

## The Latest News

# The News From 'Inside Time'



FEATURED NEWS

By Alexander Baron



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*Inside Time* is a monthly newspaper for prisoners in the UK; it has been published for around 15 years and has a circulation of 60,000. The latest issue contains the usual eclectic mix of stories, non-stories and observations. The front page story contains a [whine](#) from the Prison Reform Trust that too many women, especially too many mothers, are given short sentences for non-violent crimes, often a first offence.

The response to that should be so what? There are many non-violent crimes that warrant prison sentences: serious fraud, serial burglary, even arson can be classed as a non-violent crime. Arson can also carry a life sentence.

Here's another statistic, one that is totally meaningless: 53% of women in prison report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child, compared with 27% of men.

What does abuse mean? Emotional abuse can be telling a child she has big ears or making fun of her prowess. Physical abuse? Heck, who hasn't been punched, slapped or shoved in the back by the age of 16? Come on. Let's not mention sexual abuse, this is a major cop out for any woman and indeed many men who end up behind bars. Recently, a defence lawyer who went before the Supreme Court of Florida, **argued that** his client should not be executed for a double murder because he'd had a terrible upbringing, that he had long term substance abuse issues, and that he had been sexually abused both as a child and later in prison.

Women in prison are more than three times as likely to be identified as suffering from depression as women in the general population, we are told. Well yes, it can be depressing or just plain boring to sit in a locked cell all day, but if you can't do the time, don't do the crime.

Fewer than one in ten women leave custody with a job to go to, most face mounting debt and struggle to find safe housing. Now this is a real problem, in fact some would argue this is *the* real problem. While a woman (or man) is locked up, okay, there is boredom, but with three reasonable meals a day and a roof over her head, she doesn't have too many problems. Don't be misled either, women get all sorts of special privileges in prison that men don't, not that most men want to wear make-up.

When however you turn a potentially vulnerable woman out onto the street with perhaps nothing more than a prison discharge grant, the clothes on her back, her few meagre possessions in a plastic bag, and a travel warrant to a hostel where she may have to share a room or a dormitory with prostitutes, alcoholics, and ne'er do wells, that is asking for trouble. And if such a person cannot earn a living because no employer in his right mind would give her a job...this is a downward spiral that needs to be addressed.

On page 42 is an article by a solicitor about the alleged cover-ups of child sexual abuse by Cyril Smith, Jimmy Savile, **Greville Janner** and Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all that are supposed to have happened in the 1990s, and of course for a long time before that. While child sexual abuse is real, the scale of it postulated here and elsewhere is too silly for words. Even so there are a number of advertisements in this paper by lawyers touting for child abuse work, which is unquestionably one reason there are so many false allegations. After all, a bit of compo for being groomed by a teacher thirty years ago sounds a lot better than a mere prison discharge grant.

This paper is not all rubbish though, for example, on page 11 is a report on the Yarl's Wood centre which has been the subject of a **systematic disinformation campaign** by political activists for several years. According to official figures, 900 women were released during a six month period, and 443 were returned to their home countries, very different from what we are led to believe.

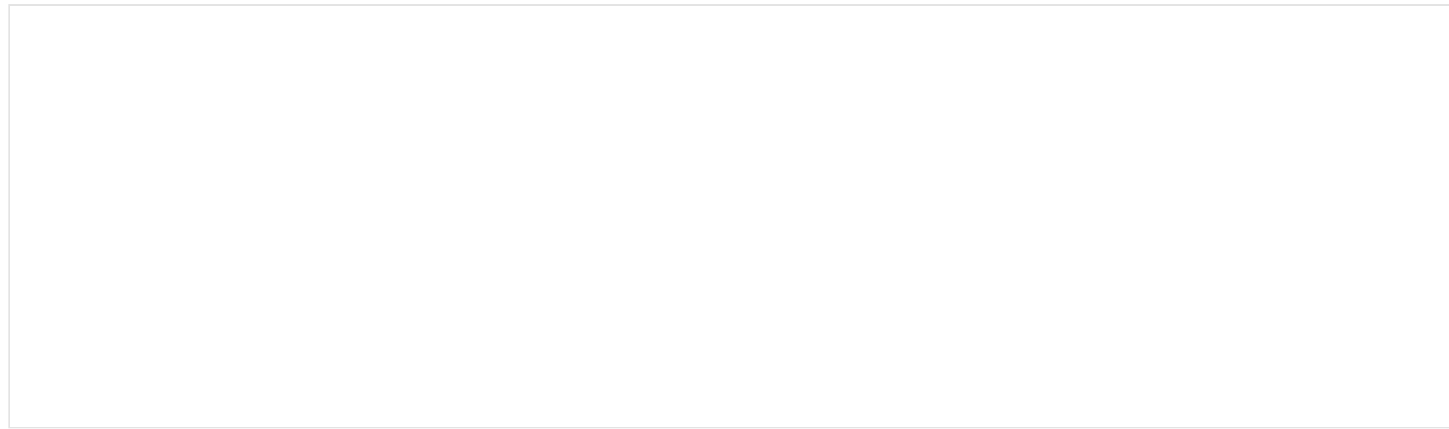
Finally, returning to the subject of sexual abuse – real and imagined – is a report on the ludicrous allegations against a former Prime Minister. Ted Heath died a decade ago, but recently his name has been dragged through the mud by a little fantasist who has been leading gullible detectives up the garden path. Herein is a different perspective from an unidentified individual who worked with Heath over a quarter of a century, presumably a police officer:

“When you visited him you were greeted by a policeman carrying a gun. When you walked in his garden you were greeted by another policeman with a gun. When you went to a restaurant the man with the gun came too.”

This begs the question, at what point did Heath sneak off to bugger and murder boys with Leon Brittan and **Harvey Proctor**, for if that were the case, his Special Branch escort would have to have been in on the plot too? Best not put ideas in the tiny minds of those running *Operation Midland!*

*This opinion article was written by an independent writer. The opinions and views expressed herein are those of the author and are not necessarily intended to reflect those of [TheLatestNews.com](#)*

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