

EUROPEAN GROUP

FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

An international network working towards social justice, state accountability and decarceration since 1973

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PRIMO CONVEGNO DEL GRUPPO EUROPEO
PER LO STUDIO DELLA DEVIANZA E DEL
CONTROLLO SOCIALE — 1973 —

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NEWSLETTER | 2026 January-June

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Hi folks!

Welcome to this latest edition of the European Group newsletter. May it find you in good health in these uncertain times. In particular, we want to send solidarity to the colleagues facing the current precarity wide-spread across academic institutions.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member and friend to the European Group, Elizabeth Stanley, and pass on condolences to all of her family and friends. This newsletter contains a commemoration to Lizzy from her close friend and colleague Phil Scraton.

In this newsletter you will also find an overview of the recent online General Assembly meeting, updates on our membership communication systems, alongside publication alerts and event notices. In addition, Joanna Gilmore and David Scott share a Draft of International Expert Statement on the Chatterton Massacre, and Victoria Canning and Sara de Jong share a Report by Refugee Legal Support on the Lived Impacts on the February 2022 UK Ministry of Defence Afghan Data Breach. Please also see the timetable for the ongoing Abolitionist Futures Reading Group 2026, shared by John Moore.

The Newsletter is the long standing model of communication and solidarity utilised by the group and serves to share member news, interventions, calls for papers and publications. Please share your publications and updates including upcoming PhD defense and graduations. We are currently accepting submissions for the **next Newsletter** – please submit by **July 31st 2026**.

In solidarity,

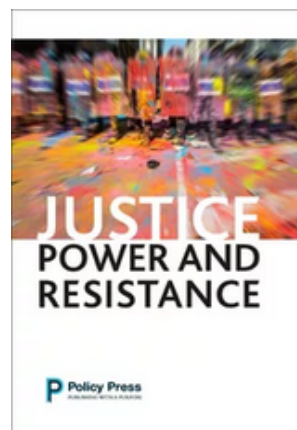
Aitor Jiménez González, Gillian McNaul, Javiera Farias, Shaïn Morisse

Upcoming EG conference!

The 54th annual conference of the European Group will be held in **Gasteiz–Vitoria (Euskal Herria) from September 1–4, 2026**. Please register here:

<https://www.european-group.org/2025/12/09/54th-european-group-conference-alternatives-to-punitive-security-culture-organising-for-social-liberation-cfp/>

Contributions welcome!



Justice, Power and Resistance, the journal initiated by the EG and dedicated to the critical analysis of justice, power, social harms, and resistance accepts articles, interventions and book reviews.

Online General Assembly, 25 March 2026

An online General Assembly was held on 25 March 2026. The meeting provided an opportunity for solidarity and connectivity at a time of extreme pressure and insecurity across higher education.

A short update was given on the newsletter and members were invited to send any final contributions or items they would like to include.

The meeting also returned to the role of national co-ordinators. Members discussed how this role could be made more active and useful, including by clarifying its function, offering support from the central coordination team, and building it more clearly into the AGM and newsletter process. We will be reaching out to current national leads to develop these areas. If any member is unsure who their national coordinator is, or would like to support development of a working group in their nation, please get in touch.

There was also a discussion about the Steering Group and members provided an overview of role and function. The Steering Group has developed a mandate, values, composition and functions framework, and this will be presented for formal approval at the upcoming conference AGM.

A conference update was also shared, including points about funding for activist attendees and practical options such as room sharing. It was agreed that in addition to the four fully funded conference places traditionally offered, 30 subsidised hostel places would be provided for activists and international ECRs. If any member would be interested in co-ordinated accommodation shares, please get in touch.

Finally, Ida gave a *Justice, Power and Resistance* update and overview of how European Group members can contribute to the work it does e.g peer reviews, publicising the journal by bringing flyers to conferences, signing up for the table of content alerts, and promoting the journal on social media. We discussed ways to support ECRs to publish in the journal and Ida and Nastrul will be setting up a special session at the upcoming conference. If you think you can support the work of the journal, please get in touch with Ida or Nastrul.

Thank-you to everyone who attended the meeting!

Email and mailing system update

At the last General Assembly, members supported moving away from the current Gmail-based system for collective communication. The current setup has become too clumsy for newsletters and collective emails, and it is difficult to know whether messages are reliably reaching everyone.

The proposed direction, for now, is to use **EmailOctopus** for newsletters and mass emails, as it is better suited to sending messages to a large list. The free version may be enough for now, although it includes EmailOctopus branding and a less ideal sending address. A paid version, at around 10 euros per month, would offer more flexibility.

