

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

In the run up to a most singular holiday season – and now that we've all experienced what it's like to be locked down – please spare a thought this winter for the 83,000 prisoners in England and Wales, many of whom are currently stuck in their cells for 23½ hours a day, with no visits from family. They need our compassion and support more than ever.

If you are buying your presents on Amazon, one of the ways in which you can help is to do so by using AmazonSmile, a simple and automatic way for you to support PAS - at no cost to you - every time you shop. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price* of all your eligible Amazon goodies.

Shop AmazonSmile and support PAS using this link:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1054495-0>

*excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees

News: PAS Helps Elderly Disabled Prisoner to be Relocated to Reasonably Adjusted Cell

PAS received a call to our Advice Line from a 70 year old woman prisoner. The prisoner had previously suffered two strokes, which affected her mobility and necessitated her use of a zimmer frame.

She also suffered from osteoarthritis, a duodenal ulcer, angina, high blood pressure and poor vision.

The prisoner had been moved from a properly modified, disabled, cell in the prison without explanation. Put on normal location, she struggled to access the toilet using her zimmer frame, causing her to fall and resulting in further significant pain. She was then forced to use incontinence pads, which she was not able to change regularly, causing humiliation and degradation.

We wrote to the prison setting out the unlawful disability discrimination she was experiencing, in the form of breaches to the Equality Act 2010. We requested she be re-located urgently to a

modified, disabled, cell, which would permit the proper use of her zimmer frame in accordance with her basic human rights. We also requested a Care Assessment from Social Services and an urgent doctor's appointment.

The prisoner was almost immediately returned to a disabled cell, was given a doctor's appointment and was assessed by the local Adult Social Care Team. A Care Plan for the prisoner is now in place.

JUST IN: PAS Makes List of Best Organisations Supporting Prisoners

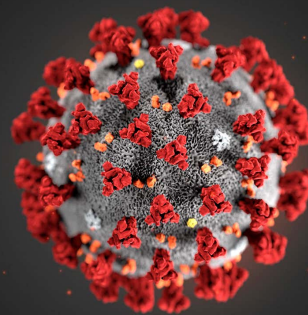
PAS has made number two on a list of six "Righteous Organisations Giving Support To Prisoners", published by Wiki.ezvid.com. Established in 2011, Wiki.ezvid.com is a free-to-use video site published by the California technology company Ezvid Inc. Others on the list include Prisoners' Education Trust and Detention Action, who came in at number one and number three respectively. View the article and full list [here](#).

Covid-19 Pandemic - What to Expect in Prison

PAS has created a new Information Sheet to update prisoners on COVID-19 management in the prison service. We receive hundreds of calls from prisoners every day that the Advice Line is running, worried about the potential spread of the virus inside prison walls and the rules and regulations concerning the virus that apply to them. The sheet, entitled Covid-19 Pandemic - What to Expect in Prison, was compiled by one of our Caseworkers and addresses some of the most often asked questions. The sheet will also form part of PAS' upcoming Autumn / Winter 2020 [Prisoners' Legal Rights Bulletin \(PLRB\)](#). [Read and download the sheet here](#).

First PAS Online Event & LGBT+ Toolkits Launch

On 23 November, PAS held its first online event to launch formally our two



Latest Official COVID-19 Statistics Published by MOJ

On 13 November, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) published statistics detailing the spread of COVID-19 in the prison and probation service in England and Wales up to 30 October.

The key findings listed in the document are:

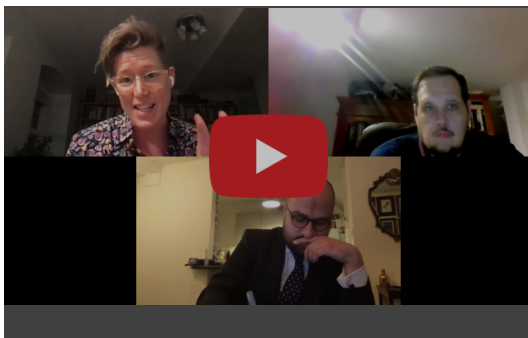
- 55 prisoners, children in custody and probation service users have died having tested positive for COVID-19 or where there was a clinical assessment that COVID-19 was a contributory factor in their deaths. Of whom 32 were prisoners and 23 were probation service users.

LGBT+ Self Help Toolkits: [A Prisoner's Guide to LGB Rights](#) and [A Prisoner's Guide to Trans Rights](#).

We are delighted to report that the event went off smoothly – with much credit going to the team at Cooley, who hosted for us. We had a very healthy 82 logging in to view the discussion and ask questions.

Participants included author of the kits, Stuart Withers, Barrister at No 5 Chambers, Sarah Lamble, founding member of the Bent Bars Project and Reader in Criminology & Queer Theory at Birkbeck, University of London and Dean Kingham, solicitor at Swain and Co and a Committee member for the Association of Prison Lawyers. The discussion was Chaired by former PAS co-Director, Deborah Russo.

We are already sending the two kits out to prisoners and the response to both, as well as to the event, has been universally positive. The talk was recorded and can be viewed below:



Welcome Back Buffy!

PAS was saddened to bid farewell to our Fundraising and Communications Officer, Sara McCallum, who left for pastures new on Friday 20 November. However, we were delighted to welcome back Buffy

Five deaths of prisoners occurred in October 2020, the first deaths of service users since June 2020.

- Of the 55 deaths, 50 were suspected or confirmed to be caused by COVID-19, 28 were prisoners and 22 probation service users.

- 1,529 prisoners or children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, across 99 establishments, almost all of whom were adults. The number of new monthly confirmed cases has increased by 883 since September 2020. 45 establishments had prisoners or children testing positive in October 2020.

If you would like to read the report, you can do so [here](#).

Social Media

Our Twitter account continues to attract new followers, with a total of 2,702 followers to date. This is a rise of 28 in the last month.. Before she left PAS, it was Sara's goal to raise our number of followers to 3,000. It is to her credit that we are now so much closer to realising that goal. Our tweets made 18,600 impressions in the last month, an increase of 57.2% over the previous month. PAS tweets crucial information for prisoners and their families, as well as prison news that will be of interest to those who follow us. Help us reach our goal of 3,000 followers by clicking [here](#).

Please do remember to like our [Facebook](#) page too!

Sharpe, who was Sara's predecessor in the same role. Although Buffy has returned on a temporary basis, and will be with us only until the Spring, PAS is greatly relieved not to have to be recruiting staff during current conditions. We are most indebted to Buffy for stepping in.



Buffy Sharpe



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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