



Not  
Beyond  
Redemption

# IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



# WHO WE ARE

Not Beyond Redemption provides free Family Law advice and representation to mothers in prison to help them re-establish and maintain contact with their children. The charity was set up in 2020 by leading family lawyer, Camilla Baldwin, to ensure that family law advice and representation was available not just to those who could afford it, but also to those who need it most.

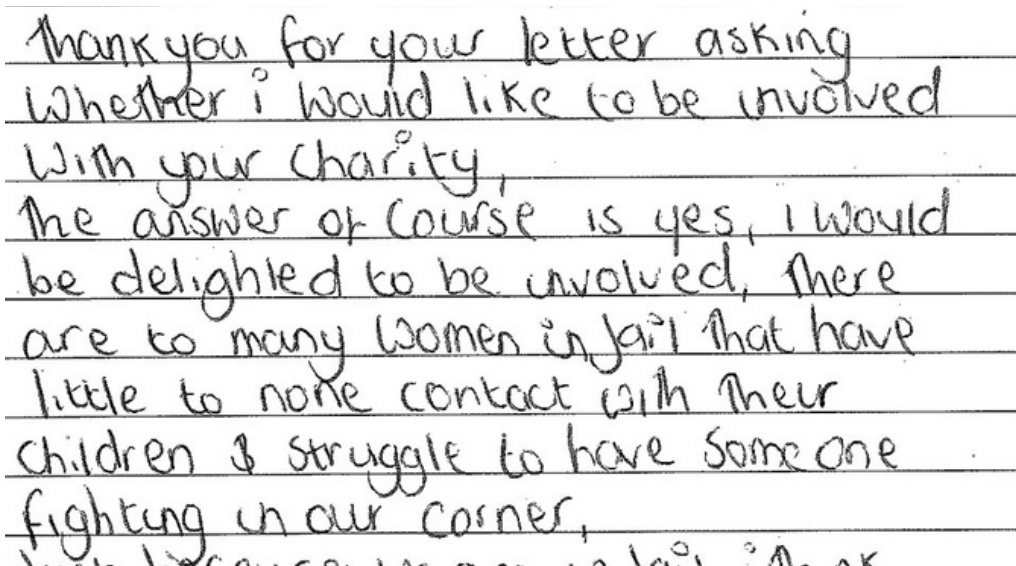
## HOW WE DO IT

We partner with lawyers and law firms across the UK to provide the highest quality legal advice and representation for free to mothers in prison. We run legal clinics in female prisons, and take on referrals through other organisations.

Our work entails a diverse approach that covers not only professional advice on family legal matters, but behind the scenes work liaising with multiple parties, providing avenues of communication, and working with specialists in the fields of emotional and psychological support. We walk side by side with mothers in prison, through the legal process and beyond.

Our scope of work ranges from guiding women through legal matters, ensuring they understand their rights, writing legal letters, issuing proceedings, and representing them in courts across the country.

Support is extended to the families of the women and continues after the mothers have been released from prison, for as long as they need us, and until the child comes of age.



Thank you for your letter asking whether i would like to be involved with your charity, the answer of course is yes, i would be delighted to be involved, there are too many women in jail that have little to none contact with their children & struggle to have someone fighting in our corner,

# WHY DO WE DO IT?

Maternal imprisonment radically affects the lives of the children and yet their needs are not front and centre of law or policy. Women in prison are frequently unaware of their rights and since 2013, Legal Aid is unavailable for most family law cases, meaning these women do not access the justice they need. Often the punishment can outweigh the crime, with many mothers being imprisoned for non-violent crimes. Yet this has a devastating impact on their children and society.



**THE IMPACTS OF MATERNAL IMPRISONMENT ARE WIDE-RANGING AND AFFECT EVERY ASPECT OF CHILDREN'S LIVES INCLUDING:**



In 2021, **4,806** women were sent to prison—either on remand or to serve a sentence.

**1/3** female prisoners are mothers of children under 18.

**1/5** female prisoners are lone parents who face their children being taken away from them following their imprisonment.

**17,700+** children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment each year.

**45%** of prisoners lose contact with their family while in prison.

Prisoners who receive family visits are **39%** less likely to reoffend than those who do not.

**53%** of women in prison reported having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child.

# OUR MISSION

We believe that mothers in prison should continue to play a role in their children's lives and be involved in decisions relating to their welfare where it is in the best interests of the children.