At the same time, the group is considering moving its regular email communication away from Gmail, ideally towards **Proton Mail** with an address on the European Group domain. The idea would be to use Proton for ordinary day-to-day emails, while EmailOctopus would be used for newsletters and mass emails.

The reasons are both practical and political: a more reliable mailing system would improve communication, while Proton would offer stronger privacy, greater independence from major tech platforms, and better coherence with the European Group's work on social control, repression and authoritarian tendencies.

Launch of the EG Signal Discussion Group

We are opening a **Signal discussion chat** for European Group members. It is meant for live exchange and discussion. It does not replace the social media accounts, the newsletter, the AGM, or any formal decision-making process.

To join, please email us (europiangroupcoordinator@gmail.com) with your Signal username and phone number. Entry is voluntary and subject to admin approval.

Before joining, please check your Signal profile name, profile picture and phone number privacy settings.

The group should be treated as a large semi-public space: do not share sensitive personal information, private correspondence or anything that could expose others without consent.

If you do not use Signal yet, you can easily download it on your phone and desktop: <https://signal.org/download/>

The group will be reviewed after an initial trial period. We will then decide whether the space works as it is, needs different moderation or organisation, or should be split into more specific sub-groups. The aim is to build an online community where members can communicate with ease, and work collectively to develop the group's work.

Elizabeth ‘Lizzy’ Stanley: Commemoration

Shared by Phil Scraton¹



In 1996 the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice, at what was then Edge Hill University College, was in its early days. A letter arrived from Elizabeth Stanley who was completing a Masters at Keele University. From Bolton, Lancashire, just 18 miles from Edge Hill, she asked if there was possibility of voluntary research work. We found limited funding to cover her expenses. Her arrival coincided with Kathryn Chadwick and I, supported by colleagues across the institution, developing its first taught postgraduate degrees: Criminology, Rights and Justice; Human Rights and Equal Opportunities. Within a year we secured a new, permanent teaching post and Lizzy was appointed. We introduced a new undergraduate programme in Critical Criminology, the first in the UK. It was a challenging, exciting time and Lizzy was in the thick of it. In lectures and tutorials she was thorough, innovative and engaging, committed to undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation supervision. Her innovation and insight belied her experience. She loved teaching, inspired and challenged our students, receiving consistently excellent appraisals. Each summer we visited Scotland's prisons with our students, meeting men and women prisoners in frank, unsupervised discussion. A collaborative, supportive colleague, Lizzy was central to the Centre's success.

While a significant loss to our team and students, Lizzy's appointment at Victoria University, New Zealand was a fine achievement. Within two years she was awarded the Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology Young Scholar Prize. Her doctoral research in Timor Leste was impressive and challenging. Working with and listening to survivors of torture demanded significant research skills and, most significantly, personal responsibility and care in responding to the consequences of trauma endured by those she interviewed. We shared many conversations demonstrating the courage and scholarship arising from her primary research. It became the foundation for her first single-authored book: *Torture, Truth and Justice: The Case of Timor-Leste* (Routledge, 2009). University researchers are under pressure to publish, and Lizzy's book was praised for its significant contribution to international scholarship. Although welcome, such acknowledgement is not critical

¹ This commemoration will be published in the *State Crime Journal*.

researchers' primary objective. Rather, it is ensuring that those who entrust experiences of surviving extreme personal suffering have their experiences chronicled and contextualised.

With Jude McCulloch, she co-edited *State Crime and Resistance* (Routledge, 2012), an interventionist collection inspired by an international symposium of academic researchers she hosted at VUW. The collection addresses the crimes of states: 'gross violations of human rights (such as genocide, war crimes, mass killings, summary executions, torture, harsh detention and rape during war), entrenched discrimination, unjust social policies, border controls, corruption, fraud, resource plunder' and systemic 'failure to provide the regulatory environment and principled leadership necessary to deal with global warming'. As her work on human rights violations advanced, Lizzy was awarded a Rutherford Discovery Fellowship: *What Happened to Human Rights? Exploring the Changing Status of Human Rights in New Zealand*.

