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CHOICE GB: Justice Delivered on Behalf of Victims

Executive Summary

The UK sentencing system has become inconsistent, overly discretionary, and detached from consequence. Judges have four main sentencing categories, but within them sit dozens of sub-options and loopholes.

Sentences are diluted by early release, community orders are repeatedly breached without escalation, and prisons operate more like leisure facilities than places of punishment or discipline. Victims are sidelined while offenders are prioritised.

CHOICE GB proposes a sentencing model built on clarity, consequence, and national protection. Custodial sentences will be fixed, meaningful, and served in full. Prisons will transition from leisure-based environments to work-based punishment regimes, where discipline, structure, and contribution replace idleness and recreation. Justice will be delivered on behalf of victims, not offenders.

Consequence. Clarity. National Protection. Justice for Victims.

Current Issues

External Interference – The UN, ECHR and other unelected bodies influencing decision making in the UK.

Excessive judicial discretion - The four official sentencing categories contain dozens of sub-options and modifiers, producing inconsistent outcomes for similar crimes.

Weak deterrence - Suspended sentences, community orders, and early release undermine the seriousness of offending and fail to deter repeat behaviour.

Complexity and confusion - The public cannot understand sentencing. A “five-year sentence” often means two and a half years served, eroding trust.

Community sentences lack consequence - Breaches are common and rarely escalate. Offenders cycle through the system without meaningful accountability.

Automatic early release - Most prisoners serve only 50% of their sentence, regardless of behaviour or risk.

Leisure-based prison regimes - Television, games, extended recreation, and unstructured time dominate prison life, weakening discipline and public confidence.

Victims are side-lined - The justice system focuses on offender welfare, not victim protection or closure.

Costs - Unsustainable costs for long-term prisoners.

Risks - Release of violent & mentally defective individuals back into the main population.

CGB Proposal: A Consequence-Driven Sentencing Model

Five sentencing categories — but redefined:

- **Discharge** → Reserved for genuine one-off, low-harm cases only.
- **Fines** → Scaled to income; non-payment triggers automatic escalation.
- **Community Sentences** → Strict, enforceable, and limited to first-time offenders.
- **Custody** → Fixed, meaningful, and served in full.
- **Termination** → Reserved for violent, mentally defective high risk individuals.

Custodial Sentencing:

- Minimum custodial term: 12 months (1 year)
- Maximum custodial term: 60 months (5 years)
- No early release, offenders serve 100% of their sentence.
- No parole, no halfway release, no automatic reductions.

Mandatory 6-day work regime, all prisons will operate on:

- 6 days of structured work
- 1 day of rest

Work includes:

- Manufacturing
- Maintenance
- Agriculture
- Public-benefit labour

Restoration of discipline, routine, and contribution.

Transition from leisure to work, prisons will shift:

- **From** - Leisure-based regimes (TV, games, extended recreation)
- **To** - Work-based punishment regimes (mandatory labour, structured days, discipline)
- **Recreation** - becomes minimal and functional, not a lifestyle.

Restricted family visitation:

- 2 family visits per year per prisoner
- Visits are scheduled, supervised, and time-limited
- No additional visits permitted
- Reinforces consequence and reduces manipulation, contraband, and disorder.

Justice delivered on behalf of victims:

The justice system exists to act for the victim, not the offender. Sentencing becomes a public declaration that harm has consequences and victims are not forgotten.

Community Order Breach = automatic escalation:

- Breach of community orders or suspended sentences triggers immediate custody.
- No repeated cycles of non-compliance.

National protection priority:

- Violent, sexual, and high-harm offenders face mandatory termination.
- Public safety becomes the primary sentencing objective.

Transparency and public reporting:

- Sentencing outcomes published in plain English.
- Judges must state the actual time to be served, not the headline figure.

External Influence:

- UK based decision making, removal of all UN, ECHR guidelines and legislation will enable punishment of offenders, whilst ensuring justice for victims.

Benefits:

Restores public confidence - Sentences become clear, predictable, and meaningful.

Strengthens deterrence - A minimum 12-month custodial threshold, no early release, and a work-based regime create real consequences.

Protects communities – Guaranteed removal of high-harm offenders from society.

Simplifies the system - A 12–60 month custodial range eliminates confusion and inconsistency.

Reinforces responsibility - Offenders face real accountability; victims see justice delivered.

Reduces reoffending - A 6-day work regime builds discipline, structure, and skills — not idleness.

Ends the “holiday camp” perception - The shift from leisure to work ensures prison is a punishment, not a lifestyle.

Reduces manipulation and disorder - Limited visitation and structured days reduce contraband, gang influence, and behavioural leverage.

Aligns with CHOICE GB values - Consequence, fairness, responsibility, and national protection.

Justice is victim-centred - The system acts on behalf of victims, restoring the moral purpose of sentencing.

Reduced Institutionalisation – Maximum 5 Year sentencing reduces time out of the societal system.

Cost Reduction – Termination of violent high risk individuals, reduced prisoner numbers and reduced longer term security risks.

Summary:

The UK sentencing system is too complex, too lenient, and too inconsistent. **CHOICE GB's** sentencing restructuring replaces ambiguity with clarity, discretion with consequence, and weakness with protection.

Custodial sentences will run from 12 to 60 months, served in full, with no early release. Prisons will transition from leisure-based regimes to work-based punishment regimes, operating on a 6-day working week with limited visitation. Above all, justice will be delivered on behalf of victims, ensuring that consequence, fairness, and national protection replace leniency, ambiguity, and offender-centric policy.

Sentencing redefined — simple, predictable, victim-centred, and consequence-driven.