Our goal is to run a legal clinic at every female prison in England by 2025, ensuring all mothers in prison can access free legal support and no mother loses contact with her children due to her sentence.

Maintaining a relationship with family while in prison is crucial to reduce reoffending rates and improving rehabilitation. According to the Ministry of Justice figures, the female reoffending rate is 23% but prisoners who receive family visits are 39% less likely to re-offend than those who do not. A reduction of only 10 per cent in reoffending would not only lead to thousands fewer victims of crime but an estimated economic benefit of £1.8 billion.

It is estimated that 45% of prisoners lose contact with their families whilst in prison. Once this happens, there is often much less incentive to stop the cycle of reoffending. A parent who has a stake in their child's life can endeavour to serve as a positive role model and is motivated to turn their life around. Family contact also has a significant impact on self-harm and mental health whilst in prison.

## CLAUDIA'S STORY

Claudia found herself in spiralling debt and ended up stealing money from her employer. She was sentenced to six years in prison. During her sentence, the children lived with their father, Ben, and Claudia used to speak to her children every night alongside weekly video calls. However, following a breakdown in the relationship between Claudia and Ben, Ben stopped all contact in November 2021.

Claudia met with Not Beyond Redemption, following a referral by another charity (Prison Advice Service), and we made a court application immediately to reinstate contact. Not Beyond Redemption took Ben to court and managed to reinstate her contact. Claudia now sends letters and cards fortnightly, and Ben took the children to see her at Christmas. Another hearing is listed in the coming months, where we will seek further progression of contact to telephone and video contact.

# OUR IMPACT

In 2022, Not Beyond Redemption ran legal clinics in five women's prisons and took on referrals from all female prisons across the country.

Not Beyond Redemption has worked with women from all twelve female prisons in England.