She published *The Road to Hell: State Violence against Children in Postwar New Zealand* (Auckland University Press, 2016). Ground-breaking, it reclaims the history of institutional abuse of children in state 'care', primarily through the experiences of '105 children who experienced the brutal failings of mass incarceration'. Lizzy traced methodically 'many thousands of pages' of institutions' records including child welfare, health and psychiatric assessments, counselling and corrections reviews. She interviewed forty-five survivors: 'sometimes for a few hours ... occasionally for whole days, about family life, the impact of institutional care, and their attempts to gain acknowledgement for what had happened to them ... without exception, they speak with sorrow and frustration about their past and the limits of official recognition'. Their testimonies revealed deeply damaging state failures in its duty of care: 'children faced abysmal conditions, limited education and social isolation ... endured physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as secure cells, knock-out sedatives and electro-convulsive therapy'. On 1 November 2019 Lizzy gave detailed evidence about State institutionalised abuse to New Zealand's Royal Commission of Inquiry into State care².

In April 2017 her Fellowship enabled what she described as a 'nourishing symposium' of international academic researchers, students, practitioners and activists 'committed to [penal] reform and [prison] abolition'. Within a year she edited a collection of the symposium's contributions, *Human Rights and Incarceration: Critical Explorations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Focusing on Australia, New Zealand and the UK, she dedicated the book to 'all who work to reform and abolish carceral sites. Its moving case studies place, front and centre, those 'disproportionately affected by incarceration, including indigenous populations, children, women, those with disabilities, and refugees or 'non-citizens''. It exposes human rights violations within carceral states while establishing 'the case for achievable reforms and the potential for the abolition of incarceration'. The text is a riposte to liberal and conservative penologists and politicians who dismiss prison abolitionists as idealists.

Lizzy's commitment to collaborative research and publication extended to co-editing *The Aotearoa Handbook of Criminology* (Auckland University Press, 2021), 'the first comprehensive collection of readings from criminologists and practitioners based in the land of the white cloud'. With Sally Day she contributed a typically interventionist chapter, focusing on the Pike River Mine disaster, illustrating how state-corporate crime is systemically marginalised. The Handbook's thirty-two meticulously researched chapters provide comprehensive analyses under the headings: crime knowledge, crime politics; crimes; criminal justice; differential experiences. Reflecting on the evidence presented, the

² <https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/our-progress/library/v/67/statement-of-professor-elizabeth-stanley>

editors conclude that ‘New Zealand’s criminal justice apparatus is intrinsically unjust in its perpetuation of violence, disadvantage, and colonial controls’. They continue, ‘Inequitable situations are exacerbated further when we consider how the New Zealand state also fails to secure effective protections or punishments for many other egregious harms’. Collectively, the chapters establish the impact and significance of critical scholarship in challenging mainstream criminological research.

Most recently, in fact just months before she died, Lizzy completed *Tolerating State Violence* (Routledge, 2026), endorsed by ten international scholars. Pause for a second to read snippets from their comments: ‘solidifies her status as a leading authority in state crime’; ‘searing critique from a leading state crime scholar’; ‘compelling ... a must read for all who are engaged in the struggle against crimes by the powerful’; ‘at the forefront of the criminological analysis of state violence’; ‘commanding overview of the devastating harms committed by states, how they get away with it, and how we might and must resist’; ‘unparalleled analysis’; ‘searing and exceptional contribution to our understanding of state harms and crimes’; ‘deep meditation on the endless accumulation of systemic threats to both human and planetary wellbeing, often generated or exacerbated by states’; ‘a sharp and powerful understanding of the savagery of our times ... how we can build enduring structures of resistance and emancipatory forms of social organisation’.

I attempted to find words that reflected the impact of reading the book: ‘Challenging, authoritative, accessible, impassioned ... foregrounds the personal pains and institutional denials of structural violence and violations sustained by political marginalisation and societal inequalities. Exposing the myth of the benign, responsive, liberal-democratic state she reveals the complex, oppressive realities of institutionalised socio-political forces underpinning, maintaining and reproducing profound harms inflicted on ‘others’ in ‘our name’. A tour de force’. Although aware of the seriousness of her illness, I did not anticipate that our endorsements would be a final opportunity to celebrate Lizzy’s brilliant scholarship, her thorough research, her searing writing, and the depth of her humanity. ‘How different our worlds would be’, she writes in the Introduction, ‘if our institutions were radically reorganized for the purposes of peace, care, well-being, equity, Indigenous self-determination, feminism, freedom, social justice, accountability, and protection: in short, if our institutions desisted from violence and organized to give no space to it’. Throughout the text she adds to the ‘wealth of ideas on how to build humane systems and progress institutions and social projects that protect people’ in all aspects of our lives. She leaves us with optimism: ‘The impetus must be to commit to human, animal and earthly flourishing’. Yes, Lizzy, yes!

