*Please adapt as needed. You could add more information on what your church or organisation does to support people affected by the criminal justice system.*

**Churches Call on Government to Join Forces in Fixing Britain’s Broken Justice System**

An unprecedented alliance of Christian leaders is calling on the government to work in partnership with churches, communities, and faith-based organisations to tackle a failing criminal justice system.

In a new report titled *Picking up the Pieces*, the coalition outlines how Christian churches, charities, and volunteers have taken on roles once delivered by public services, supporting both victims of crime and those caught up in the justice system. The report acknowledges that the government has inherited a system in crisis and calls on ministers to invest in what works to make communities safer.

Nearly half the population of England and Wales identifies as Christian. Convened by the Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact), *Picking up the Pieces* reflects the shared values of the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Quakers, the Free Churches Group, and others. Together, they urge the government to place victims’ needs at the heart of the criminal justice process, investing in initiatives proven to tackle the root causes of crime - many of which are already being delivered by faith communities.

Among its recommendations, the report shines a spotlight on three powerful but often overlooked opportunities for reform:

1. Supporting the children and families of prisoners

With almost 200,000 children in the UK affected by parental imprisonment every year, the report urges the government to honour its 2024 manifesto pledge to identify and support these often-overlooked young people.

2. Investing in restorative justice

Restorative justice is proven to help victims heal and reduce reoffending, delivering results at a fraction of the cost of prison. The churches call for a national rollout backed by government investment.

3. Empowering faith-based communities

Churches and Christian charities are already delivering transformational change, but need recognition and resources. The report proposes a £10 million small grants scheme, with up to £20,000 available for Christian and other faith-based projects, to harness this underused potential.

The full report is available at pact1.link/putp. You can find out more about Pact’s work at www.prisonadvice.org.uk.