

CLINKS

 National
Criminal Justice
Arts Alliance



Stronger Together

Celebrating Community, Championing Progress

Conference Programme



Event Linktree QR Code

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and conference resources

**28 January
2026**

Conway Hall

Agenda

AM	Item	Location
9:45	Arrival and registration Networking opportunity with tea/coffee	Foyer
10:30	Welcome address & Housekeeping	Main Hall
10:45	Opening performance 'Men Do Dance' - Dance United Yorkshire	Main Hall
11:00	'Secret Life of Prisons Podcast' Phil Maguire and Paula Harriot in conversation with Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, and Anne Fox	Main Hall
11:50	Morning comfort break	Foyer / Main Hall
12:00	Workshop Series 1:	
A	Reimagining Support for Young Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System -Her Insight Collective	Main Hall
B	Amplifying Black and Brown Voices: A 360° Disruption of the Criminal Justice Status Quo -Jake Ferguson & Viv Ahmun, Black Men 4 Change	Brockway
C	From Connection to Change: Why Health is Now Central to Criminal Justice and What Works -Leanne Jeffery, Clinks	Bertrand Russell
12:50	Lunch	Foyer / Main Hall

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Agenda

PM	Item	Location
1:30	Workshop Series 2:	
D	Behind the film 'Holloway': What comes next? -Producers and Cast	Main Hall
E	Breaking through the glass ceiling. A discussion on how a strong network of Lived Experience Leadership can create impact -Oliver Goodwin, RIFT Social Enterprises and Joni Emery, Clinks	Brockway
F	Using creative practices to reshape personal, communal, and societal narratives -Odd Arts and Lou Clark, NCJAA	Bertrand Russell
2:20	Afternoon comfort break	Foyer / Main Hall
2:45	Afternoon Panel Discussion: What does the Sentencing Review mean for the Voluntary Sector? -Chaired by Sam Julius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Asimina Vergou, Co-op Foundation and Association of Charitable Foundations • Dr Gemma Birkett, City University of London • Jake Ferguson, Black Men 4 Change • Alison Goddard, Lincolnshire Action Trust 	Main Hall
3:30	Closing address, thank you, evaluation	Main Hall
3:45	Official send off for our CEO Anne Fox join us for a celebration of 10 years service	Foyer
4:45	Event end	

Stronger Together:

Celebrating Community, Championing Progress

'Secret Life of Prisons' Podcast

Phil Maguire and Paula Harriott in conversation with Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending and Anne Fox, CEO Clinks

This morning session of the conference will feature a recording of the award winning 'The Secret Life of Prisons' Podcast produced by Prison Radio Association. The focus of the conversation is on the implementation of the Independent Sentencing Review and the role of the voluntary sector in criminal justice. The episode will be broadcast on 2 February 2026.

Morning Session

During our morning session you will hear from Lord Timpson....



Lord James Timpson OBE DL has served as the Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending since July 2024. Prior to his appointment he ran Timpson Ltd for 22 years. He has also previously held the posts of Chancellor of Keele University, Chair of the Prison Reform Trust and National Chair of the Employment Advisory Board, which worked to assist those in prison secure a job on release. A proud Mancunian, he lives in Cheshire with his wife and loves spending time with her and his three adult children.

Morning Workshops

Reimagining Support for Young Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

Almost twenty years after Baroness Corston's landmark report exposed how a criminal justice system built for men fails to meet women's distinct needs, the core challenge remains: women require trauma-informed, community-based responses to reduce re-offending and the number of women, and their families, impacted by the CJS. Within this landscape, young women and girls are an invisible subgroup, routinely overlooked by adult-centric policies and services. Their experiences are particularly marked by complexity, disadvantage, missed opportunities, and lost potential. Shaped by fragmented provision, repeated retellings of trauma, and abrupt "cliff edges", such as the transition to adulthood at age eighteen, that disrupt support and erode trust.

A Existing services are frequently short term and compliance driven, failing to address the foundational needs of this group or to offer credible alternatives to custody. The evidence is clear. Justice interventions do not work for most women, especially young women and girls. Early, relational, community-based intervention does. Yet the system continues to resist these fundamental changes.