In addition to these texts, Lizzy’s academic publications comprise an impressive record of her outstanding contribution to knowledge. Over two decades she published substantial articles in ten refereed academic journals: *Australian and NZ Journal of Criminology*; *British Journal of Criminology*; *Critical Social Policy*; *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*; *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*; *Journal of Criminology*; *Modern African Studies*; *Race and Class*; *Social Sciences*; and *Youth Justice*. She has articles in the *Handbook of Victims and Victimology*; *The International Handbook of Crime and Human Rights*; *Sage Handbook of Criminological Research Methods*. Further, she contributed significant chapters in seven edited collections. Whether academic publications or newspaper op-eds, Lizzy’s directly engaging style, her turns of phrase, are instantly identifiable. There are moments when I envisage her knowing smile, her mischief, as she writes words like arrows hitting their intended targets. The volume of her research and publications is particularly impressive given her teaching, supervisions and administrative responsibilities, each realised with a sensitive, supportive and accessible commitment to her undergraduate and postgraduate students and to her colleagues.

Lizzy's research across a range and depth of projects, most of which she initiated, positions her as a leading international scholar. Her exceptional work and publications provide indisputable evidence of the full potential of social research, transcending the narrower focus of academic publications. And spanning the inter-related areas of critical criminology, social justice and human rights. The awards and peer recognition she received are indisputable indicators of her contribution to her fields of research, crossing the often falsely applied boundaries of academic disciplines. Unsurprisingly, she became Director of the Institute of Criminology, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University and in March 2024 she delivered her inaugural professorial lecture.

To many of us who knew Lizzy, were taught or supervised by her, she became a dear friend, a wonderful compañera. Together we laughed and we cried. There are so many moments etched in our memories: her deep growl at a male academic who patronised her intended choice of shot on a pool table; a remarkable KD Lang gig in Wellington; doing 'toss-overs' and hanging upside-down on a barrier while waiting for a ferry in Spetses. Rarely was she lost for words, although I can hear her voice and see her eyes roll at me 'of all people' writing that! We all have treasure special memories. Here's one of ours. In December 2018 Deena and I were staying with Lizzy and Acky in their beautiful house in Waikanae, overlooking the ocean and Kāpiti Island. We took a boat from Wellington, North Island to Picton, South Island and on to Ship Cove/ Meretoto at the northern tip of South Island. Over five days we hiked the 73km Queen Charlotte Track. Undulating, it rises to 400m at its highest point with spectacular views either side of the peninsula, at sea level clear blue water contrasts with white sand. It is a special place, for many hundreds of years home to the indigenous Māori population of Aotearoa. In 1770 James Cook arrived at Tōtaranui, colonising the name of the Sound as Queen Charlotte, the wife of George III. On our return to Waikanae we agreed that we had shared a special experience in Tōtaranui. As ever, politics and history fed our conversations, not least the long reach of colonial rule and its inheritance. Yet there was, as there always has been with Lizzy, also a lightness of being.

Reflecting on the seriousness, often bleakness, of her research and the controlled anger in her writing she gives hope. She leaves us with a determination, however seemingly minor in impact, to challenge the structural inequalities that surround us; rejecting and opposing state violence and personal hatred directed against those labelled 'outsiders', 'aliens', 'illegals', 'strangers'.

Writing this reflection as a close friend, I know that for Acky and for Lizzy's family, the depth and intensity of loss is profound. Our love and thoughts are with you; and with the many friends and colleagues who have been enriched by Lizzy's unconditional support, encouragement and inspiration.

References

Stanley, E. 2009 *Torture, Truth and Justice: The Case of Timor-Leste*. London: Routledge.

Stanley, E. 2016 *The Road to Hell: State Violence against Children in Postwar New Zealand*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press.

Stanley, E., and McCulloch, J. (eds) 2012 *State Crime and Resistance* London: Routledge.

Stanley, E. (ed.) 2018 *Human Rights and Incarceration: Critical Explorations* Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Stanley, E., Bradley, T., and Monod de Froideville, S. (eds) 2021 *The Aotearoa Handbook of Criminology* Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press.

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You can access Lizzy's most recent work, *Tolerating State Violence* (2026) here: <https://www.routledge.com/Tolerating-State-Violence/Stanley/p/book/9781041002826>

Draft of International Expert Statement on the Chatterton Massacre

The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control



For over 50 years *The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control* has collectively built upon the critical scholarship of members from all around the world. One of the leitmotifs of this scholarship is a focus on the use of violence by state authorities in their pursuit of social control, order and wider political aspirations.

