

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A newly commissioned report identifies that problem-solving courts for women do not just get better outcomes for criminally involved women, they can help to shape our whole criminal justice system for good. The report identifies how justice systems can better serve everyone if they address systemic inequalities and focus on holistic, relational approaches.

****Justice and Women: A New Direction - Hosted by The Worshipful Company of Weavers and Clinks - London, UK - 30/01/2025****

A new report on research, commissioned by the Weavers' Company, ahead of their landmark [London summit](#) dedicated to reshaping justice for women, has identified the pivotal role of problem-solving courts in achieving better outcomes for women in our criminal justice system, and suggests these findings hold important lessons for transformation of the whole criminal justice system. The summit brings together leading experts, researchers, and practitioners to discuss these and other findings.

With the theme '**Justice and Women: A New Direction**' this transformative event will inspire innovative thinking and action to create a fairer, community-focused women's criminal justice system and in turn look at alternatives to the use of custody.

"This event is a pivotal moment to consider a new direction for justice. By bringing together leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, we can inspire real change. The day is about collaboration and innovation - rethinking how the justice system responds to women's needs and creating a future where community-based, whole-system approaches are the norm. We are excited to showcase groundbreaking research and practices as well as launch our [grant-funded invitation](#) for policy experts and practitioners to support a future intervention. We look forward to working with the sector to shape a justice system that truly meets women's needs."

William Makower, Worshipful Company of Weavers

The summit will feature a keynote address by Sir Nic Dakin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, and will report on **research findings** on women's problem-solving courts and the lessons they can teach us for the system as a whole by:

- Dr Shona Minson, BBC New Generation Thinker and researcher at the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford.
- Dr Ruth Armstrong, Director Justice Matters, Criminal Justice Leadership Consultancy.

This research brings together existing cross-sector research on women's problem-solving courts and for the first time explains the evidence about their efficacy through a systems change lens, highlighting the importance of a relational approach that humanises justice processes and empowers women and professionals to work together to address the root causes of offending.

Beyond unveiling the research, the event will also allow policy experts, stakeholders and thought-leaders to gain insights from an expert panel of senior leaders from women's voluntary sector specialist service providers as well as hear presentations on pioneering practices, including:



Supporting the voluntary sector
working in the criminal justice system



THE
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- Problem-solving courts for women in Birmingham and Manchester.
- The Hope Street residential community for women and their children.
- The development of the *Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)* tool for gender specific case management.

If you are interested in covering the event/research on behalf of your outlet and would like to attend, please contact Anne Fox at anne.fox@clinks.org

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****About the Worshipful Company of Weavers****

The London livery companies have been funding projects within the criminal justice sector for over fifty years. In 2030, the Worshipful Company of Weavers will celebrate both the livery movement and them being 900 years old, plus their support of the justice sector since 1973. More information about the Company and its support of the sector can be found at: <https://www.weavers.org.uk/charity/charitable-grants/>

****About Clinks****

Clinks is the national infrastructure charity dedicated to supporting voluntary organisations working with people in the criminal justice system and their families. We support, promote, and advocate for our members and the wider voluntary sector across England and Wales. Our vision is of a vibrant, independent and resilient voluntary sector that enables people to transform their lives.

For general Clinks media enquiries, please contact communications@clinks.org or contact Sam Julius, Clinks Head of Influence and Communications, on 07779 579830.