



Not
Beyond
Redemption



**IMPACT
REPORT
2023**

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WELCOME

As we reflect on the three years since our inception in November 2020, we pause to acknowledge our growth and express gratitude to those who have stood by us and supported us throughout our journey.

Since November 2020, Not Beyond Redemption has been a vital force in supporting mothers in prison who have either lost contact with their children or are facing the possibility of this during their sentence. Statistics reveal that 60% of women in prison are mothers of children under 18, with 34% being lone parents. Estimates of the number of children affected by maternal imprisonment exceed 17,000.

Establishing a charity amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic was no small feat. However, the vital importance of our service propelled us forward. Over the past three years, we have supported 213 women, offering family law advice and representation through their legal proceedings. Time and again, we encounter women who have lost hope of reuniting with their children and have nowhere else to turn. With Not Beyond Redemption's support, their lives are transformed.

In 2023, we expanded our team, welcoming an additional Supervising Lawyer, solicitor, and paralegal. The growth of our team enabled us to open legal clinics in two more prisons,

as well as take referrals from those where we do not yet operate.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers from our partner law firms and the barristers who have generously given their time to support our mothers. Their dedication is a lifeline and a turning point in the lives of these women. Their selfless commitment to our cause is truly remarkable, and we are privileged to consider them part of the NBR family.

As we look ahead to the next two years, we eagerly anticipate our expansion into the final five prisons. Our achievements are made possible by the generosity of our funders and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported us.

It is a tough environment for charities, and we will need the support of our supporters more than ever in the years ahead. Your support is essential in enabling us to continue delivering high-quality services that transform women's lives, offering them hope and the opportunity to reunite with their children.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Camilla Baldwin- Founder
Bruce Mauleverer- Chair

WHO WE ARE

Not Beyond Redemption (NBR) provides mothers in prison with free Family Law advice and representation to help them re-establish and maintain contact with their children during their sentence and on release. The charity was set up in 2020 by leading Family Lawyer, Camilla Baldwin, with the fundamental belief that legal assistance should be accessible to those who need it most, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Our work aims to improve the lives of mothers in prison by:

- **Access to Family Law Advice:** Ensuring mothers have access to free Family Law advice and representation to improve contact with their children whilst in prison.
- **Understanding Parental Rights:** Ensuring mothers in prison understand their parental rights.
- **Inspiring Hope and Motivation:** Empowering mothers with hope and motivation to turn their lives around by fostering meaningful connections with their children.

Not Beyond Redemption became a registered charity

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Send

Employed our first Supervising Lawyer

Held the first legal clinic at HMP East Sutton Park

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Downview

2020

2021

2021

2021

2022

HOW WE DO IT

NBR runs legal clinics within women's prisons in England, ensuring that every incarcerated mother has access to free Private Family Law advice. Currently, NBR runs monthly clinics in seven women's prisons and accepts referrals from throughout the women's prison estate. Our goal is to expand our services to cover all twelve women's prisons in England by the end of 2025.

Our work is made possible through the invaluable support of our partner law firms and barristers. Volunteer lawyers take on client cases, guided by NBR's legal team, and specialist Family Law barristers represent our clients in courts nationwide on a Pro Bono basis, providing the highest level of legal support to our clients.

We extend our support to the families of these women, assisting them even after their release from prison. We walk side by side with our clients accompanying them through the legal process and beyond, aiming to ensure that no mother loses contact with her children due to her imprisonment.

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Peterborough

2022

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Eastwood Park

2022

Employed our second Supervising Lawyer

2023

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Styal

2023

Opened a legal clinic at HMP Bronzefield

2023

OUR SUPPORT



Helping mothers understand their parental rights and navigate the legal system.



Signposting women who are eligible for Legal Aid, and referring clients to other agencies for holistic support.



Facilitating out-of-court agreements for contact.



Representing clients in court with experienced barristers.



Drafting legal correspondence, such as letters and court applications.



Providing support throughout a women's journey.



Corresponding with members of their families and relevant professionals.