This statement is written and signed by members of this international community of scholars and reflects their globally recognized criminological expertise in the area of the harms of power and state violence. What distinguishes our collective understanding of the harms and violence perpetrated by state authorities, in both the past and present, is a critical reflection upon the limitations of legal framings of state violence and a commitment to consider the moral, political and material circumstances and contexts of the harm[s] and violence perpetrated in pursuit of state goals. Such scholarship ultimately raises questions about societal tolerance of state violence.³

³ Stanley, L. (2025) *Tolerating State Violence* London: Routledge

One of the most important things critical and emancipatory scholars can do in response to the harms and violence of a state, such as a massacre of its own civilians, is to work rigorously to expose and morally denounce. For some historical atrocities, the only option available today is campaign work that can ensure state violence is appropriately named and remembered. Our interest then is not only in the ways in which states have harmed their own civilians in the past, acting with impunity and immunity, but also with the acknowledgement of this harm as state violence. It has long been recognised that states (and indeed others with social, economic and political power) have an ability to conceal, mystify and deny their own violence. Mystification can negate the possibility of accountability for state violence in the present and invisibilise state violence in the past. There is a long-established consensus among the scholarly community of the *European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control* that it is morally and politically imperative that the harms and violence of state authorities, whether in the past or the present, are demystified.⁴

This statement has been prepared and published in support of a grassroots campaign currently attempting to demystify the massacre of anti-starvation protestors 200 years ago at Chatterton in Lancashire, England, on 26th April 1826. Its intention is to provide international recognition of the state violence that took place there and to validate the local struggle to establish the language and interpretation of massacre.

Although the exact number of casualties, including those who later died of their wounds, remains unknown, what is known is that infantry from the 60th Duke of York's Own Rifles and Queen's Bays cavalrymen⁵ fired up to 600 bullets into a crowd of approximately 3,000 anti-starvation protestors. As consequence:

- At least six people were indiscriminately killed from the same group of protestors within a very limited time-period.
- All victims were non-combatants who died from a direct physical intervention by soldiers or cavalrymen.
- All of those who killed were defenceless as they did not have any weapons or present a real threat to the lives of the soldiers.

Although the killings at Chatterton meet the definitional criteria of a massacre⁶, states rarely define their own lethal violence this way. The 1826 machine breaking protests and indiscriminate killings at Chatterton were initially defined as a “riot”, denying the legitimate voice of the protestors and mystifying state violence. When doubt was cast upon whether the ‘Riot Act’ was read prior to the indiscriminate killings, the language of “affray” (or fight) was used instead. Yet there is nothing in the words “riot” or “affray” that indicate that at least six people were shot dead by soldiers. The subsequent decades of denial and mystifications resulted in epistemic injustice.⁷ Knowledge of what happened and why was lost and there was an organised forgetting of the state violence and indiscriminate killings.

However, since 2021 the language of massacre has been widely deployed by members of the local community in Pennine Lancashire to demystify the indiscriminate killings and

⁴ Scott, D. and Sim, J. (eds) (2023) *Demystifying Power, Crime and Social Harm: The Work and Legacy of Steven Box* London: Palgrave

⁵ Scott, D. (2022a) *Chatterton: Britain's Hidden Massacre* The Open University: HERC

⁶ Scott, D. and Hurst, K. (2025) “Was Chatterton a Massacre?” in *North-west History Journal* No 50.

⁷ Scott, D. (2022) *Historical Witnessing for the Present* The Open University: HERC

respectfully memorialise its recorded victims. This reframing as a massacre has been amplified by academics, national and local newspapers, local museums and heritage sites and local BBC radio and television broadcasts. Yet despite progress, this campaign to visibilise state violence and belatedly hear working class protestor voice remains a contested ‘battle for interpretation.’⁸ This a battle that has all the hallmarks of what Stan Cohen⁹, one of the founders of the *European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control*, has called ‘historical denial’ – where historical harms perpetrated by the state are fully or partially hidden in the present day. In other words, truth is obfuscated, and important memories of the past disappeared. Cohen identified the significance of ‘interpretive denial’ - where harms of the state are redefined or reinterpreted in ways that do not appropriately or fully represent their true nature or reality. Interpretive denial reduces the appearance of wrongness or immorality of state violence.

Whilst it is impossible to fully understand all the facts and nuances of events from the past, there is an ethical responsibility is to get as close to the truth as possible. This means seeing through the eyes of the people involved rather than accepting the state defined truth. The dead cannot speak, so they need passionate advocates willing to speak for them so that their voice can be heard. The tragedy of the protestors back in 1826 is that their voice was not heard. This injustice is compounded by the way their story and violence of the state has been told or (more likely) ignored or downplayed in the present.

