

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
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The Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice  
Lord Chancellor's Private Office  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London SW1 9AH

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Justice,

**Re: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**

We write to share our profound concern and alarm over the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill published last week. Not only does this Bill contain numerous threats to the right to peaceful protest and access to the countryside, criminalise Gypsy and Traveller communities' way of life, as well as a whole host of expansive policing powers, but it is being rushed through parliament during a pandemic and before civil society and the public have been able to fully understand its profound implications.

Contained within this 307 page bill are plans to:

- Introduce draconian new police powers to decide where, when and how citizens are allowed to protest and have their voices heard by those in power;
- Increase penalties for those breaching police conditions on protests and the ease with which they can be found to have done so;
- Create a new trespass offence that criminalises the way of life of nomadic Gypsy and Traveller communities, while the government manifestly fails to provide adequate sites and permitted stopping places, and has implications for the public's right to protest, access to the countryside and people experiencing homelessness.

This is a huge bill, both in length and in potential consequences - for young people calling for social change facing greater criminalisation by the state, for Gypsy and Traveller communities facing threats to their way of life, and for anyone who values freedom of expression and the right to make yourself heard against the powerful.

This in itself is enough to cause alarm, but the government is also trying to rush this Bill through parliament, with less than a week between publication and second reading. This is deeply inadequate and provides no time for MPs and their staff, let alone the communities it stands to affect so profoundly, to understand what the consequences of this wide-ranging Bill may be.

For a country that so often prides itself on civil liberties, this Bill represents an attack on some of the most fundamental rights of citizens, in particular those from marginalised communities, and is being driven through at a time and in a way where those who will be subject to its provisions are least able to respond.

We urge the government to fundamentally rethink its approach.

Yours sincerely,

Gracie Bradley, Interim Director, Liberty  
Hugh Knowles & Miriam Turner, Co-Executive Directors, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Sarah Mann, Director, Friends, Families and Travellers  
Guy Shrubsole & Nick Hayes, Co-Founders, Right to Roam Campaign  
Len McCluskey, General Secretary, Unite the Union  
Fiona Colley, Director of Social Change, Homeless Link  
Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society  
Tom Platt, Director of Advocacy & Engagement, The Ramblers  
Louise Hazan & Harpreet K Paul, Co-Founders, Tipping Point  
Andrew Simms, Co-Director, New Weather Institute  
Anna Vickerstaff, UK Lead, 350.org  
Kevin Blowe, Campaigns Coordinator, Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol)  
Dave Turnbull, Head of Access, Conservation & Environmental Sustainability, British Mountaineering Council  
Roger Geffen, Policy Director, Cycling UK  
Kristiana Wrixon, Head of Policy, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations  
Stephanie Draper, Chief Executive, Bond  
Minnie Rahman, Campaigns and Communications Director, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants  
Ellie Mae O'Hagan, Director, CLASS  
Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress (TUC)  
Rebecca Baron, Head of Activism, Ben & Jerry's Europe  
Siân Summers-Rees, Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary  
Colin Hines, Convenor, Green New Deal group  
Leo Murray, Co-Director, Possible  
Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy  
Professor Natalie Fenton, Chair, Media Reform Coalition  
Yvonne MacNamara, CEO, The Traveller Movement  
Rosie Lewis, Deputy Director & VAWG Services Manager, The Angelou Centre  
Maari Nastari, Interim CEO, The Outside Project  
Maurice Mcleod, Chief Executive, Race on the Agenda  
John Sauven, Executive Director, Greenpeace UK  
Nick Dearden, Director, Global Justice Now  
Neal Lawson, Executive Director, Compass  
Rowan Mataram, mPOWER Project Manager, Platform  
Silkie Carlio, Director, Big Brother Watch  
Zita Holbourne, National Chair, BARAC UK  
Alison Tickell, Director, Julie's Bicycle  
Kerry Moscogiuri, Director of Campaigns and Communications, Amnesty International UK  
Kate Hudson, General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)  
Asad Rehman, Executive Director, War on Want  
Dr Halima Begum, Chief Executive, Runnymede Trust  
Brian Gormally, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice  
Kate Clow, Chair of the Board, Culture Routes Society  
Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain  
Jess Turtle, Co-Founder, Museum of Homelessness  
Daniel Hale, Campaign Director, Purpose Europe