## IN 2022, NOT BEYOND REDEMPTION:

Held  
**29**  
legal clinics

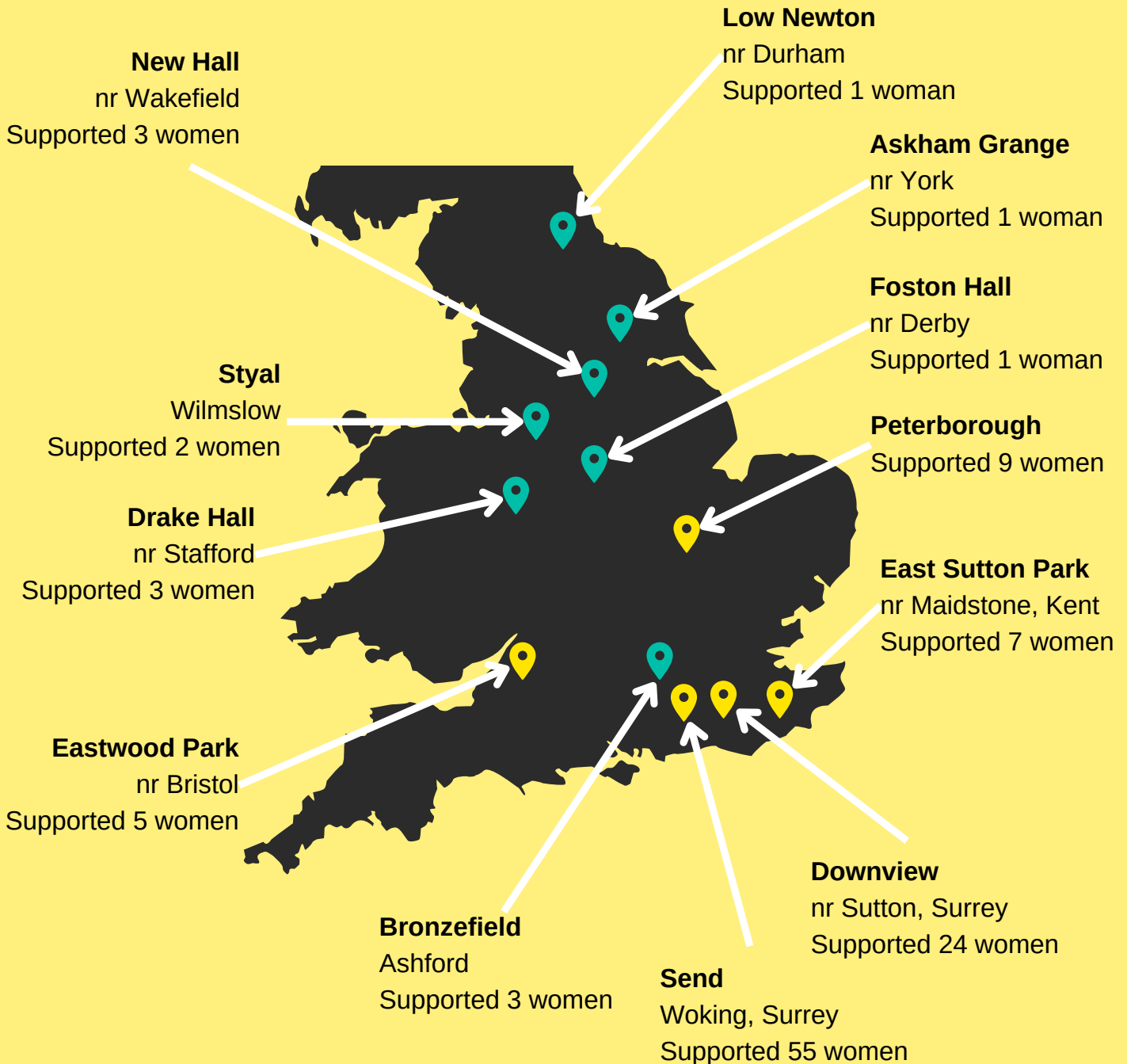
Took on  
**59**  
new cases

Worked with  
**79**  
women

Went to Court  
**27**  
times

Took on  
**14**  
referrals

# WHERE WE WORK



The prisons where our clinics are currently



The prisons we will expand into in the next three years.

**“I feel with this company by my side I’ve got the best chance in seeing my children again, they’ve given me a voice and the power to stand up for myself and I’ve got them behind me supporting me.”**

# 100%

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

# 100%

of clients asked felt involved and that they had a voice in decisions made by the NBR team about their case.