The signatories of this international statement consider the long-standing mystification and obscuring of the indiscriminate killings at Chatterton as an example of ‘riot as denial’. They also recognise that the ongoing ‘battle of interpretation’ over the reframing of the killings as a massacre requires an engagement in a process of *dialogical acknowledgement*: a practical counterstrategy affirming subaltern narratives, recovering historical truth and contesting the state’s interpretive monopoly. Dialogical acknowledgement can lead to the exposure of state violence and Chatterton has become a site of contested memory where alternative narratives have visibilised a massacre and reframed protesters’ actions as legitimate resistance.

Knowledge of the past influences understandings and motivations in the present. Acknowledgement of the 1826 Chatterton Massacre has been a struggle over several years. Changing the framing of the indiscriminate killings from a “riot” – which placed the blame for the deaths on the victims, to “massacre” – which exonerates the memory of victims and places focus on the violence of the state, provides an historical example of how the state responded to anti-starvation protests which resonates with similar protests in the present. The interpretative campaign work acknowledging the indiscriminate killings at Chatterton as a massacre is endorsed by the following international expert signatories.

⁸ Scott, D. and Gilmore, J. (2026) “The Battle for Interpretation: The Chatterton Massacre and Riot as Denial” in *Justice, Power and Resistance* Bristol: Bristol University Press

⁹ Cohen, S. (2000) *States of Denial: Knowing About Suffering and Atrocities* Cambridge: Polity Press

I am not a case number, I am a human being: the lived impacts of the Ministry of Defence Afghan Data Breach

A report by Refugee Legal Support (with: Prof Victoria Canning and Prof Sara de Jong)

Download [here](#) our report on the Lived Impacts on the February 2022 UK Ministry of Defence Afghan Data Breach

In February 2022, an employee of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) mistakenly shared a spreadsheet containing the personal information of 18,714 Afghan principal applicants and their family members (the [Afghan Data Breach](#)). A super injunction obtained by the MoD, raised serious concerns about data privacy, the use of the courts and national security powers to maintain state secrecy and evade accountability, and the profound human costs of these failures. Refugee Legal Support ([RLS](#)), in close collaboration with Professor Victoria Canning (Lancaster University) and Professor Sara de Jong (University of York), presents a report based on extensive survey data that examines the physical, psychological, and relational impacts on Afghans affected by the breach.

Although an independent policy review was commissioned, our survey was the first to collect data on direct experiences of Afghans affected by the data breach.

Findings from the survey contained within the report, which is titled “[I am not a case number, I am a human being](#)”, show that:

- . Among the 350 Afghan respondents, 155 are residing in the UK, 152 in Afghanistan, 33 in third countries outside Europe, and 10 in European countries.
- . 231 reported receiving direct communication from the MoD informing them that their data had been breached; with the remaining affected individuals required to access a dedicated government portal to verify their status.
- . 200 out of 231 (87%) reported personal risks and/or threats to family members, including killings, arrests, threats, house searches by the Taliban.
- . 207 out of 231 (89%) reported impacts on their own physical and/or mental health, and the same number reported negative impacts on their family’s physical and/or mental health.
- . Only a minority, 87 out of 231 (38%), found the security advice provided by the MoD helpful.

As the full report outlines, both the quantitative and qualitative data demonstrate that the Afghan Data Breach has had devastating consequences for many individuals and their families.

“It was better to be killed by a Taliban bullet at once, instead of a gradual death in Scotland. Because for the last four years I am scared that my siblings are in danger but there is no ear to listen to me.” Respondent ID 276, Interpreter resettled to the UK

“A couple of weeks after publication I was recognised by the Taliban and badly beaten up.” Respondent ID 43, Afghan National Army and ANSF, currently residing in Afghanistan.

In hearing the voices and experiences directly in this report, it lays bare both the human cost of the Afghan Data Breach, and the failure to honour the UK Government’s moral responsibility to protect those affected. Many of those left stranded and imperilled are individuals who supported and safeguarded UK operations in Afghanistan and did so at great personal risk. Without the urgent implementation of the recommendations provided in this report, including the prioritisation of relocation for affected applicants, expedited processing and review of AFM applications, establishment of protection and security measures for those in Afghanistan and third countries, and the creation of a financial compensation scheme, their lives will remain at risk.

We encourage you to circulate the report within your networks to raise awareness of the issues faced by affected Afghans.

