

# justice alliance



## Open Letter to Nick Clegg

# Justice deserves Lib Dems stay changes to legal aid

Dear Mr Clegg,

It is a welcome development that the recent Liberal Democrat conference confirmed unanimously the policy that the changes to legal aid should be stayed. The conference vote recognises that in all aspects these proposals have serious implications for access to justice and fair trial rights. Moreover, prisoners will be denied the means by which to ensure fair treatment; poor and unfair decisions of the state will go unchallenged as never before; asylum seekers and immigrants, such as those in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, will have no remedy for abuse; and quality criminal representation will be diminished further given the heavily reduced funding the consultation proposes.

We call on you to ensure the changes to legal aid, both those that are still in the form of proposals and those that Chris Grayling has decided will be implemented, which now have no government mandate, are stayed.



Frances Crook, Director, Howard League for Penal Reform  
Shami Chakrabarti, Director, Liberty  
Andrea Coomber, Director, JUSTICE  
Amnesty International  
Akhtar Ahmad, President, London Criminal Courts Solicitors Association  
Matt Foot, Co-Founder, Justice Alliance  
Carol Storer, Director, Legal Aid Practitioners Group  
Nigel Lithman QC, Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association  
UNITE  
MIND  
Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union  
The Refugee Council  
Ian Lawrence, General Secretary, NAPO  
Glena Maney, National Secretary, The National Liberal Party  
The Children's Society  
Refugee Children's Consortium  
Helen Bamber, Director, Helen Bamber Foundation  
Clare Algar, Executive Director, Reprieve  
Louise Christian, Haldane Society  
Law Centres Network  
Bill Waddington, Criminal Law Solicitors Association  
Public Law Project  
Suzanne Fletcher, Chair, Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary  
Professor Carolyn Hamilton, Director, Coram Children's Legal Centre  
Steven Bird, Chairperson, Criminal Appeal Lawyers Association  
Andrew Sperling, Chairperson, Association of Prison Lawyers  
Deborah Coles, Co-Director INQUEST  
Lubia Begum-Rob, Prisoners' Advice Service  
Roy Mincoff, Legal Officer, NUJ  
Shauneen Lambe, Executive Director, Just for Kids  
Tony Kearns, SDGS, CWU  
Katie Brown, Co-Chair Young Legal Aid Lawyers  
Adrian Berry, Chair ILPA  
Karen Mitchell, Legal Officer, RMT  
Jon Robbins, Editor The Justice Gap  
LAG  
Wayne Myslik, Chief Executive of Asylum Aid  
Detention Forum  
DPAC  
JustRights  
Kent Refugee Help  
Lochlinn Parker, Chairperson, NETPOL Lawyers Group  
Susan Matthews, National Secretary, Defend the Right to Protest  
Tamils Against Genocide  
Martha Jean Baker, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Canterbury and Whitstable Stop The Cuts Group  
Susan Bryant, Director, Rights Watch  
BARAC UK

Estelle du Boulay, Director, Newham Monitoring Project  
Habib Rahman, Chief Executive, JCWI  
Hackney Community Law Centre  
Detention Action  
Southall Black Sisters  
Legal Defence Monitoring Group  
Sian Evans, Women Against Rape  
Celia Clarke, Director, Bail for Immigration Detainees  
Cristel Amiss, Black Women's Rape Action Project  
Val Swain, Netpol Campaign  
Ali McGinley, Director, Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees  
Anne Gray, Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC)  
Peace in Kurdistan Campaign  
Islington Law Centre  
Unite branch (LE 785 Legal and Advice Workers)  
Debaleena Dasgupta and Shamik Dutta, co-chairs of the Police Action Lawyers Group  
Justice for Women  
Louise Shorter, insidejustice, Miscarriage of Justice Unit  
Save Justice  
Medical Justice  
Yarl's Wood Befrienders  
Refugee Youth  
Workplace Disability Adjustments  
Advocates Alley  
Niki Adams, Legal Action for Women  
All African Women's Group  
Don Flynn, Director, Migrants' Rights Network  
Gill Baden, Bail Observation Project  
Puck de Raadt, Churches Refugee Network  
John McArdle, Black Triangle Anti-Defamation Campaign in Defence of Disability Rights 'Black Triangle Campaign'  
Weyman Bennett, Co-Chair, Unite Against Fascism  
Marlborough Cultural Therapy Centre  
Shauna Leven, Director, Rene Cassin  
Women for Refugee Women  
End Child Detention Now  
Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group  
UNITED SIKHS  
Nigel Caleb, Director, Detention Advice Service  
David Price, Chair, South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group  
Bill MacKeith, Campaign to Close Campsfield  
Penny Bennett, Community Link Manager  
Dave Stamp, Project Manager, ASIRT  
Kate Roberts, Community Advocate, Kalayaan  
Dr Rebekah Delsol, Stopwatch  
Stop and Search Legal Project  
Sebastian Gardiner, Chair, SLL  
Matt Brindley, The Traveller Movement  
Fair Trials International

Gwyn Morgan, Prisoners' Penfriends  
Farid Littleproud, Director of Operations, Media Diversity Institute  
British Tamils Forum  
Southwark Law Centre  
Manjeet Kaur, Chair, RAPAR (Manchester based Human Rights organisation working with refugees and people seeking asylum)  
Emma Scott, Director, Rights of Women  
Arvinda Gohil, Chief Executive, Emmaus UK  
British Institute of Human Rights  
JUST West Yorkshire  
Keith Best, Chief Executive, Freedom from Torture  
Deborah Jack, Chief Executive, NAT (National AIDS Trust)  
Anti-Trafficking Legal Project  
Saher Nada Osman, Camden Law Centre  
Sheila Melzak, Director, Boabab Centre for Young Survivors in Exile  
Society of Asian Lawyers  
Tom Griffiths, Co-ordinator, WCA Action Group  
Jean Betteridge, Chair, Access to Advice  
Kate Mulley, Head of Policy and Research, Action for Children  
Paul McLaughlin and Cathy Molloy, Co-Project Managers, Miscarriages of Justice Organisation  
The Crucible Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Roehampton  
ECPAT UK  
ASSIST Sheffield  
Dave Garrett, Chief Executive, Refugee Action  
Northern Save Justice Coalition  
Andrew Radford, Managing Director of Coram Voice  
ECBA  
Greater Manchester Welfare Rights Advisers Group  
Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit  
Mary Ward Legal Centre  
Jewish Council for Racial Equality  
Jeneration  
RSY-Netzer  
National Association for Youth Justice  
Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue  
Jewish Social Change Hub  
LJY-Netzer  
NOAM  
Habonim Dror  
BBYO  
Hanoar Hatzioni  
Junior Lawyers Division, Law Society of England and Wales  
The Poppy Project  
Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release  
Judith Freedman, Convenor, The Consortium of Expert Witnesses to the Family Courts  
Kurdish Community Centre & Halkevi