

Our plan for safer streets and justice for victims of crime

»» CLEAR PLAN »»
»» BOLD ACTION »»
»» SECURE FUTURE »»

» The Conservatives will always back our brave police and security services with the powers and resources needed to keep our country safe and we will always work to deliver a justice system that is fair to victims and sees offenders repay their debt to society.

Under the Conservatives, violent crime has fallen by 44% since 2010 and neighbourhood crime is down 48%. Reoffending has fallen from over 30% in 2010 to 25%. We have recruited 20,000 police officers, delivered 6,000 prison places as part of the largest prison expansion since the Victorian era and deported over 18,000 foreign national offenders since 2019 alone. We will:

- » **Give every neighbourhood an additional police officer by recruiting 8,000 more police officers** to patrol communities and catch criminals in every ward in the country. These full time, fully warranted officers will be dedicated to neighbourhood policing.
- » **Back the police**, by giving officers new powers and tools to catch criminals, including technology like facial recognition and powers to seize knives and track down stolen property. We will always back the police in the lawful and professional use of force, alongside a fair and proportionate accountability system.
- » **Restore public trust in policing.** We will license police officers for specialist roles, as we do already for firearms officers. We will legislate to ensure officers are appropriately vetted during their service and those who fail can be sacked.

We will foster greater collaboration between the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism Policing.

We will urgently **introduce Martyn's Law**, in tribute to Martyn Hett, who was tragically killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester

Arena terrorist attack in 2017. This will ensure premises are better prepared for terrorist attacks by requiring them to take proportionate steps to mitigate risks.

We will toughen up community sentencing by **increasing the use of community payback and electronic tagging**, so criminals pay their debt to society and communities witness justice being served. We will **fund every police force to roll out Hotspot Policing**, which has cut anti-social behaviour by up to 50% in some areas.

We will keep turning the tide against fraudsters. In the last year we have reduced fraud by 13%, including through our new National Fraud Squad with 400 officers now in post. We will ban SIM farms, which are used to send bulk messages for fraudulent texts, and ban cold calls on financial products so fraudsters cannot dupe people into buying fake investments.

Tackling violence against women and girls

We have made violence against women and girls a strategic policing requirement for the first time, making clear to the police that these crimes are as significant as terrorism, serious and organised crime and child sexual abuse.

We have **strengthened the law to punish predators** with new offences for stalking, controlling or coercive behaviour, non-fatal strangulation and suffocation, sharing of intimate images or 'revenge porn', non-consensual taking of images of a woman breastfeeding, 'up skirting' and raised the maximum penalties for harassment. We will legislate to create new offences for spiking, the creation of sexualised deepfake images and taking intimate images without consent.

We will support victims of domestic abuse including through our **Domestic Abuse Act**, which created a statutory definition of domestic abuse and gave new powers to police and the courts.

We will toughen sentencing for murders that take place within the context of domestic abuse with new aggravating factors, such as if they involve coercive and controlling behaviour or gratuitous attacks. We will introduce a **25-year prison term for domestic murders**, regardless of whether a weapon is used. Those who kill their domestic abusers will not face the same starting point. This will be accompanied by a **review of homicide sentencing**, looking to close loopholes that allow some killers to get off lightly.

We will introduce an **aggravating factor for murders that happen in the context of 'rough sex'**, so it is never used as an excuse to get a lighter sentence.

We have increased rape prosecutions by 56% since 2010 and we will ensure **rape victims get the justice and support they deserve**, with a new investigatory model for rape for police forces and prosecutors and pre-recorded cross-examination for victims in all Crown courts.

We will carefully consider the recommendations of Baroness Bertin's Independent Review of Pornography and ensure we have the right safeguards in place to protect against any harmful impacts of the industry.

A justice system that delivers for victims and the public

We will toughen sentencing for the worst offenders. We have already ended Labour's automatic halfway release for violent and serious sexual offenders. We will make **life imprisonment without parole mandatory for more of the most heinous murderers and require rapists and other serious sexual offenders to spend the whole of their sentences behind bars**.