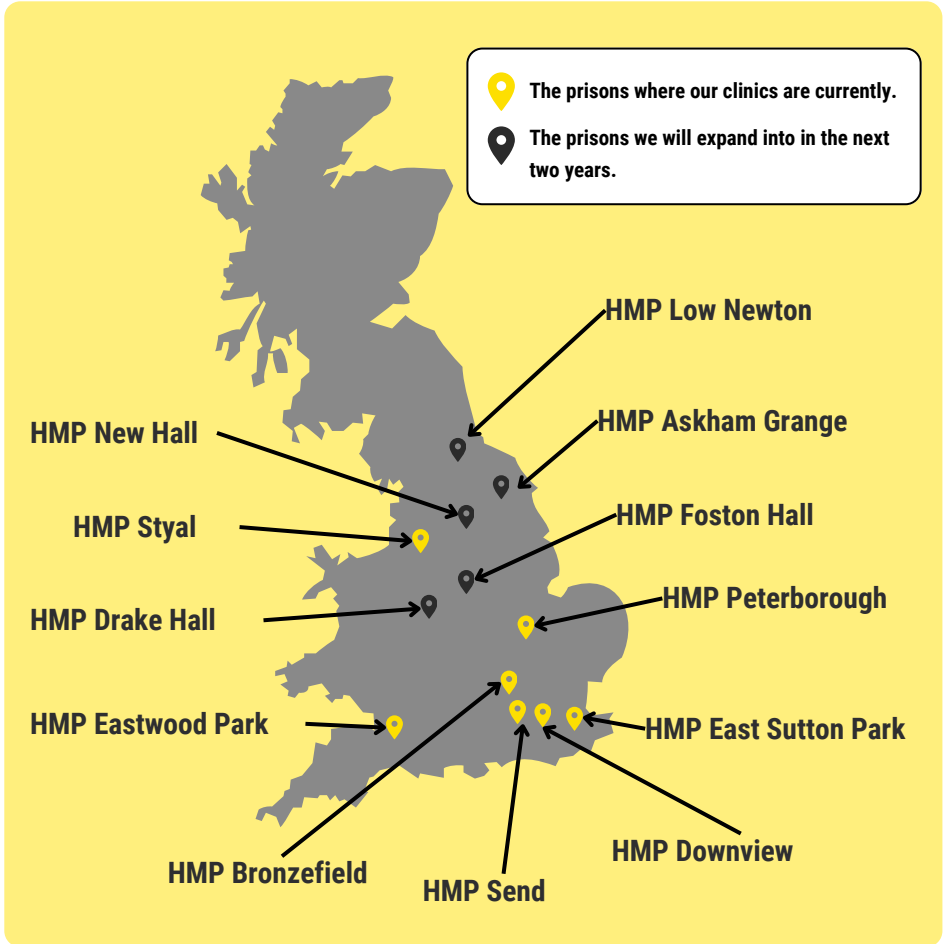


Providing post-release assistance.

In Court you's were Amazing
you fought e fought for me e
with me to get Keep my P.R.
and thats what we got along
with winning the Contact arrangement
order with days + times for me
to See my son.

I am ever So Grateful.
And thank you all.

OUR REACH



Our goal is to open a clinic in every women's prison in England by the end of 2025.

THE NEED FOR OUR WORK

Tackling the Legal Aid Gap

Since the implementation of Legal Aid cuts in 2013, access to Legal Aid for Private Family Law cases is severely restricted. This limitation has left a significant number of mothers in prison without the means to access free Family Law advice regarding contact with their children. Navigating the complexities of the Family Courts becomes an impossible challenge, resulting in many mothers losing contact with their children during their sentences. To compound this difficulty, a large number of mothers in prison lack awareness of their parental rights, further exacerbating their struggle to maintain contact with their children during imprisonment.

NBR is the sole charity dedicated to mitigating the impact of Legal Aid cuts for women in prison.

“I can't thank NBR enough for the help and support they have given to me. I was feeling completely alone and desperate until I was introduced to them. Now I am hopeful for the future, thank you NBR!”

Client of NBR

The Facts

- Over half of the female prison population reports experiencing domestic violence, with **53%** enduring emotional, physical, or sexual abuse during childhood.
- **76%** of women in prison report having a mental health illness.
- **46%** of women in prison have previously attempted suicide.
- In 2022, nearly **5,000** women were sent to prison in England and Wales on remand or to serve a sentence.
- Despite the Criminal Justice Act 2003 recommending custodial sentences for only the most serious offences, over **72%** of incarcerated women are convicted for non-violent crimes like shoplifting, fraud, or breach of the peace.
- **58%** of prison sentences given to women in 2022 were for less than six months.

The Crucial Role of Family Support in Imprisoned Mothers' Rehabilitation

Maintaining contact between a mother and her child while she is in prison is crucial for the well-being of both. This connection provides emotional stability and instils hope and motivation, empowering incarcerated mothers to make positive changes in their lives. This can include engaging in educational, vocational, and therapeutic programs to prepare for successful reintegration into society upon their release. By doing so, it aids rehabilitation and reduces the likelihood of reoffending.

Numerous studies have shown that family support plays a significant role in prisoner rehabilitation. Female prisoners who receive family visits have a 35% lower likelihood of reoffending. At NBR, we are committed to enhancing contact between imprisoned mothers and their children. This commitment is not only a moral conviction but also a practical strategy aimed at reducing recidivism rates and creating a safer community for everyone.