This workshop will set out the context | the needs of young women | the findings | what's next, and be followed by different topics for smaller groups to discuss. Her Insight Collective, a partnership of national experts in the field of women's justice, are working to develop a sustainable new way of working with young women and girls. Our approach is rooted in evidence and best practice. We invite you to join us to learn more about the project, discuss our main findings, and contribute to a new vision for young women and girls.

Amplifying Black and Brown Voices: A 360° Disruption of the Criminal Justice Status Quo

This dynamic 50-minute roundtable workshop invites Clinks members to explore how the criminal justice system can be meaningfully transformed by centering Black and Brown leadership, insight, and lived experience. Black Men 4 Change will share why they have entered the criminal justice ecosystem as a strategic disruptor and critical friend to Clinks through the HMPPS infrastructure grant. The session will highlight key themes emerging from recent engagement, including the Q-Seed parliamentary events, the RR3 Report around the Sentencing Review, broader community feedback, and sector calls for systemic intervention.

B

Participants will engage in an interactive, 360° analysis of current challenges and opportunities, contributing to the development of a refreshed mandate grounded in the voices of Black and Global Majority communities. This workshop promises honest discussion, practical insight, and a collaborative step toward sector-wide transformation. It will also be an opportunity for Clinks members to hear about Black Men 4 Change's member engagement plans for 2026 focusing on Black, Global Majority and Traveller communities.

Morning Workshops

From Connection to Change: Why Health is Now Central to Criminal Justice and What Works

C

This workshop will be exploring how social prescribing, trauma-informed approaches (Older People In CJ Network), and lived experience projects (like the women's self-harm project) are changing health and wellbeing in the criminal justice system.

We hope for delegates to come away from this session with a deeper understanding of how social prescribing and co-production improve outcomes in justice settings. Be able to identify barriers and opportunities to embed these approaches locally. With attendees leaving inspired with one practical idea to strengthen health and wellbeing support in their work.



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Afternoon Workshops

Behind the film "Holloway" What comes next?

D

The co-creators and filmmakers of award-winning documentary feature Holloway will discuss what trauma-informed principles look like within a filmmaking context, using the film and its process as a case study - and a potential blueprint for other narrative change projects.

They also ask 'what next?' - exploring what impact they hope to achieve in this next phase of the film and engaging in conversation with the sector about what actions they might like to see come out of the film's ongoing impact campaign. Plus learn more about the films screening packs and how you or your organisation might be able to host a screening.

Breaking through the glass ceiling. A discussion on how a strong network of Lived Experience Leadership can create impact

E

The conference workshop is intended to bring people into the room to co-design what Lived Experience Leadership in the voluntary sector actually means in practice.

The focus is about leadership, progression and breaking the glass ceiling – including senior roles, boards, trusteeships and public appointments.

The intention is to design with people, identifying what leadership looks like to people in the room, what barriers they're experiencing and what impact is possible.

Using creative practices to reshape personal, communal, and societal narratives

F

Collaboration, connection, and collective purpose lie at the heart of artistic practice within the criminal justice system. Yet in a climate of growing division, the current narratives can impact how we work, affect the people we engage with, and the environments we inhabit. Focusing on racism, within this workshop we will consider these challenges and how creative processes can shift perspectives in the social climate. In doing so, they can help transform narratives and attitudes, contributing to a more connected and less divided society.

Afternoon Panel and Q&A

What does the Sentencing Review mean for the voluntary sector?

Afternoon panellists are invited to share their views and experiences on the recommendations and potential impact of the Independent Sentencing Review for voluntary sector organisations. Reflecting on their hopes and fears, and what opportunities and challenges this presents for the sector.

Contributors biographies

Anne Fox

Anne has worked in charities since 1998 in the Republic of Ireland and the UK. She's worked in policy, campaigns and communications roles on behalf of people who live in poverty, families in challenging circumstances including with a disabled family member or headed by someone parenting alone, and for disabled children and adults. Anne has a strong belief in collective action and collaboration and in supporting people with lived experience to effect change.



Mandy Mahil

Mandy Mahil is the Chair of Clinks and Chief Operating Officer of Equally Ours, the UK's pan-equality and human rights network. She brings expertise in criminal justice governance to her work, having previously managed strategy and impact at Working Chance and served on the boards of the Prisoners' Advice Service, Unlock, and the Prisoners' Education Trust. Mandy studied Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at King's College London.



