

# Picking up the Pieces

## Communications Pack

### Text for your newsletter

*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](https://pact1.link/putp). You can find out more about Pact's work at [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk).

# Social media content

Download graphics here: [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4g8dgbu93idkbo4y9k08j/ABCGhpwDSFf9IbC\\_xFYAP5c?rlkey=6fa0d5hbruana7d8a3khptouk&st=iks3eoh&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4g8dgbu93idkbo4y9k08j/ABCGhpwDSFf9IbC_xFYAP5c?rlkey=6fa0d5hbruana7d8a3khptouk&st=iks3eoh&dl=0)



## TOP TIPS

- It can be helpful to place links in a thread or comment below the main post, as social media algorithms often penalise content that includes external links.
- For instagram, you can place the link on your link sharing platform (e.g. Linktr.ee) and use 'link in bio' in the post.

## X

A bold new report by [@prisonadvice](#), [@BishGloucester](#), [@catholicEW](#), and other Christian leaders calls on the government to work with faith communities to fix Britain's broken justice system.

#PickingUpThePieces #FaithInAction #CriminalJusticeReform

Read the report: <https://pact1.link/putp>

## Bluesky

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## Facebook

Churches call on government to fix Britain's broken justice system

A bold new report, 'Picking up the Pieces', calls on ministers to work with faith communities who are already on the frontline supporting victims, families, and people with convictions.

Convened by @prisonadvice and backed by Bishop Rachel Treweek @Diocese.of.Gloucester (Bishop to HM Prisons), Bishop Richard Moth @cbcew (Catholic Liaison Bishop to Prisons), Quakers in Criminal Justice, and other Christian leaders, the report calls for:

- Effective support for the children and families of prisoners
- More investment in restorative justice programmes
- A £10 million small grants scheme to harness the potential of Christian and faith-based initiatives

It's time for action. Let's fix the justice system - together.

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## Instagram

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# Write to your MP

You can contact your MP to show your support for the recommendations in the report. A personal message has the most impact - so try to write in your own words. Share your thoughts, experiences, and, if relevant, how your church, group, or organisation is supporting victims or people affected by the justice system. You can use the template below to help you get started.

Dear [MP's Name],

## Re: Support for 'Picking up the Pieces' report

I am writing as one of your constituents to urge you to support the recommendations laid out in the recent report 'Picking up the Pieces', which calls for urgent action to address the growing failures of our criminal 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. It highlights how Christian churches, charities, and volunteers are stepping up where public services have fallen short, supporting victims, walking alongside those in prison and with convictions, and helping to divert young people from crime.

This issue matters deeply to me. [Insert 1-2 sentences of personal story, reflection, or connection - e.g. "I've volunteered with a local Christian charity supporting prison leavers and have seen both the gaps in the system and the power of community-led solutions."]

As your constituent, I ask you to:

- Read the report and consider its recommendations
- Raise this issue in Parliament or with the relevant minister
- Publicly support the call for a justice system that treats people with dignity and addresses the root causes of crime

Thank you for your time and service. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Optional: your phone number]