The Wider Impact

The consequences of maternal imprisonment on children are significant. Children with mothers in prison often face difficulties like relocation, foster care, or uncertain living conditions. This instability, combined with the emotional pain of separation and the stigma attached to having a mother in jail, can lead to negative outcomes. These may include exclusion from school, increased vulnerability, mental health problems, and a greater likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour, which can ultimately lead to a cycle of imprisonment. It is crucial to maintain the bond between parent and child, especially with mothers, as it may play a key role in a child's ability to overcome these challenges.

60%

of female prisoners are mothers of children under 18.

34%

of female prisoners are single mothers when they are sentenced.

17,000

children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment each year.

95%

of children whose mothers go to prison have to leave their family home.

45%

of prisoners lose contact with their family while in prison.

2023 IN NUMBERS

We supported women from **every female prison across England.**

We supported **148** women.

We met with **91** new women.

We took on **79%** of the women we met as clients.

We provided **100%** of the women we met with free Family Law advice.

We held **30** legal clinics within prisons.

We went to Court **75** times with our clients.

We conducted **32** video call clinics.

We provided training on Family Law to **230** prison staff and conducted an intensive session for **20** graduate prison officers.

We have over **300** lawyers who have volunteered to support mothers in prison.

OUR IMPACT

68%

of clients experienced improved contact with their children

88%

of clients felt that contact with the NBR team improved the outcome of their case.

100%

of clients felt the NBR team fought for them and acted with their best interests at heart.

71%

of clients reported improvement in their self-worth after engaging with NBR.

100%

of clients would recommend NBR to another prisoner.

100%

of clients felt more hopeful after meeting with NBR.

“Since I first had contact with NBR I have felt so much more important and more involved in the decision making regarding my son. I cannot thank them enough for the hope and happiness I now feel they are just amazing”.

Client of NBR

RACHEL'S STORY

When NBR first met Rachel in July 2022, she had no contact with her son Leo at all. He was living with his paternal grandmother and Rachel's relationship with her was fraught, with the grandmother only allowing Rachel to send two letters a year.

Rachel was extremely worried about Leo when we met her. She was concerned that he was at risk through contact with his father and she wasn't receiving any updates on him through Social Services. She felt helpless.

NBR took on her case and issued an application to the Court for a Child Arrangements Order in November 2022, seeking to establish letterbox contact at least once a month. A positive outcome was secured, with Rachel able to send cards and videos to the Social Worker every fortnight for the paternal grandmother to share with Leo. The grandmother then sends a video of Leo back to the Social Worker for Rachel. If things go well, further contact could be agreed.

Rachel was delighted with this as it surpassed what she thought we could achieve. To date, contact is going well with videos, cards and gifts being sent to Leo, as well as money for uniform and Rachel is enjoying improved relations with the paternal grandmother.

"I am very grateful for all your great hard work that you have put in for my ongoing court hearings. I think it is a brilliant way to help mothers regain contact with their children. All your services have always been 100% polite, honest, and good results. Having a charity with these services to help their parents and children regain contact is so important. It gives people with a little hope for the future, a brighter future. With such kind helpful brilliant staff by Not Beyond Redemption. I am so grateful for your ongoing hard work going in each and every single court hearing. I hope this charity is forever more supported. THANK YOU SO MUCH".

LUCY'S STORY

Lucy found herself involved with drugs and in debt after reporting to the police that she had been abused as a child. She was found with a weapon in her house which she kept as she felt that she needed protection. She was sentenced to 3.5 years for possession of a firearm and a drug-related offence. Prior to Lucy's custodial sentence, the children lived with her. Following Lucy's arrest for these offences and during her custodial sentence, the children lived with their father, Karl, who refused to allow Lucy any contact with them. Attempts were made on Lucy's behalf to reach Karl to re-establish contact with her children. Karl strongly refused this.

Lucy was referred to Not Beyond Redemption by another charity, the Prison Advice Service (PAS). After receiving no response from Karl to our attempts to arrange contact outside of court, NBR initiated court proceedings. Despite initial negative recommendations from the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS), suggesting no contact between Lucy and her children, Lucy and her dedicated legal team worked tirelessly. Their efforts paid off when the court was persuaded to grant Lucy monthly letterbox contact with her children, along with regular updates and photographs, a testament to Lucy's determination and the unwavering support of her legal team.

"I can't begin to put into words how grateful I am for the entire team for giving me a second chance with my baby boy. If it wasn't for you guys, I wouldn't be seeing him again you've fought my corner and supported me incredibly throughout the entire process. I know prison isn't the best place to end up but looking back now I'm so grateful I ended up there because if I didn't, I wouldn't be where I am now. From myself and speaking on behalf of George I am thankful to each and every one of you for reuniting a Mother and a Son. I will never forget what you've done for me.

Thank you, a million times, over you are all angels on earth. I'd also like to add that you've completely changed my life. NBR have given me that second chance I desperately needed and I'll forever be grateful for that."



Not Beyond Redemption



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