Prison Radio Association

The Secret Life of Prisons is a weekly podcast from the Prison Radio Association, hosted by Phil Maguire OBE, Chief Executive of the PRA, and Paula Harriott, Head of Prisoner Engagement at the Prison Reform Trust. The show explores life inside UK prisons through the voices of those who have been incarcerated, work in prisons, or study the justice system, offering unvarnished insights and challenging listeners to rethink crime, justice, and rehabilitation.



Dance United Yorkshire

Since 2011, Dance United Yorkshire (DUY), based in Bradford, West Yorkshire, has delivered high-quality, contemporary dance activities that create access to the arts and support some of society's most vulnerable people, including those experiencing poor mental health, poverty, social isolation, disengagement from education, addiction, domestic abuse and the criminal justice system. By bringing marginalised people together around ambitious creative opportunities, we raise people's aspirations, empower them to navigate socio-economic challenges, and contribute to their positive mental and physical health. DUY target people who are entirely new to dance, taking them out of their comfort zones to achieve things they never thought possible. We work to sustain engagement, removing barriers to access, and ensuring long-term impact.



Roma Hooper OBE

Roma Hooper OBE is a social entrepreneur and campaigner. She recently became chair of the new CJR Advisory Board at City St. George's, University of London, where the initial focus is women in the CJS. She co-founded Europe's first prison radio station at Feltham Young Offenders and later established the Prison Radio Association. Roma is an experienced CJS charity chair having held the role at The Griffins Society, Women's Breakout, Trailblazers and Clinks, leading the infrastructure charity in its mission to advocate for voluntary organisations across the CJS sector. As a campaigner she launched Make Justice Work, a campaign to influence policy reform and promote evidence-based alternatives to short-term sentences. She worked with Transform Justice to shift the public debate around criminal justice, recognising the need to change public perceptions and foster public confidence in alternatives to prison in order to make long term sustainable change.



Holloway

HOLLOWAY reunites six women inside the now-abandoned Holloway Prison to share the intimate stories that led them there, exposing trauma, systemic failure, and the power of sisterhood.

Directed by BAFTA Breakthrough Daisy-May Hudson and Emmy-nominated Sophie Compton, the documentary was made through a trauma-informed co-creative process with its contributors – Aliyah Ali, Mandy Ogunmokun, Sarah Cassidy, Lady Unchained, Gerrah, and Tamar Mujanay – all women using lived experience to drive change. Profound and meditative, HOLLOWAY is an inspiring testament to resilience and recovery.



Leanne Jeffrey

Leanne Jeffrey is the Health and Development Officer at Clinks, where she leads strategic work on health and wellbeing across the voluntary sector working with people in contact with the criminal justice system.

She has led national lived experience work within Health and Justice, shaping and constructively challenging policy and practice through a range of national projects focused on health inequalities, continuity of care, and system improvement. This has involved working with senior leaders across health, justice, and the voluntary sector to ensure that lived experience meaningfully informs decision-making.

She brings a system-wide perspective that bridges policy, practice, and the realities of delivery.



Joni Emery

Joni joined the Clinks team in December 2020 to manage all areas of governance and is now Clinks' Director of Business Operations leading the HR, finance and fundraising teams. Joni has a law degree and a career background in administration as well as managing projects in prisons and working alongside probation services. Joni stands by a people first approach and has a passionate interest in seeing positive change within the criminal justice system at every stage.



Oliver Goodwin

Olly worked in education for a decade before a career change to set up his own business. Olly now combines his love of working with and developing people with his knowledge and skillset in start-up businesses helping people with convictions to launch their own business to create a brighter future and a shift in self-perception.



Odd Arts

Odd Arts uses theatre to reduce inequalities and increase wellbeing and cohesion. Their work includes therapeutic theatre workshops; interactive theatre tours addressing social justice issues; theatre programmes for wellbeing; and community-led theatre projects. Odd Arts works in the criminal justice, education, community and health sectors. All their work is underpinned by restorative approaches, non-violent communication, trauma informed practice and anti-racism.



