

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

PAS is 30!

And we're delighted to announce an in-person event on 25 November to celebrate. Speakers will include Simon Creighton and a longstanding member of our caseworkers team, who will look back over the last 30 years, reliving the highs and lows that the charity has weathered, and highlighting the important work that the charity does.

There will also be a performance from spoken-word artist, Kelly Roberts.

If you would like to attend the event, and have a drink or two on us, please e-mail your details to list@prisonersadvice.org.uk.

The event will be hosted by [White & Case LLP](#), to whom we are most grateful.

We look forward to seeing you there!

PAS Helps Prisoner Receive Vital Dental Care

Prisoner A, a Foreign National with a rare genetic condition, called our Advice Line as he was suffering excruciating pain in his teeth and jaw. Although he had been on opiate pain relief, this was stopped, leaving the prisoner in agony. When he spoke to us, he said he felt suicidal, was passing out with the pain and had not slept for days.

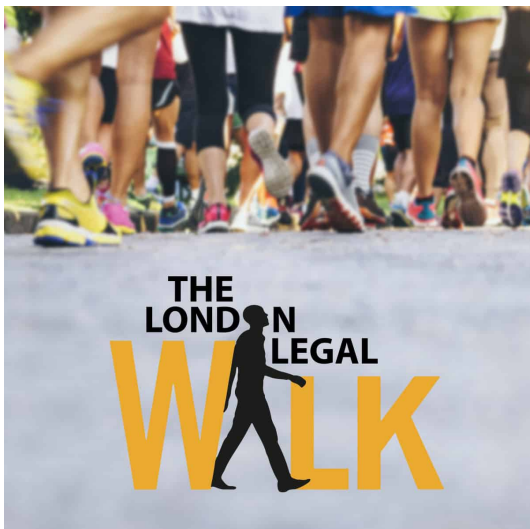
He explained to us that several of his family members had had to have all of their teeth removed due to the same medical condition. However, when he had informed the prison of this, authorities believed him to be making a fuss and exaggerating.

We contacted the Head of Healthcare at the prison urgently and put her in touch with Prisoner A's mother, so that the latter could provide more medical

information. Upon Healthcare's intervention, the prisoner had seven teeth removed immediately by the visiting prison dentist. However, the dentist believed it would be too difficult to remove the rest of his teeth in a standard appointment.

We then requested that he be prescribed an alternative pain relief medication. The prison acceded, but the drug that was prescribed was one to which Prisoner A had an existing allergy. Although he informed the prison of this history, it insisted that he try the medication, resulting in his vomiting blood and remaining in extreme distress.

We pursued a Healthcare complaint on Prisoner A's behalf and threatened the prison with legal action. We also, separately, referred the matter to NHS England. This resulted – finally – in a full operation to remove the teeth, which occasioned an almost immediate cessation of the prisoner's pain.



London Legal Walk

Members of the PAS team will be taking part in London Legal Support Trust's (LLST) [London Legal Walk](#) on Monday 18 October. The popular, annual, fundraising event – with which PAS has a long history – has, this year, attracted more than 550 teams and thousands of walkers.

After the vagaries of the last 18 months, the walk is returning in its usual format of a 10km route through

Update on Non-binary Prisoner

In July, we brought you the case study of a non-binary prisoner, who was being made to shower publicly despite having a verbal agreement with the prison to allow them to shower more privately, when facilities were quiet. At that time, we had advised the prisoner regarding resubmitting a COMP1 complaint, and received a letter of thanks from them as it appeared that the prison was acceding to this concession.

However, the situation was not yet resolved properly and, by July, at the time of our article, the prisoner was either having to shower with others again, or do without washing altogether.

This time, one of our

central London.

The walk – and the sponsorship it attracts – helps LLST support access to justice in London and the South East. Thanks to events such as the walk, LLST is able to grant financial awards to over 100 legal advice organisations – including PAS – each year, helping us to deliver free and pro bono legal advice.

There is also a rather fun post walk street party!

If you would like to sponsor the PAS team, you can do so via our Virgin Money Giving page [here](#).



PAS is delighted to acknowledge [The City Bridge Trust](#), which, this week, came aboard as a supporter of our resettlement work in London with an award of £45,000.00 over five years.

Only 50% of people released from

Caseworkers wrote to the Governor of the prison, reminding him that the Equality Act safeguards those with a protected characteristic, one of which is gender reassignment. It therefore followed that failing to provide the prisoner with showering facilities that met their needs as often as showers were available to prisoners without the protected characteristic was a breach of the Equality Act and constituted discrimination.

Very promptly after receiving the letter, the prison finally moved the prisoner to a cell with its own shower. We subsequently received a most heartfelt letter of thanks from the prisoner, which we reproduce for you here.

Let me start by thanking you so much for your letter you sent to the prison, as four days after your letter, they moved me onto a wing where I have a shower in my cell.

I know they do not mention this in their reply, but before you intervened, I was at my wits' end. I submitted so many COMP1s and COMP1As regarding the issue. My mental health got so bad due to the frustration and arguing over all this, I considered removing myself from this world to stop all this happening. But, because of you... and others there at PAS, you prevented this from happening.

prison between March 2019-20 had settled accommodation on release. 17% were homeless or sleeping rough. (PRT Factfile, Winter 2021)

Vulnerable prisoners are often released back into the community with no accommodation arrangements made for them. PAS is frequently asked for assistance where prisons – and other bodies – are failing to meet their legal responsibilities towards women, disabled, chronically ill and elderly prisoners with health or social care needs, including sourcing appropriate accommodation for them upon release.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 means that prisons and probation providers are now required by law to refer people who might be at risk of becoming homeless to the local housing authority. (PRT Factfile, Winter 2021)

Resettlement assists soon-to-be-released vulnerable prisoners in obtaining supported accommodation to house them safely and appropriately upon release. We are able to secure a variety of accommodation for London prisoners, whether self-sufficient housing with minimal aid, or a care home where constant assistance is provided.

So, once again, thank you and thanks to everyone there. You all truly do save lives, so please keep up the great work you... do, and if I need you in the future, it is good to know you are... there.



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

Freephone Service for women prisoners

NUMBER: 0800 024 6205

Tuesday morning 10:00-12.00

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