We will **toughen sentences for knife crime, grooming gangs and assaults against retail workers** and combat the ability of serious organised crime gangs to use new technology to harm the public. We will prioritise further

measures to crack down on hyper-prolific offenders.

We will empower judges to **require offenders to attend hearings** or face an increased sentence. We will stand firmly behind the legal doctrine of joint enterprise meaning that those who assist in crimes, from the getaway driver to the weapon supplier, can be held accountable.

We will **build four new prisons**, completing our programme of 20,000 new prison places by 2030. We will make it easier to build prisons in appropriate places by scrapping legacy EU rules and streamlining the planning system.

We will **remove more Foreign National Offenders** by increasing removals under the Early Removal Scheme and negotiating more Prisoner Transfer Agreements.

We will **maintain the ban on prisoners voting** from jail.

We will **turn criminals away from the cycle of reoffending**, investing in rehabilitative services such as drug treatment, education and employment. We will deliver our ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and help people rebuild their lives away from crime.

Our Victims and Prisoners Act ensures victims are protected and supported, including that those affected by major disasters such as Hillsborough, the Manchester Arena bombing and the Grenfell Tower fire can get the help they need, when they need it, through a **permanent Independent Public Advocate**. We will expand the provision of legal aid at inquests related to major incidents where the Independent Public Advocate is appointed or in the aftermath of terrorist incidents.

We will bring the **mandatory reporting provisions** of the Criminal Justice Bill into force as soon as possible. We will design a redress scheme for the victims of child sexual abuse in institutional settings that reflects their needs. We will ensure this includes the victims of

grooming gangs and make a national apology to grooming gang victims.

We will ensure sex offenders cannot evade justice or conceal their identity by **restricting sex offenders from changing their names**.

We will **cut the Covid court backlog** by keeping open Nightingale courtrooms, funding sitting days and investing in court maintenance. And we will continue to digitise court processes and expand the use of remote hearings. We will match **fund 100 criminal law pupillages** to speed up justice for victims and will continue to ensure access to justice through legal aid provision.

We will **expand our Pathfinder Courts pilot in family court** proceedings and continue mediation vouchers to help more families resolve private law child arrangements without an acrimonious court battle.

We will support our **world class legal services** sector, including through an Arbitration Bill. We will help individuals and small businesses bring cases against wealthier opponents with legislation to support third party funding of litigation.

A plan to counter extremism and to protect our streets

In recent months we have seen shocking increases in protests being used as a cover for extremist disruption and criminality. We cannot allow a small and vocal minority to destroy our democratic values. That is why we unveiled a **new extremism definition** under which certain groups that promote an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance will be blocked from government funding and meeting officials.

We have passed tough **new laws to curb disruptive protests**. Our Public Order Act 2023 gave the police new powers to intervene where protests cause serious disruption to communities, leading to the arrests of over

600 Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion protestors in London alone. We will introduce further powers to **ban face coverings, pyrotechnics and climbing on war memorials**.

We will **strengthen police powers to prevent protests or marches that pose a risk of serious disorder**, by allowing police to take into account the cumulative impact of protests. We will **ban protests outside schools** to stop mobs from intimidating teachers and children. We will always support teachers to uphold and promote fundamental British values and ensure they are protected from accusations of blasphemy.

We will place a **duty on the police and prosecutors** to publish regular guidance on the statements, chants or symbols, for example, the swastika or the term 'jihad', that in the context of political protest may constitute an offence. We will explore ways for the police to recover some of the costs of policing disruptive protests from the groups that organise them.

We will also ensure our **elected representatives get the protection needed** to represent their constituents without fear.

Abuse or discrimination based on religion is unacceptable. **We will not tolerate antisemitic hatred in any form**. We have pledged £54 million for the Community Security Trust to give Jewish schools and synagogues the security measures they need and allocated additional funding to support schools and universities to understand, recognise and tackle antisemitism. We will get the UK Holocaust Memorial built.

We do not tolerate anti-Muslim hatred and will seek to stamp it out wherever it occurs. We have committed to provide £117 million over four years for the Protective Security for Mosques scheme and are proud to support and help fund Tell MAMA's vital work.