**{YOUR FULL NAME}**

**{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}**

**{YOUR POSTCODE}**

**{EMAIL ADDRESS}**

**{DATE}**

Dear **{MP NAME}**,

My name is **{YOUR NAME}** and I am a constituent of **{YOUR CONSTITUENCY/AREA WHERE YOU LIVE}**. I am writing to you because I would like to see changes made to the Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (known as the IPP sentence); a type of life sentence given to 8,711 people between 2005 and 2013 for a wide range of major and minor crimes, and abolished by the Government in 2012. I have enclosed further information about the sentence, in case you are not already aware of it.

**I would like you to take forward my concerns by signing EDM 591**, tabled here: https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60301/imprisonment-for-public-protection-sentences-justice-committee-report

As a member of the public, I am concerned that thousands of people are still serving an abolished sentence in prison, and I do not think such a sentence has any place in our justice system. As you may already be aware, the IPP sentence was abolished because it was agreed to be unjust and ineffective. Thousands of people were given a life sentence for crimes that would never attract a life sentence today, and some escaped a life sentence that they would otherwise have received. The sentence was based on the premise that we can accurately predict a person’s risk of committing future crime; something that is complex, difficult, and flawed. It is a stain on the reputation of our justice system that thousands of people are still subject to an abolished sentence, and have served years longer than the time it was agreed they deserved as punishment. It is also reprehensible that their families and children continue to suffer the consequences. **{IF YOU WANT TO, ADD YOUR EXTRA THOUGHTS ON THE SENTENCE HERE, AND EDIT THE ABOVE TO REFLECT YOUR VIEWS}**

I would like you to support the changes to the IPP sentence being proposed by UNGRIPP ([www.ungripp.com](http://www.ungripp.com)), who campaign for meaningful change to the IPP sentence. These are:

* **Proportional resentencing of everybody serving an IPP sentence.** This would restore justice.
* **Reform the license conditions of the IPP sentence**, to give people a fair chance of staying out of prison.
* **A comprehensive package of support for everyone affected by the IPP sentence**, which has the twin principles of reducing reoffending *and* repairing the damage caused by serving an unjust, ineffective and legally abolished sentence. It should include support for families affected.

These changes have now also been put forward by the Justice Select Committee Report on the IPP sentence. The report gives a damning indictment of a regime of indefinite detention that has caused widely documented harm, and departed from public notions of justice, fairness and proportionality.

The Committee stated that: IPP sentences are “irredeemably flawed” and call for a comprehensive re-sentencing programme.

The Committee concluded that even though there are ways to improve how the IPP sentence works, there is no way to truly fix it, and it is “irredeemably flawed”. Their main recommendation is a resentencing exercise. That means that everybody serving IPP would be individually resentenced by a judge, to a sentence available under current sentencing law, following the principle of balancing public protection with justice, judicial independence, and the appointment of an independent panel to implement the exercise.

Resentencing was the Committee’s main recommendation, but it also made 21 other recommendations, which you can read here:

https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/102/justice-committee/news/173280/justice-ipp-sentences-report-published-22-23/

I would like you to advocate for this legislative change. I would like you to particularly consider supporting changes that help with the plight of the following groups, who have arguably received the greatest injustice from the sentence:

* The 231 people who received an IPP sentence with a tariff of less than two years, and are still in prison (81% of whom have served 12 years or more in prison, as of 30 June 2022).
* The 326 people who received an IPP sentence as children.
* The 249 women who received an IPP sentence.
* The 70 people who received an IPP sentence for something other than a violent/sexual offence.
* People who received an IPP sentence, and were released from prison, but recalled for minor license breaches, or because the state could not manage their risk effectively (e.g. it could not provide suitable accommodation).

I hope to hear back from you soon**,** to hearthe ways you intend to address this on my behalf. If you’re unable to address this personally, I would like to request that you escalate my letter to the relevant Minister or department.  Please do keep me informed of any progress made.  I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**{YOUR NAME}**