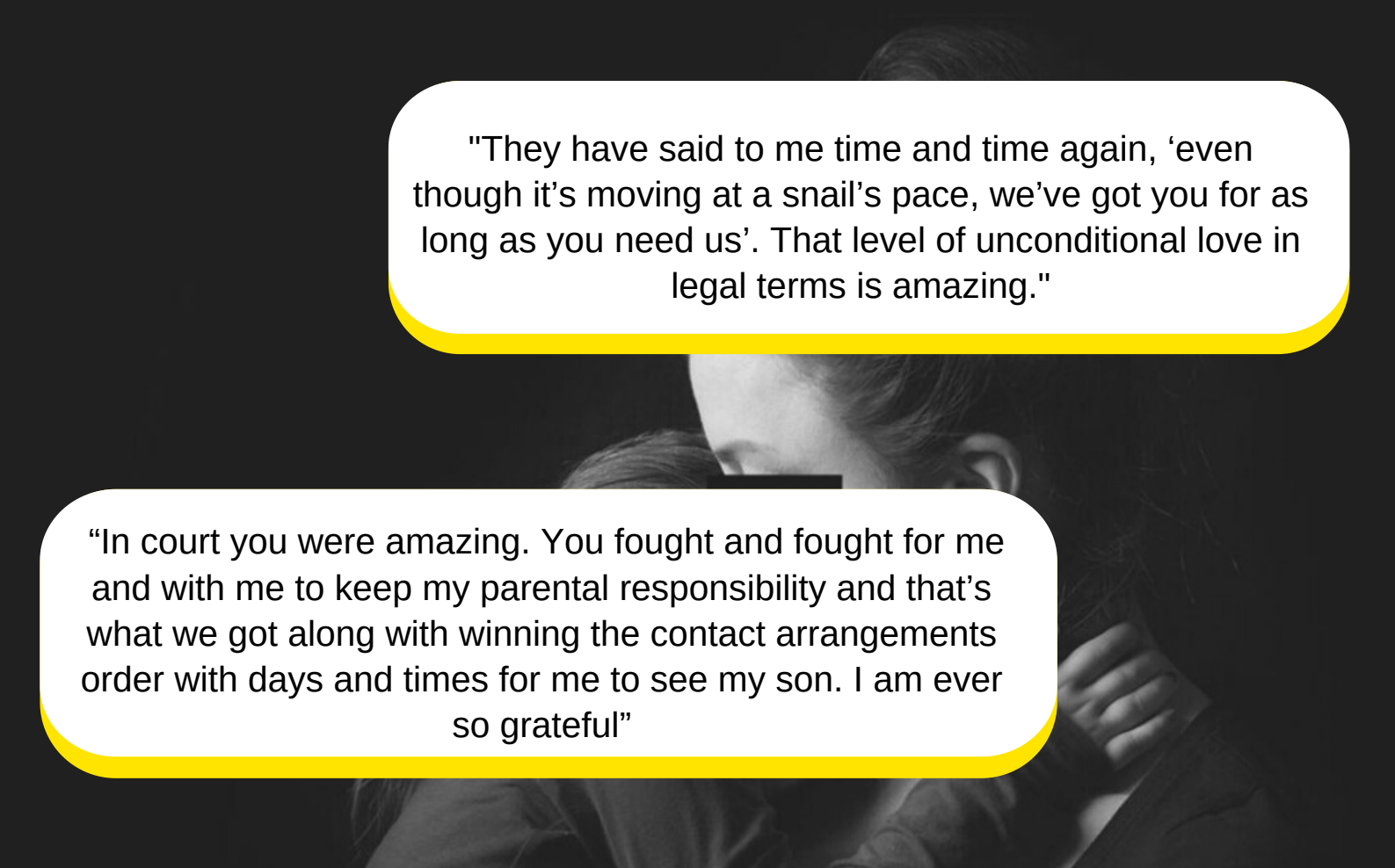
# 89%

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

# 100%

of clients asked would recommend NBR to another prisoner.

**"The difference NBR has made is life and death, and I don't say that facetiously. Genuinely, when NBR came into my life, I knew that I wasn't just going to survive. I was going to live a long life, with my child who I love very much."**



"They have said to me time and time again, 'even though it's moving at a snail's pace, we've got you for as long as you need us'. That level of unconditional love in legal terms is amazing."

"In court you were amazing. You fought and fought for me and with me to keep my parental responsibility and that's what we got along with winning the contact arrangements order with days and times for me to see my son. I am ever so grateful"

## PRISCILLA'S STORY

Priscilla found herself involved with drugs and in debt after having reported 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 for a drug related offence. Prior to Priscilla's custodial sentence, the children lived with her. Following Priscilla's arrest for these offences and during her custodial sentence, the children lived with their father, Karl, who refused to allow Priscilla any contact with them. Attempts were made on Priscilla's behalf to reach Karl to re-establish contact with her children. Karl strongly refused this.

Priscilla met with Not Beyond Redemption following a referral from another charity, Prison Advice Service (PAS). Following no response from Karl to our attempts to agree contact outside of court, we made an application to court. During the court proceedings, negative recommendations from the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS) suggested that Priscilla should have no contact with her children. However, due to the hard-work and determination from Priscilla's team of lawyers as well as Priscilla herself, the court was persuaded to order that Priscilla should have monthly letterbox contact with the children as well as updates about and photographs of them. Despite further opposition from CAFCASS, the Judge has continued to be persuaded that letterbox contact is in the children's best interests.



# QUOTES FROM SUPPORTERS

"At HMP Send we really value our partnership with Not Beyond Redemption. Separation from children can be the hardest part of being in prison for any women. But it is even harder when they face battles to see their children on visits, on ROTL or for custody of their children on release. Not Beyond Redemption steps into those most challenging situations and provides specialist legal advice and representation, helping the women work towards the best outcomes for themselves and their children. Our women are full of praise for the support and expertise that Not Beyond Redemption provides."

**Rachel Bell, Ex Deputy Governor at HMP Send**

"What stood out to me was finding out that our client is one day younger than me. She could have been in my shoes and I in hers. It isn't anyone's choice to be in her position and it's not her fault that she was brought up in care and exposed to drug abuse. The answer is often not found in imprisonment but in education and understanding. To give someone in prison the opportunity to spend time with their children and loved ones will help work towards reducing reoffending and giving people hope."

**Pro Bono Lawyer at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**

"The support received by Not Beyond Redemption has created so much hope for the prisoners. Getting legal advice for prisoners is extremely difficult. We have had incredible results where mothers are now involved in their children's lives. It is so beneficial to be able to turn to free, accessible, and quick professionals when the next step is the legal route."

**Katia Parent, Social worker at Pact in HMP Send**





# Not Beyond Redemption



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