

Dear Prime Minister

An Urgent Plea From Victims and Survivors: Please Reconsider the Early Release of Serious Offenders Under the Sentencing Act 2026

I am writing to you not only as a survivor, but also as a voice for thousands of victims and survivors who are deeply concerned by provisions within the Sentencing Act 2026 that could result in offenders being released from prison earlier than victims and the public believe is appropriate.

I am joined in writing this letter by women from across the country similarly impacted by the current plans.

I urge you to pause and reconsider these measures before they cause lasting damage to public confidence in our justice system and undermine the safety of victims, survivors and communities across the country.

I was just 14 years old when I was groomed, raped and sexually assaulted. The impact of those crimes did not end when the abuse stopped. It affected my mental health, my relationships, my family and my sense of safety. Like so many survivors, I have spent years rebuilding my life.

For years, survivors have fought to report abuse despite fear, shame and stigma. We have relived trauma through investigations, statements and court proceedings because we believed that the justice system would ultimately protect us. That fight demanded extraordinary courage, sacrifice and resilience. We endured it because we trusted that the law would stand with us.

The prospect of serious offenders being released earlier than expected risks undermining that trust.

For many survivors, this does not feel like a technical adjustment to sentencing policy. It feels as though the seriousness of the crimes committed against us is being diminished and that our safety concerns are being treated as secondary to wider system pressures.

People who have already endured the devastation of rape, sexual abuse and domestic abuse should not have to repeatedly explain why these offences rank among the most serious crimes that can be committed. Nor should we be forced to campaign simply to preserve protections that help us feel safe.

The emotional impact of these changes is profound. They reopen old wounds, undermine faith in the justice system and leave survivors feeling that their safety is negotiable.

This is not only a matter of justice for victims; it is a matter of public safety.

When survivors lose confidence in the system, reporting can decline, cooperation with investigations can weaken and trust in institutions can be eroded. Strong, survivor-centred laws encourage victims to come forward, support accountability and help prevent further harm. They are not only humane; they are practical safeguards that protect communities and reduce the risk of repeat offending.

That is why I am presenting a petition to Parliament signed by over 100,000 people who share these concerns.

These signatures represent survivors, families and members of the public who believe that offenders convicted of rape, child sexual abuse, serious sexual offences, coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking and domestic abuse-related offences—crimes that leave lifelong impacts on victims and survivors—should serve sentences that properly reflect the gravity of their crimes and that victims' safety must remain paramount.

The strength of support behind this campaign demonstrates the depth of public concern. Thousands of people across the country believe that these changes risk weakening protections for victims and compromising public safety.

Victims and survivors should not be asked to accept increased risk or diminished confidence in the justice system because there are insufficient prison places. The solution to prison overcrowding should not be the earlier release of offenders convicted of rape, child sexual abuse, serious sexual offences, coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking and domestic abuse-related offences.

Governments inherit problems, but they are elected to solve them. Serious offenders should not be released earlier simply because the system is under strain.

Public safety must remain the overriding priority.

I therefore urge you to oppose any provisions within the Sentencing Act 2026 that would allow for the earlier release of offenders convicted of rape, child sexual abuse, serious sexual offences, coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking and domestic abuse-related offences, and to call for a thorough, survivor-centred review of their impact on victims, public safety and confidence in the justice system.

Over 100,000 people have already spoken through this petition. Parliament now has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to listen.

Survivors have already carried the burden of reporting, reliving and rebuilding after devastating crimes. We should not be asked to carry the burden of fighting for our safety all over again.

The law should meet us there—steadfastly, consistently and without compromise.

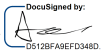
I urge you to stand with survivors, uphold the integrity of our justice system and place the safety of victims and the wider public at the heart of every decision made regarding sentencing and release.

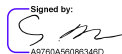
Please do not pass legislation that asks survivors to carry the burden twice.

We will not stop fighting for this.

Yours faithfully,

Jade Belgrove and following survivors:  Jade Belgrove

Alannah Looby 

Serena Cutler 

Tamisha Archibald 

Sarah Wilson 

Jessica - CSE Survivor

Erin- CSE Survivor

Carly - CSE survivor

Isabelle - loving mother of a deceased victim of CSE

Marie Stone

Jessica Corbin

Charlotte McQueen

Constance Anderson

The Survivors Trust

The Maggie Oliver Foundation

Switalskis Solicitors

Paula Barker - MP for Liverpool Wavertree