make a difference for the better. This project is not just ours. This initiative is for every family, every victim, every organisation, law firm and Barrister concerned by a possible miscarriage of justice - and there are many. For anyone and everyone that has suffered because of the failings of the CJS and have been banging their heads against a brick wall, screaming about this issue. This is for every one of you and for justice.

## HOW WILL WE FUND THIS?

To fund these events, we will be relying upon the generous contributions from the public and businesses around England and Wales. We have a Just Giving page, which can be found below, where you can donate anonymously or leave us a message.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/innovation-of-justice>

## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

MANCHESTER

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/innovation-of-justice-manchester-tickets-48516439978>

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CARDIFF

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/innovation-of-justice-cardiff-tickets-48516506176>

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SHEFFIELD

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/innovation-of-justice-sheffield-tickets-48516526236>

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LONDON

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/innovation-of-justice-london-tickets-48516808079>

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## **OUR SUPPORTERS SO FAR**

We are incredibly grateful to the organisations, individuals and law firms who have supported us so far.

Accused.Me

Barry Sheerman MP

Cardiff University Law School Innocence Project

Hanz-Zelig Foundation

Howells Solicitors LLP

INNOCENT

Irwin Mitchell

Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association (JENGBA)

Lam and Meerabux Solicitors

Louise Haigh MP

Miscarriage of Justice Awareness Society (MOJAS) - Sheffield

Miscarriage of Justice Organisation

Miscarriage of Justice Review Centre - Manchester

Miscarriage of Justice Review Centre - Sheffield

Miscarriage of Justice Society - Greenwich

Nigel Evans MP

Norrie Waite & Slater

Sheffield Hallam University Law School

Simon Warr

The Johnson Partnership

The University of Greenwich Law School

The University of Manchester Law School

The University of Sheffield Law School

Tuckers Solicitors LLP

## **PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

[innovationofjustice@protonmail.com](mailto:innovationofjustice@protonmail.com)

Twitter: @liam\_allan95, @abrodieakers or @cmcgourlay

Some of this may be subject to change - we will release more details with regards to individuals and organisations who are speaking in due course.

## **ABOUT US**

**Liam Allan** (Twitter @liam\_allan95)

Liam is a student, falsely accused of rape and exonerated after it was revealed during the court case the police had failed to disclose vital evidence proving innocence. This case received a lot of media attention that acted as a catalyst for reviews of many other rape cases and highlighted the failings of the CJS in relation to disclosure. He is a student that has recently graduated with a degree in Criminology and Criminal Psychology and is now about to begin his Master's in Psychology. Liam has a personal involvement in miscarriages of justice, as well as his studies developing a keen interest in the topic, therefore wishes to assist in implementing much-needed changes within the CJS.

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**Annie Brodie Akers** (Twitter @abrodieakers)

Annie is the Elected President of the Miscarriage of Justice Awareness Society in Sheffield for the 2018/19 academic year. She is also actively working on a wrongful conviction case at the University of Sheffield. She believes that the CJS need to be better equipped to support any victim, whether that is the victim of a wrongful conviction or false allegation or a victim of a crime. She knows that there needs to be a change and an open network of communication as being a victim can be incredibly isolating, especially if you have been convicted of a crime which you didn't ever commit. She has seen the CJS work from both a personal and professional capacity and wants to work to positively change this.

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**Claire McGourlay** (Twitter @CMcgourlay)

Claire is a Professor of Law at the University of Manchester School of Law. Claire runs the Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre and has been involved with miscarriages of justice since 1991. Claire teaches criminal evidence, criminal law, and Miscarriages of Justice. Claire believes that the CJS should work effectively and fairly for all that find themselves thrown into it and all those that work in the system. The system also needs to address and acknowledge mistakes quickly and efficiently.