

**AGM07/2021**

## **COMPOSITE MOTIONS**

### **Composite A – Motions 10 + 11 : Reverse the Government's proposed expansion of prison places for women**

This AGM views with alarm recent government plans to spend £150 billion on building new prison places for women. This blatantly flies in the face of recommendations of the Corston report and other inquiries and reports over the past 20 years. They have all concluded that prison is rarely a necessary, appropriate or proportionate response for the majority of women clients.

Napo welcomes the continued recognition by the Government, in its Women Offender Strategy (2018), of the potential of women's centres to reduce, if not eventually eliminate, imprisonment for women. It is therefore distressing to see this initiative undermined by the suggestion that a further 500 prison places need to be added to the women's prison estate (Ministerial Statement 23/1/21). There would appear to be no logical justification for the expansion.

At a time when women's centres, which support vulnerable women and keep them from entering the criminal justice system, are severely constrained by lack of adequate secure funding, and when women's refuges are having to refuse places to desperate women, to build prisons now is to turn our backs on the very services that keep women out of prison.

Napo therefore resolves to join with all other organisations campaigning to rectify this anomaly and to work towards ensuring that the public and sentencers are better informed about the causes of women's imprisonment. It calls upon all members and branches to campaign for the rapid adoption of a properly funded network of women's centres in every region along the lines proposed by Baroness Corston and now promised for Wales.

**Proposer: Mairead Finn, Napo Cymru**  
**Seconded: Deb Borgen, London Branch**

## **Composite B – Motions 19 + 20: Probation Pay**

This AGM notes that it is more than a decade, apart from two years, that staff in the Probation Service have had to endure a pay freeze, causing cuts in their wages and terms and conditions. Despite being hailed as keyworkers during the pandemic, Probation staff have not had adequate reward and recognition for their efforts during this difficult period and there seems that no decent pay increase of note will be forthcoming in the near future.

AGM therefore agrees to join with other keyworkers in the TUC campaign for decent pay and secure work for keyworkers.

In the event that there is no meaningful progress in negotiations by 31st December 2021 around the 3-year joint union pay claim submitted on 7 May 2021, Napo's Officers and Officials will launch a pay campaign which includes taking industrial action up to and including strike action.

**Proposer: Pete Nowell, South Yorkshire Branch.**  
**Seconder: John Ennis, Thames Valley Branch.**

## **Composite C – Motions 7 + 8: An independent unified probation service in the public sector**

AGM welcomes the unification of our Probation Service, as a step in the right direction. While substantial success has been achieved around the recreation of a unified service, other aspects of Napo policy have made less progress. The Service remains enmeshed in the civil and prison services. Nor has there been a concerted effort to debate the propriety of the Service continuing to allow itself to be described as a Criminal Justice Agency that prevents reoffending when the evidential basis for this claim is so slender. Napo agrees to campaign for the Probation Service to become a local community-based organisation free from civil service control, accountable within the structure of local communities and in the public sector.

Napo resolves therefore to redouble its efforts to campaign for the Service to:

- be devolved to local regions and Wales;
- be free from Civil Service control;
- examine critically its crime prevention role;
- strengthen its claim to be an agency of social justice as proposed for Wales by Mark Drakeford, built around a reinstated probation order.

**Proposer: Thames Valley Branch**  
**Seconder: Chris Hignett (Campaigning Network)**