Abolitionist Futures 2026 Reading Group

Shared by John Moore

After a year off the Abolitionist Futures Reading Group is back. This year the readings have been updated to include some brilliant new publications. With genocide in Gaza, Israel’s and USA’s attacks on Iran, and intensified state oppression and violence across the globe, now is a time to explore how an alternative can be conceived and built. If you don’t think that prisons, borders and police are the solution to the problems and harms we face in our lives, then join us to explore abolitionist possibilities.

Sessions, in English, will be held on zoom starting 5th May 2026, every second Tuesday evening (7.30 pm - 9:00 pm - UTC+1/BST). We usually start the call together, then break out into smaller rooms with a facilitator in each group to discuss the readings, and then return to the larger call. We will have six sessions covering the readings:

5th May 2026 [Session 1: Introduction to Abolition](#)

19th May 2026 [Session 2: What’s wrong with reform?](#)

2nd June 2026 [Session 3: Feminist, Queer, Antiracist Abolition](#)

16th June 2026 [Session 4: Policing, Anti Racism & Abolition](#)

30th June 2026 [Session 5: Transformative Justice](#)

14th July 2026 [Session 6: Everyday Abolition](#)

28th July 2026 [Session 7: So what do I do? From reading to action](#)

[Click here for audio versions of the readings \(currently being updated\)](#)

Please register to attend [here](#).

Call for facilitators: For those of you who have joined us before we’d love to see you again! If you fancy joining the facilitation team please email us at abolitionistfutures@gmail.com.

Digital Archive on Institutional Violence and the Complexity of Trauma (KB Archived Heritage)

Shared by Jimmy Groen (Netherlands)

I am writing to you as an artist and researcher whose work focuses on the intersection of state-mandated care, systemic violence, and the long-term deformation of identity.

My digital archive, consisting of over 360 works of trauma art, has recently been archived by the National Library of the Netherlands (KB) as official digital heritage.

My work - all from lived experiences - documents the extreme and often ignored consequences of residential state care and foster care violence, specifically focusing on the forced social isolation and the complex impact of forced horizontal bonding in early childhood (at age 2- 3 years).

This systemic pressure fundamentally altered the development of worldview, relations, and sexuality—a profound trauma that often leads to the victim being unjustly pathologized or criminalized by the very systems that caused the damage. This is why I experienced severe police violence, without having a criminal record.

The collection also addresses subsequent (sexualized) police violence and extreme forms of gender-based violence against boys, providing a raw, confrontational visual record of how the state produces "deviance" through its own mechanisms of control.

Given the European Group's focus on state accountability and social harm, I believe my archive serves as a crucial primary source for your members and working groups (specifically those focused on Historical, Philosophical and Artistic Approaches or Prison and State Violence).

As this collection is now part of the Dutch national heritage, it stands as a permanent witness to the "impossible choices" forced upon individuals by institutional systems. You can find the archive on trauma art, made in isolation (no access to mental health care in my country) here:

<https://www.jimmygroen.be/trauma-art-archive>

A special article on horizontal bonding in residential care:

<https://www.jimmygroen.be/the-mechanism-of-horizontal-bonding>

I am open to further dialogue on how this visual documentation can contribute to your mission of exposing institutional injustice.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Groen
Slenaken, the Netherlands

Visual Artist and Author

Publications

Brock, A., Stephens-Griffin, N., & Davanna, T. (2026). Sabotaging hunting, prefiguring anti-speciesist futures. *Human Geography*, 0(0). Available from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/19427786251413862>

Bell, M., & Brock, A. (2026). Resisting oppressive state power: insurrectionary joy, liberatory values, engaging with the natural world, and motherhood. *Justice, Power and Resistance* (published online ahead of print 2026). Retrieved Mar 3, 2026, from <https://doi.org/10.1332/26352338Y2026D000000061>

Morisse, S. (2025). Al fresco. Una storia norvegese dell'abolizionismo penale. *Zapruder. Storie In Movimento*, 2025, 67, p. 29-46. Available from: <https://storieinmovimento.org/2025/06/27/anime-in-pena/>

Ricordeau, G. (2026). *Tant qu'il y aura des prisons*, Paris, Passager clandestin. Available from: <https://www.lepassagerclandestin.fr/catalogue/essais/tant-qu'il-y-aura-des-prisons/>

Stanley, L. (2026). *Tolerating State Violence*, Abingdon, Routledge. Available from: <https://www.routledge.com/Tolerating-State-Violence/Stanley/p/book/9781041002826>

PhD Defences

Please feel free to share the dates of your thesis defences, whether recent or upcoming.