Siana Bangura, Founder & Producer, Courageous Films  
Lynn Jamieson, Chair, Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament  
Amanda Sebestyen, Founder, Asylum Education & Legal Fund  
Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy, Cafod  
Aderonke Apata, Founder and Chairperson, African Rainbow Family  
Suzanne Jeffrey, Chair, Campaign against Climate Change  
Symon Hill, Campaigns Manager, Peace Pledge Union  
Guppi Bola & Nonhlanhla Makuyana, Co-Founders, Decolonising Economics  
Andrew Scattergood & Gaya Sriskanthan, Co-Chairs, Momentum  
Deniz Uğur, Deputy Director, End Violence Against Women Coalition  
David Mackenzie, Nukewatch UK  
Revd Dr Darrell D Hannah, Chair, Operation Noah  
Frances Howe, Co-Director, Biofuelwatch  
Leni Morris, CEO, Galop  
Hannah Martin & Fatima Ibrahim, Co-Directors, Green New Deal UK  
Beccy Speight, CEO, RSPB  
Vicky Blake, UK President, University and College Union (UCU)  
Sarah Hiron, Trustee, One World Week  
Andrew Feinstein, Executive Director, Shadow World Investigations  
Steve Mason, Frack Free United  
Maddy Hodgson, Fuel Poverty Action  
Gina Langton, CEO, 80,000 Voices  
Jolyon Maugham, Founder & Director, Good Law Project  
Helen Tandy, Director, Eco Communities  
Michael Chandler, CEO, Union Chapel Project  
Tyler Hatwell, Founder & Director, Traveller Pride  
Craig Dow, Director, ARC Independent  
Tessa Khan, Director, Uplift  
Kyne Davis, CEO, Open Food Network UK  
Liz Fekete, Director, Institute of Race Relations  
Polly Neate, CEO, Shelter  
Daniel Tsu, Director, Lyrix Organix  
Deborah Coles, Director, INQUEST  
Paula Shaw, Secretary, WILPF UK  
Mathew Lawrence, Director, Common Wealth  
Dr Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director, The Equality Trust  
Janet Fenton, Organiser, Secure Scotland  
Sabby Dhalu & Weyman Bennett, Co-Conveners, Stand up to Racism  
Mary Church, Head of Campaigns, Friends of the Earth Scotland  
Lucie Russell, CEO, StreetDoctors  
Nick Lowles, CEO, HOPE not hate  
Dr Mya-Rose Craig, Founder & President, Black2Nature  
Joe Corre, Talk Fracking  
Naomi Smith, CEO, Best for Britain  
Hannah Couchman, Senior Legal Officer, Rights of Women  
Jacqueline Bourne, Founder Member, One World Voice  
Jinsella, Co-Founder, Demilitarise Education  
Jane Tallents, Core Group member, Trident Ploughshares  
Lynne Segal, The Care Collective  
Steven McCracken, Co-Founder, The Free Press?  
Louisa Davison, Steering Committee, Citizens' Climate Lobby UK  
Alphonsine Kabagabo, Director, Women for Refugee Women  
Jyoti Fernandes, Chair, Landworkers' Alliance  
Anthony Johnson, Registered Nurse & Lead Organiser, Nurses United UK  
Erin Aniker & Jess Nash, Co-Founders, We Are Here UK

Emma Campbell & Naomi Connor, Co-Convenors, Alliance for Choice NI  
Frances Fox, Founder & UK Director, Climate Live  
Chaitra Dinesh, National Director, Students for Global Health  
Dr Roxana Cavalcanti, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Brighton  
Penny Wangari-Jones, Director, Racial Justice Network  
Jen Persson, Director, defenddigitalme  
David Cutler, Director, The Baring Foundation  
Isobel Ingham-Barrow, Head of Policy, MEND  
Barbora Bukovska, Senior Director for Law and Policy, ARTICLE 19  
Jess McQual, Director, Just Fair  
Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON  
Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)  
Julie Harmswoth, Director, Unlock  
Ben Jamal, Director, Palestine Solidarity Campaign  
Sarah Robinson, Director, Hope for the Future  
Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release  
Bea Millar, Chair, Psychotherapists and Counsellors for Social Change  
Eva Watkinson, Head of Campaigns, Jubilee Debt Campaign  
Robbie Gillett, Director, Adfree Cities  
Zoe Whyatt, Interim CEO, 38 Degrees  
Cat Hobbs, Director, We Own It  
Dr Shanon Shah, Director, Faith for the Climate  
Matt Hawkins, Co-Director, Compassion in Politics  
Jackie Murphy, CEO, TGP Cymru  
Trudy Aspinal, Project Manager, Travelling Ahead  
Rocio Cifuentes, CEO, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales  
Isaac Blake, Director, Romani Cultural and Arts Company  
Allison Hulmes, Director for Wales, British Association of Social Workers  
Louisa Devonish, Advice & Liaison Manager, Gypsies and Travellers Wales  
Clare Skidmore, Advice Manager, Race Equality First  
Suzanne Duval BEM, BME Mental Health Manager, Diverse Cymru  
Allison Hulmes, Jackie Smith, Doreen Dove, Co-founding members, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Work Association (GRTSW Association)  
Paul Cook, Head of Advocacy, Tearfund  
Sophie Neuburg, Executive Director, Medact  
Josh Russell & Tom de Grunwald, Co-Founders, Forward Democracy  
Carina Millstone, Executive Director, Feedback  
Diarmaid McDonald, Lead Organiser, Just Treatment  
Kate Paradine, Chief Executive, Women in Prison  
George Dow, Co-Chair, Green Christian  
Paul Delaney, Acting Director, Positive Money  
Sue Tibballs, Chief Executive, Sheila McKechnie Foundation  
Louise King, Director, Children's Rights Alliance for England  
Louisa McGeehan, CEO, Just for Kids Law  
Alex Jacobs, Director, Joffe Charitable Trust  
Ben Donaldson, Head of Campaigns, United Nations Association UK  
Sanchita Hosali, Director, British Institute of Human Rights  
Crispin Truman, CEO, CPRE, the countryside charity  
Steve Crawshaw, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Freedom from Torture  
Chris Jones, Director, Statewatch  
Hiba Ahmad, Investigator & Organiser, Foxglove  
Gillian Lobo, Head of UK Litigation, ClientEarth  
Make Votes Matter  
Extinction Rebellion (XR) UK  
Christian Climate Action

