

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

During this time of festive cheer and indulgence, please spare a thought for those who are locked away – and for their families and friends. Think of the elderly and the disabled behind bars and those mothers separated from their children.

If you would like to put your money to good use this year, rather than spending money on cards and postage, please do consider making a donation to PAS, no matter how large or small. Your support allows PAS to listen to prisoners and model a more positive, supportive version of the law that can work in their favour, contributing to the likelihood of rehabilitation.

If you would like to make a donation, [please do so here](#), or text 'PRISONER' followed by '3', '5', '10', '15' or '20' to '70085'. All money raised goes towards our work with adult prisoners in England and Wales.

With all best wishes for the holiday season!

News

Prisoner with Autism Spectrum Disorder Transferred to a Safer Prison

Prisoner A's mother emailed PAS on her son's behalf to report that he was being mistreated in prison. He had suffered a breakdown and had been in solitary confinement for more than 70 days, by which time he had been found naked, covered in his own excrement, and refusing to move.

Prisoner A suffers from a range of mental health conditions including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), both of which are proven to be negatively affected by solitary confinement. He had also been prescribed psychiatric medication. However, the prison governor did not acknowledge the ASC diagnosis, despite it being in Prisoner A's medical records. Prisoner A's mother had requested a mental health intervention on numerous occasions, yet the prison did nothing.

PAS sent Prisoner A a form of authority to sign, which granted his mother power of attorney and allowed PAS to act on his behalf. PAS

then contacted the prison governor directly, stressing Prisoner A's mental health issues and seeking transfer to a safer prison. As a result of our intervention, Prisoner A was transferred to a safe prison early the next morning. PAS received a card from the prisoner's mother, thanking us for the work we had done on behalf of her son and saying that she thought we had helped to save her son's life.



PAS' Annual Lecture this year took place on 28 November at the London offices of [Herbert Smith Freehills](#). Delivered by renowned prison philanthropist, Edwina Grosvenor, the lecture took as its topic, "*The traumatic impact of women's imprisonment on families*".

The talk was inspiring and informative and was enjoyed and appreciated by the large crowd that turned out to hear Lady Edwina speak.

After the lecture the Twittersphere response was gratifying, with many attendees tweeting their heartfelt approval:



PAS once again took part in [The London Legal Support Trust's](#) annual Great Legal Pub Quiz fundraiser. For the third year in a row, our quiz was held at the [Rugby Tavern](#) in Clerkenwell – this year on 5 December.

Prizes and pride were on the line and teams brought their A-game to the tavern, with one of the teams from [Birnberg Peirce](#) proving themselves the worthy winners.

PAS also ran a raffle at the event, with prizes including hampers of booze and chocolate, a set of three workout sessions from [Barry's Bootcamp](#) and a £100 meal for two, donated by [CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP](#).

Well done to all of the winners on the night – and thank you to everyone who made this event possible by donating, attending, or competing. PAS was delighted to have raised

So much to think about in Edwina Grosvenor's lecture for Prisoners Advice. Bad sentencing really does destroy innocent lives, generation after generation. #accesstojustice #womeninprison - Lindsay Swan (current PAS volunteer)

PAS also launched our set of four Family Law Guides – produced in conjunction with [Rights of Women](#) – at the event, with all of the sample copies that we brought with us being snapped up in no time.

We are grateful to our speaker, and to everyone who attended the lecture. We are also due a large vote of thanks to Herbert Smith Freehills for their excellent hosting of this most enjoyable evening. If you missed the chance to hear Lady Edwina speak, the full video of the 2019 lecture will soon be made available for viewing on PAS' YouTube channel.



Wishing all of our friends and supporters the warmest and

over £500 from the event.
We're already looking forward to next year!

PAS is delighted to welcome three new trustees to the fold. Dominique Webb, Rachel Mathieson and Mandeep Mahil all joined the board as trustees this month, December 2019.

Dominique is currently Head of Operations for the World Hepatitis Alliance and has previously spent two years as Director of Operations at Women in Prison.

Rachel is an Associate Solicitor in the Employment Department at law firm, Bates Wells. Her interest in prisoners' rights arose when she chaired the student group for The Howard League for Penal Reform at the University of Manchester.

Mandeep is Programme & Office Manager for Faith Matters CIC & Tell MAMA. She has previously worked as Helpline Advisor at Unlock.

We look forward to working with Dominique, Rachel and Mandeep in the coming months and years to strengthen and enhance PAS' work and goals for the benefit of our beneficiaries.



PAS' telephone Advice Line is run by caseworkers four days a week. Our telephone number is globally cleared within all prisons throughout England and Wales. **Please note: In order to assist a prisoner, we need to be contacted by them directly before we can discuss matters with family members.**

NUMBER: 020 7253 3323

OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30;
Tuesday Evening 16.30-19.00**

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