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| Welcome to the latest newsletter from PAS.   |

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| [View this email in your browser](http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=fa8b872c83&e=e0747c9afa)  |

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| https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b/images/7ad00416-0fa2-4a1d-ac9a-8fbb237eebde.jpgWelcome to our March 2016 update. If you would like further information please go to our [website](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=5f4ca85570&e=e0747c9afa) or contact us at admin@prisonersadvice.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=c654325890&e=e0747c9afa) or like our [Facebook](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=7385a4b007&e=e0747c9afa) page. |

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| News |

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| **New Outreach clinics in HMP Styal and HMP Lewes**We opened a new legal advice outreach clinic at HMP Styal in December 2015 and it is scheduled to run every six weeks. We are also introducing our peer adviser-led sessions there, in which prisoners trained by us will be able to give basic advice and information to their fellow prisoners. The planned peer adviser-led clinics have been scheduled and agreed with prison management, and will start soon. This month we will also start a new clinic in HMP Lewes (in East Sussex) - which will further extend our outreach service in men’s prisons.  |

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| **PAS participated in seminar organised by Zahid Mubarak Trust**In January 2016 we participated in a seminar at the House of Lords, organised by the Zahid Mubarak Trust (ZMT) and hosted by our patron Lord David Ramsbotham. Zahid Mubarak was murdered by his cellmate in Feltham young offenders’ institute in 2000. Subsequent campaigning by his family resulted in the commissioning of a public inquiry into his death. The Commission for Racial Equality also carried out an inquiry into wider issues of institutional racism in the prison system, which reported in 2003 and found systemic failings. The remit of the seminar on this occasion was to consider what progress, if any, had been made since the 2006 Keith Report of the public inquiry. We have worked with ZMT since it was set up in 2009 and have been involved in a number of initiatives designed to monitor the extent to which prisons have adopted recommendations coming out of the Keith Report. We will continue to do this in the future. However, unfortunately, we had to report to the recent seminar that our current experience is not positive. We reported that our telephone advice line continues to receive a high number of calls from prisoners who have suffered racist treatment and whose complaints have not been properly investigated.  |

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| **PAS article in Women in Prison (WIP) magazine**One of our caseworkers has written an article soon to be published in WIP’s upcoming edition of its magazine. This article explains how PAS can assist women prisoners to obtain supported accommodation on release, particularly women who have physical or mental disabilities or a debilitating illness.  |

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| **PAS’ work mentioned in the Guardian**Our work was mentioned in an article in the Guardian newspaper in January 2016, entitled “How one prisoner’s letter led to a jail reading scheme” for helping a client to obtain release on parole. [You can read the full article here](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=3c6642c475&e=e0747c9afa).   |

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| **Top 20% ranking for PAS and 50% matched funding offer**We are pleased to announce that PAS has been ranked in the top 20% of charities listed on the Global Giving online fundraising platform in 2015.https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b/images/05ac4bfe-e2c4-456d-b68e-ec6c158510e1.pngFollowing on from our successful campaign, we have been offered the opportunity to benefit from a **50% matched funding offer** from the organisers (Global Giving). They will match any new donation at 50 pence to the pound (up to a maximum of £500 per donation). This offer will **begin** on **Monday 7th March 2015 at 2 pm** GMT and will last until **Monday 14th**, or until the matching funds run out. Please kindly consider making a donation then if you can - because it will be worth 50% more - thanks to the matched funding component (and another 25% more if you Gift Aid it!). If you would like to read more about the project, or to donate, [please follow the link here](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=5518c9af81&e=e0747c9afa).   |

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| **Great Legal Bake**https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b/images/6f55cc35-fee7-4768-89c0-80d8c9ab5e91.jpgWe participated in the “Great Legal Bake” in February 2016. Our staff and volunteers baked many cakes and sold them to local solicitors’ firms and barristers’ chambers. We raised £729 through this initiative – which was the highest amount raised among the 180 organisations participating nationwide!   **Some of the cakes we baked**  |

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| **PAS volunteer runs Kingston Half Marathon**  This is Catherine (centre) after finishing the course!One of our dedicated volunteers, Catherine Shannon, ran the Kingston Half Marathon at the end of February (in 1 hour and 52 minutes) to raise funds for our work with prisoners. If you wish to show your support for her efforts and for PAS, [you can do so by making a donation here](http://prisonersadvice.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e2fa77ff74ae2b6cdc9fd583b&id=1bf58b6fd9&e=e0747c9afa).   **This is Catherine (centre) after finishing the course!** |

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| Recent success stories |

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| **Assisting a released prisoner to execute his father’s will:**We recently assisted a released prisoner who had made repeated requests, without success, for his probation officer to give him permission to travel abroad to execute his father’s will and scatter his ashes in his country of origin. As the sole surviving executor of the will, the prisoner had a legal responsibility to the estate and the beneficiaries of the will. He could not execute this responsibility without travelling to his father’s country of origin. We wrote to the probation service setting out how the prisoner’s individual circumstances met the criteria to be allowed to travel abroad temporarily without interfering with the management of his risk in the community. The probation service agreed and gave permission for him to travel abroad for the purpose of executing the will. He has now done this and returned to Britain, and thanked us for our intervention which made this possible.  |

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| **Ensuring improved facilities for a disabled prisoner:**A disabled prisoner had been transferred to a prison that did not have modified cells, in-cell sinks, or single showers available. The prisoner is doubly incontinent. At his previous prisons, where the facilities were better, he had been able to clean himself up in his cell and officers would unlock him to go to take a shower. In his new prison, all the showers were communal, and officers would not unlock him to allow him out of his cell to wash. He remained at this prison, enduring these conditions, for one month until he contacted us. We made representations to the Governor and Head of Healthcare at the prison that such conditions risked breaching Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights which concerns ‘inhuman and degrading treatment’. After our intervention, the prisoner was promptly transferred to a suitable prison that can meet his disability needs.   |

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| **Representing a Woman Prisoner with Mental Health Difficulties at a Parole Board hearing:**We represented a woman serving a life sentence, who had been in prison for 12 years beyond her tariff (minimum custodial period) and who was applying to the Parole Board to be transferred to an open prison. She had a history of suffering from severe anxiety prior to Parole Board hearings but had worked very hard at addressing her mental health difficulties over the last two years. By attending one-to-one psychology appointments on a regular basis, she had become better able to manage her stress levels. Due to the relationship we had established with her, we were also able to provide her with support and reassurance throughout the process, particularly leading up to the hearing. We represented her at the hearing and assisted her to satisfy the panel that she could be safely managed in an open setting. As a result, she has now been transferred to an open prison.  |

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| **Advice on new Extended Determinate Sentence:**During a recent PAS peer adviser training session in a prison in West Yorkshire, one of the attendees asked about the effect of Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS) on recategorisation to Category D (lower security classification). This is a relatively new type of sentence, so its implications for recategorisation are not yet widely known. As we had recently received a similar enquiry through our telephone advice line, we were able to pass relevant information to the peer adviser. This enabled him to liaise and mediate with the Offender Management Unit in the prison on behalf of a fellow prisoner sentenced to an EDS. The outcome was positive and the prisoner was recategorised as Category D without delay and was therefore able to progress promptly to the final stage of his sentence.   |

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| Contact PAS:**PASPO Box 46199London                                                                EC1M 4XA                                                               Tel: 020 7253 3323 / Tel: 0845 430 8923  Fax: 020 7253 8067**Copyright © Prisoners' Advice Service 2015, all rights reserved.To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email admin@prisonersadvice.org.uk.  |

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