Campaign Against Arms Trade  
Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)  
Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants (LGSM)  
Reclaim The Power  
Feminist Fightback  
UK Nanas  
The Rights Collective  
Another Europe is Possible  
Psychologists for Social Change Cymru  
UK Student Climate Network (UKSCN)  
Choked Up  
Fridays For Future Europe  
Rainbow Coalition Against Racism

John Morgan, President, Manchester TUC  
East Lancashire CND  
Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND  
Svetlana Kotova, Director of Campaigns and Justice, Inclusion London  
Rachel Berger, Chair, Climate Friends Bradford on Avon  
Debby Kennett, Chief Executive Office, London Gypsies and Travellers  
Ellie Rogers, CEO, Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange  
Josie O'Driscoll, CEO, GATE Herts  
Alison Blackwood, Manager, Southwark Travellers' Action Group (STAG)  
Anne Miller, Chair, Carbon Neutral Cambridge  
UKSCN London  
Dr David Golding CBE, Development Coordinator, North East Call To Action  
Richard Solly, Co-ordinator, London Mining Network  
Tony Phillips, Branch Secretary, UNISON London Fire Brigade  
Bristol Energy Network  
Amy Smith, London Renters Union  
Our Future Now  
Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum  
Adela Pickles, Frack Free Ryedale  
Frack Free Sussex  
Frack Free Dee  
Elane Heffernan, Disabled Members Rep, UCU NEC  
Patricia McManus, Chair, Brighton UCU  
Climate Action Chester & District  
Climate Action Lewisham  
Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth  
Professor Thomas Acton, Secretary, Brentwood Gypsy Support Group  
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Global Justice Stirling  
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Deepa Govindarajan Driver, Chair, Camden Momentum  
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Northern Police Monitoring Project  
Caroline Darke, Eliska Bujokova & Carmen Sawers, Co-Directors, Feminist Exchange  
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Sheffield DPAC  
Newcastle DPAC  
London DPAC  
North Staffordshire East Cheshire DPAC

Suffolk DPAC  
Cambridgeshire and Essex DPAC  
Gillian Kelly, Ambleside Action For Future  
Tony Staunton, Chair, Plymouth Climate Council  
Jon Woods, Branch Chair, Portsmouth City UNISON Branch  
Sandy Nicoll, UNISON Branch Secretary, SOAS University of London  
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Weald Action Group  
Wanstead Flats Take the Knee  
Cambridge Keep our NHS Public  
Sustainable Nantwich  
Plastic Free Nantwich  
Gloucestershire Climate Action Network  
Dr Siobhan Spencer MBE, Trustee, National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Group &  
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Helen Davies & Cherry Sewell, Co-Chairs, Barnet Stand Up To Racism  
Janette Evans, Chair, Barnet Unite Community  
Jemima Hartshorn, Founder, Mums for Lungs  
Piers Edsall, Environmental Smart  
Tamara Micner, Trustee, Kehillah North London  
XR Peace  
XR Youth Cambridge  
XR Sheffield  
XR Cambridge  
XRUK Justice Steering Group  
XR Dumfries and Galloway  
XR Cheshire

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Lord Bishop of Salisbury  
Jeffrey Newman, Emeritus Rabbi, Finchley Reform Synagogue  
Rabbi Danny Newman, Rabbi & Founder, HaMakom  
Rabbi René Pfertzel, Kingston Liberal Synagogue  
Rabbi Jackie Tabick, West Central Liberal Synagogue  
Rabbi Anna Posner, Rabbi, Beit Klal Yisrael, Norwich Liberal  
Jewish Community and Student Chaplain, Reform Judaism  
Vaughan Jones, Minister, Union Chapel Church  
Rabbi Dr Barbara Borts, Associate Lecturer, Newcastle University  
Mike Barson, Keyboard Player, Madness  
Dr Roxana Cavalcanti, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Brighton  
Michelle Brown, Professor Emerita, University of London  
Professor Peter Newell, University of Sussex