

WINTER NEWSLETTER

WHISTLEBLOWERSUK

Our summary of the year



Thoughts from our CEO

I would like to start by extending a huge thank you to all of our supporters, staff, volunteers and friends, all of whom helped us make 2022 our most successful year to date.

This year has been exceptional for many of our readers, for our country, for the global community, and for whistleblowersUK. I want to reflect on what has made this year such a success and show what we will accomplish in 2023.

First, I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Iain Mitchell KC to the Board as we take on new challenges in the year to come. He has contributed significantly to our legislation and his contributions to our board are set to be overwhelmingly positive.

In February 2022 we finalised our proposals for a new Whistleblowing Bill developed over 18 months by a large and distinguished group of academics and lawyers. I want to thank all our academic and legal contributors and focus on what a pleasure it has been to work with you all this year.

On April 26th Mary Robinson MP chair of the APPG for Whistleblowing introduced this Bill as a Private Members Bill to the House of Commons fully supported across the House. *contd.*



Pic: Our associate members supporting Baroness Kramer during the second reading of her Protection for Whistleblowing Bill

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Support came from high profile MP's including; Dame Andrea Leadsom, Dame Maria Miller, Sir Robert Buckland and Dame Margaret Hodge. Mary has become known as the Whistleblowing Champion in the Commons and continues to take every opportunity to persuade the Government to take up the Bill.

On 2nd December the Office of the whistleblower moved a step closer to reality when the Whistleblowing Bill this time championed by Baroness Kramer successfully passed onto committee stage in the House of Lords following hearings in June and October. We are now anticipating committee stage in the first months of 2023. Thank you to all who came in support of the reading.



In June at the All Party Parliamentary Group AGM WhistleblowersUK received a vote of thanks and were invited to continue as secretariat. An honour that we are delighted to accept. At this meeting the members voted in favour of the proposals set out in the 'Whistleblowing Bill' and the repeal of PIDA as their objective for 2022/23.

The APPG also undertook to raise whistleblowing and the creation of an Office of the Whistleblower and ban the use of NDAs in whistleblowing cases. Since then WhistleblowersUK have assisted in the development of the Economic Crime Manifesto and provided amendments for the Economic Crime Bills, The Health and Social Care Bill, The National Security Bill, The Higher Education Bill and the Financial Services Bill. We are overjoyed to see the cross-party and cross-sector teamwork can be achieved to help whistleblowers.

Finally, we produced the Whistleblowing Manifesto launched by the APPG in October – aiming for the King's Speech 2023. If successful, it would represent a commitment from the Government to introduce legislation in the next Parliamentary session.

In addition to our policy work we have contributed to more than 12 different conferences and speaking events and many of our team have participated, including a trip to Frankfurt for the DRRT conference where we fielded a truly international team including: Mary Inman, Paul Milata and our vice chair Stephen Kerr.

"Name me a scandal and I guarantee there's a whistleblower who tried to expose it but was ignored, threatened or gagged."

- BARONESS SUSAN KRAMER

The Office of the Whistleblower will champion those who want to speak out for the public good.'

- GEORGINA HALFORD-HALL, CEO WhistleblowersUK





I thank the academics who contributed to the Bill, but those lawyers, leading practitioners in this field, and WhistleblowersUK made a critical contribution to drafting a Bill which can work in the real world.

- BARONESS SUSAN KRAMER

"We must use this opportunity to save the NHS and save lives by introducing the Whistleblowing Bill because patient safety improvements is not an employment issue."

- STEVE TURNER, SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, ON THE EAST KENT HOSPITAL TRUST MATERNITY CARE REPORT

We are also grateful to the work of Constantino Grasso at MMU and the Virtu Project for again giving us and whistleblowing an important platform. We look forward to future projects to continue promoting common goals.

Our annual conference at Jesus College Cambridge, the International Symposium of Economic Crime, was scaled back out of respect for the late Queen Elizabeth II. In place of the full programme, we ran a workshop and a well-attended full day round table with speakers from the US, Canada, Germany, Japan, India, and South Korea.

Apart from the progress with the Whistleblowing Bills highlights of the year include meeting Dr Bill Kirkup with the APPG and attending the premier of "She Says" the story of Zelda Perkins who exposed Harvey Weinstein and a member of our advisory panel.



I want to thank the associate members of WhistleblowersUK who attend the fortnightly meetings. The members meetings have been well supported throughout the year and we have to thank all of our speakers that have shared their insights. This year our team have responded to over 2000 emails and calls from across every sector and we have been delighted to partner with the Signals Network too.

On 19th January 2023, Kim Weeks will join us as guest speaker sharing more of her research, and on 26th January we will be hearing from Alexandra Sidossis and Heloise Ramage-Hayes as they host our next whistleblowing masterclass. Sharing important advice for how to navigate the Public Interest Disclosure Act.

We have launched a number of whistleblowing focus groups to help inform our research and identify sector specific and cross-cutting lessons for creating a more whistleblowing positive culture. We have launched the Healthcare Group, as well as Faith & Charity sector group. Additionally we are working on groups covering banking and finance; Education; and Law and the Judiciary. If you would like to get involved in our association and the focus groups please contact us for an application form.

Thank you for the positive feedback on the new website created and redesigned by Claudio Costagliola.

Final Thoughts

2022 has seen scandal after scandal and yet again barely a week has passed without something breaking in the press because a whistleblower did the right thing. Whistleblowing led to the downfall of a Prime Minister, exposed the calamitous state of 'Speaking up in the NHS', the BBC were confronted with the impact of silencing whistleblowers and the Post Office Horizon scandal was responsible for injustice for over 900 innocent people.

As CEO I am determined to ensure that we continue to make the case for whistleblowers to be recognised for the role that they play in keeping us all safe. I am incredibly proud of our achievements this year and the people within our team who do a lot with very little which is why I am asking for your generosity and invite you to help us to continue our work to transform whistleblowing law and help even more people. Please donate via our website, or by [clicking here](#)

We don't want you to miss any of our updates please sign up to receive our regular newsletter - [sign up](#)

You can also contact executiveassistant@wbuk.org to be added to the list.

Finally, if you haven't already, please complete the [WBUK 2022 Whistleblowing Survey](#). We would like to hear from whistleblowers and non-whistleblowers so that we can review and feedback on emerging patterns which will be used to steer legislation and normalise whistleblowing.

With your help 2023 will be another year of the whistleblower and we hope you will join us in this journey

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Georgina Halford-Hall, CEO WhistleblowersUK

Testimonials

"WhistleblowersUK provides a vital role in supporting NHS whistleblowers."

- DR DAVID NICHOLL,
NHS WHISTLEBLOWER

"WBUK supported me throughout, by giving me advice and moral support."

"Knowing that I have WBUK's support, even now, is something I remain continually grateful for."

- MARY, CONSULTANT
TECH INDUSTRY