Upcoming Events

IPAN, the Irish Penal Abolition Network, will be hosting documentary “**The Strike**” in partnership with Trinity College Dublin (17th June), Ulster University and UCU (18th June) and University College Cork (20th June). These three screenings in Dublin, Belfast and Cork will be followed by a panel discussion with the directors and strike activists.

The Strike is a feature documentary that tells the story of a generation of California men who endured decades of solitary confinement and, against all odds, launched the largest hunger strike in U.S. history. Inspired by the Irish hunger strikers, this documentary tells their story

See the  The Strike Trailer here. Booking via links below:

Belfast: [The Strike - Film Screening and Panel - Belfast Tickets, Thursday 18 June • 2 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Cork: [The Strike - Film Screening and Panel - Cork Tickets, Saturday 20 June • 5 PM - 8 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Dublin: [The Strike - Film Screening and Panel - Dublin Tickets, Wednesday 17 June • 2 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)

THE STRIKE

Three Irish Screenings

Coming June 2026

June 17 th @ 2pm Maxwell Theatre, Trinity College Dublin 	June 18 th @ 2pm BC-00-307, Ulster University, Belfast 	June 20 th @ 5pm Aula Maxima, University College Cork
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Justice, Power and Resistance

Justice, Power and Resistance is an international, peer-reviewed journal grounded in the critical traditions of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. The journal publishes work that critically interrogates power, justice, and resistance, with particular attention to those most affected by social harm and structural inequality.

We welcome contributions from academics, practitioners, and activists whose work engages with real-world struggles and possibilities for social change.

Research articles of 6,000 - 8,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

Interventions (including short papers, campaign updates, personal reflections and (auto)biographical accounts) of up to 5,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

Book reviews of up to 2,000 words (including references, notes, tables and figures)

Recent early view articles are now available to read [here](#), offering insight into the journal's current directions and debates. We encourage members and readers to explore the latest issue and consider how *Justice, Power and Resistance* might inform and support their own critical work.

If you would like to discuss a potential article or special issue informally, please contact the co-editors, [Ida Nafstad](#) and [Nasrul Ismail](#). We particularly welcome submissions from early career researchers, postgraduate students, advocates, practitioners, and scholars based in the Global South.

JPR now indexed by Scopus

Justice, Power and Resistance is now indexed by Scopus so if you search for JPR articles they should appear.

This will expand the reach of the work published in JPR and bring a wider audience and readership to the important scholarship we publish.

Thank you for all your support, we hope this will encourage more scholars to publish their best work with us.

Sharon Harris, Journals Development Editor

Current issue : Governing through strain: Justice, Power and Resistance in an age of compounding crises (Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2026)

- Editorial:

. Governing through strain: Justice, Power and Resistance in an age of compounding crises

Nasrul Ismail & Ida Nafstad

- Research Articles:

. Reframing ‘online safety’: the neo-abolitionist agenda and the digital surveillance of sex workers

Athena Michalakea

. Towards a Mad technoscience: revealing, repurposing, and reimagining carceral mental health technologies

Rose Powell, Hat Porter, Nell Head, Ellen Thomas & Sophina Mariette

. Enduring commitment: a study of lawyering under authoritarian conditions in post-coup Myanmar

Lynn Thar Yar and Andrew M. Jefferson

. The spirit of a nation: analysing US elites, media, and the state through vigilantism

Griffin Rowell

. Migrant hunger strikes as radical recognition

Filippos Kourakis

. ‘It is what it is ...’: men’s experiences of ocular chemical substance attacks in North-East England

Louise Ridley, Francisco Figueiredo, Roger Burrows, Steph Scott, and Alexander Wilson

. The battle for interpretation: the 1826 Chatterton Massacre and ‘riot as denial’

David Gordon Scott and Joanna Gilmore

. Weighting the evidence: a scoping review of UK regulation of the commercial weight-loss industry and its harms

Jaimie O’Connor

- Intervention:

. Abolish philanthropy: when the wealthy are meddling with breast cancer

Sophie Serrano

- Book Review:

. Proud to Punish: The Global Landscapes of Rough Justice by Gilles Favarel-Garrigues and Laurent Gayer (2024)

Deniz Yonucu

EUROPEAN GROUP

FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

A BIG THANKS to all the European Group members for making this newsletter successful.

Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter by sending any information that you think might be of interest to the Group to the coordination team at:

europengroupcoordinator@gmail.com

<http://www.european-group.org>