Lou Clark

Lou Clark is Clinks' NCJAA Project Manager and since September 2024 has been managing the network of arts organisations and arts practitioners working in criminal justice. Lou previously worked with Clinks as a Development Worker and with Nacro as a voluntary sector coordinator in a women's prison. She has a degree in Interactive Arts, runs art sessions in her local heritage centre and volunteers with two local arts festivals.



Jackie Lowthian

Jackie Lowthian is Clinks Women's Network Coordinator. Jackie has an in-depth knowledge of the criminal justice system with particular expertise in relation to vulnerable women. She has extensive experience of voluntary sector work to address the complex, multiple needs of justice-involved women dating back to 1989 when she managed a Nacro service in London, the Women Prisoners' Resource Centre, going on from there to develop and run other services for women nationally.



Asimina Vergou

Dr. Asimina Vergou is the Head of Learning and Impact at the Co-op Foundation, overseeing research, impact measurement and learning to strengthen grant-making. She is co-convenor of the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) Criminal Justice Funders Group, with experience commissioning criminal justice research and evaluation, shaping funding strategy, and setting up employability programmes for justice-experienced young people. She holds a PhD in education research and is committed to improving practice through evidence and co-production, including designing funding programmes and evaluation approaches with lived experience.



Gemma Birkett

Gemma is a Reader in Criminal Justice at City St. George's, University of London, and Co-Director of the Centre for Justice Reform (CJR). An expert in women's penal policy, she has published widely on sentencing, community punishment, problem-solving courts, and the impact of remand on women. Through the CJR, she is engaged in Parliamentary consultancy and was Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Justice Committee during its 2023 inquiry on community sentences, which highlighted the benefits of holistic support models such as women's centres. She now serves as Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Justice Committee for its inquiry on rehabilitation and resettlement. Gemma chairs the Criminal Justice Alliance, and is a trustee at Anawim and Elizabeth Fry Approved Premises.



Jake Ferguson

Jake is co-CEO and founder of Black Men 4 Change (BM4C), established in 2019 to tackle racial inequality and improve outcomes for Black communities through systems leadership, advocacy and practical support. With over 25 years' experience in the voluntary sector, he is a trusted leader on systemic racism and institutional injustice, having raised more than £45m to support Black and Global Majority communities. Formerly CEO of Hackney CVS, Jake grew it into London's largest borough-based infrastructure organisation and has played a founding role in initiatives including the London Violence Reduction Unit, the Alliance for Police Accountability, the Baobab Foundation and the Black Equity Organisation.



Alison Goddard

Alison has been Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Action Trust, a charity working with people directly and indirectly affected by the criminal justice system in Lincolnshire and surrounding counties, since 2001. Under her leadership, LAT has grown from a team of 3 to over 80 staff, now working at every stage from point of arrest, in prison and through the gate into the community. Alison has a particular interest in the needs of women and girls, and in empowering individuals to achieve their full potential.



Viv Ahmun

Viv Akhun Ahmun is a qualified and seasoned social policy veteran, corporate governance, and leadership advisor, who served as a strategic advisor to the UK Home Office for 4 years, and the first two London Mayors, Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson for two years respectively. During which time he lead on a cross government initiative to develop and embed cross departmental thinking and partnership working around the reduction of violence experienced by the most marginalised communities. It included the Cabinet Office, Home Office, Education Department, City Hall, the Metropolitan Police, the NHS, Social Services, and the G7 group of Housing Associations as they were then known.



In 2021, he was honoured by the African Achievers Awards at Kensington Palace for his contributions to enterprise, supporting Africa-based start-ups and popularizing tech-driven business solutions in East Africa. Together with Jake Ferguson and others, he co-founded the Baobab Foundation, a multimillion-pound philanthropy brand that raised an £8 million endowment, allocating £3 million annually to Black led by and for micro-organisations in the UK.



Join Clinks: be heard, informed, and supported

Are you a voluntary organisation supporting people in the criminal justice system?

Join our network of over 500 members. Clinks membership offers you:

- A voice to influence change
- Practical assistance to be effective and resilient
- Support from a community of like-minded professionals.
- Membership starts at just £80 per year and is free for small and specialist organisations.

www.clinks.org/membership

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