

WHISTLEBLOWERSUK JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

We are putting out our newsletter in celebration of World Whistleblower Day and the many unsung heroes around the world who have contributed to making life safer for everyone.

In our last newsletter we proclaimed that 2022 would be the year of the whistleblower. We are right because on the 26th April I joined over 80 other whistleblowers, colleagues and supporters in the gallery of the House of Commons to watch Mary Robinson MP, chair of the APPG for whistleblowing introduce [the Whistleblowing Bill](#) produced by WhistleblowersUK in Parliament. The Bill was supported by 10 MP's including John Penrose, the then anti-corruption champion, Dame Maria Miller, Kevin Hollinrake and Dame Andrea Ledson. The bill was passed for a second reading and has become a hot topic around the world.

After the reading Mary, joined by many of her colleagues in the Commons gave a short presentation hosted by Lord Pearson in the Lords, assisted by WhistleblowersUK and our officers and members including Iain Mitchell QC, Anthony Stansfeld, Jayne Senior MBE and Dr Peter Duffy where she set out the next steps and gave a rallying cry to the audience to make [contact](#) with their MP's and ask them to support the Bill.

At the recent APPG AGM we were reappointed as secretariat where I gratefully accepted the vote of thanks on behalf of the entire team. Most important is the 100% commitment by the members to make the Whistleblowing Bill its priority. You can hear more in [the APPG Newsletter](#).

We cannot ignore that while the campaign goes on barely a day goes by when whistleblowing is not making headlines. 'Partygate' has dominated the press for several months and is likely to dominate debates. We have written to the Prime Minister asking him to support the Whistleblowing Bill and an Office of the Whistleblower. Our proposals will ensure that no one will ever be unsure about what to do or where to turn for advice and support again.

This issue:

The Whistleblowing
Bill update

APPG for
Whistleblowing AGM

WhistleblowersUK
activity & whistleblower
prevalence

Can't Buy My Silence
campaign

Thank you and
a call for support

On the front line our team has been coordinating aid and supporting whistleblowers on the Polish Boarder who continue to expose trafficking of people, arms and money laundering. The number of whistleblowers from the health sector contacting us is again rising and we were pleased to meet with the National Guardian Dr Chidgley-Clarke to look at how we ensure that the guardian system protects those who speak up more effectively.

In the wake of Covid, reports of furlough fraud and the rocketing levels of crime arising from dirty money we have joined forces with Dame Margaret Hodge's team to help draft the Economic Crime Manifesto after our proposals were rejected by the Government for the introduction of a whistleblowing office in the Economic Crime Bill. We will continue to press both government and treasury and will collaborate with all relevant bodies to ensure that whistleblowers are able to share information safely.

NDA's remain alive and well despite reassurances to the contrary and we continue to collaborate with our friends at "Can't Buy My Silence". Thank you to Dame Maria Miller MP who recently updated our associate members on the progress of the Bill to end the abuse of NDA's.

On a day to day basis we support whistleblowers through the legal minefield presented by the technical complexities of the Public Interest Disclosure Act. Our policy has focussed on developing the Whistleblowing Bills now working their way through Parliament. We used the experience of representing whistleblowers to develop legislation that makes whistleblowing work for everyone.

I want to use this opportunity to recognise the talent and thank everyone for the considerable time that my team has given drafting these Bills. The Office of the Whistleblower will transform the rights of all Whistleblowers, provide for proper compensation, outlaw NDAs and put the spotlight firmly on wrongdoers, saving the UK economy substantial sums of money.

It is a great pleasure as CEO to be able to pay tribute to the amazing team of professionals that make up WhistleblowersUK and end this newsletter on a high by applauding them and all our supporters for the success that is Bills in both the Commons and the Lords where on 13th June Baroness Kramer introduced the "Protection of Whistleblowing Bill"! We are celebrating on World Whistleblowing Day the whistleblowers, parliamentarians and the team who have made this possible.



Georgina Halford-Hall

BEFORE YOU GO - WhistleblowersUK is the only whistleblowing organisation that has developed legislation that IS WORKING ITS WAY through Parliament. But our work is not over and we need your help to continue to raise funds to ensure that we can keep up with the demands of leading the campaign to make whistleblowing work.

<https://www.wbuk.org/donate>

It is a real honour to be the Chair of the Legal Panel and part of the wider Whistleblowers UK team providing help, information and support to whistleblowers and legislators.

- IAIN MITCHELL QC