

PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Dear Friend of PAS

Save the date!

We are pleased to announce the resumption of our Annual Lecture series on Monday 20th July.

Matthew Evans, Director of [The AIRE Centre](#) since 2013 and former PAS Managing Solicitor, will restart the series with a talk on human rights in the UK.

Matthew was awarded Human Rights Solicitor of the Year at the Law Society Excellence Awards in 2020.

The in person event will take place in the London offices of [Reed Smith](#), from 6pm for 6.30pm. Drinks will be served before and after the lecture. PAS is most grateful to Reed Smith for its generous support of the event.

To reserve a place at the lecture, please e-mail your details to list@prisonersadvice.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

PAS Helps Chronically Ill Prisoner Move to Privacy of Single Cell

We were contacted by a 39-year-old male prisoner who was suffering from a chronic urological condition that left him severely incontinent. He was having to use the toilet in his cell constantly and would sometimes wet the bed, alienating his cell-mate.

The prisoner had been forced to share a cell, and, with no privacy, or space to manage his condition and make himself decent whenever an episode occurred, felt unendingly humiliated and degraded.

he was simply told to speak to the wing staff. When he did this, he was ignored. His mental health deteriorated and he was started on antidepressants. What made his situation worse was that he could see two empty single cells on his wing, but was not allowed to move into either.

We wrote to the prison Governor reminding that office of the prison's duty to make reasonable adjustments for disability issues and to provide the prisoner with a single cell in order that he might better manage his condition and retain some dignity. We also pointed out the inadequate response to the prisoner's previous complaints, the prison's duty of care to ensure the health of inmates and the prisoner's declining mental state. We requested that the prison initiate a new cell-sharing risk assessment and explain why the prisoner had not received a substantive response to his complaints.

The prison then apologised for its delay in acting, stating that it had found the prisoner a single cell and would be moving him forthwith. The prison also explained that it was reviewing its complaints system to ensure that grievances were properly handled in the future.

Subsequently, we received a message from the prisoner saying that he was now far happier and that PAS had saved his life.

PAS and The Human Rights Act

In December 2020, the UK Government announced a review of the Human Rights Act 1998, which it established specifically to scrutinise the ways in which the act impinges upon Government powers. In the Queen's Speech on 10th May 2022, it confirmed plans to create a new, British, "Bill of Rights" that will get rid of the Act.

Understandably, such news has been met with strong reservations from human rights groups – including PAS – who see the moves as a



PAS Caseworker Runs Hackney Half Marathon

As well as being a champion of the legal rights of serving prisoners, PAS is an advocate for human rights. In defending the rights of prisoners, PAS regularly cites the Human Rights Act 1998, which introduced the European Convention on Human Rights directly into UK law. The Act requires public authorities (including prisons and the Probation Service) to act compatibly with a person's Convention rights. This means that prisons must respect the rights of prisoners when making decisions about their care or treatment. If they fail to do so, they could be acting in breach of the law.

PAS regularly cites the following articles of the Human Rights Act in the course of its work:

- Article 2 – Right to Life
- Article 3 – Freedom from Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment
- Article 5 – Right to Liberty
- Article 6 – Right to a Fair Trial
- Article 8 – Right to Private and Family Life
- Article 9 – Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion
- Article 14 – Protection from Discrimination

For PAS, the proposed changes are cause for great alarm as they attempt to restrict court intervention and take away the rights of certain groups of prisoners, particularly foreign national prisoners (FNPs). PAS has submitted a consultation

Anna Fairbank, who completed the Hackney Half Marathon on behalf of PAS on Sunday 22 May 2022.

As a result of running in the event, Anna raised a stellar £1,200 in support of our services.

Of the experience, Anna said: "The Hackney Half Marathon was a big challenge for me. I had never run anything like that distance – but I wanted to try!

"I was a case worker at PAS on and off for several years and hoped to raise much needed funds to support PAS' work. I was surprised and delighted that so many generous people made donations.

"It was a hot day and I worried that I wouldn't manage to complete the course, but there were children with hoses and plant sprays to keep us cool!

"I was proud to run with PAS' logo on my back – it attracted some very positive comments. Reaching the finishing line was amazing!"

Thank you, Anna!

their criticism of them.



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

Freephone Service from Women's Prisons
NUMBER: 0800 024 6205
Tuesday morning 10:00-12.00

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Prisoners' Advice Service (PAS) · 37 Eyre Street Hill · London, (Not Applicable) EC1R 5ET · United Kingdom