

Press Release: 27 August 2008



UNLOCK launches new web community for reformed offenders

UNLOCK, The National Association of Reformed Offenders, has launched a forum for people with previous convictions and their supporting friends and family. Community members can start discussions, ask questions, contribute experiences and provide answers to other members.

Chief Executive Bobby Cummines, who spent 13 years in prison, said, "It's easy to feel invisible and alone. I want to see a vibrant community with a body and a voice. Each experience is a priceless contribution to improving the system and in supporting each other."

The forum will be co-ordinated by Chris Stacey. "I know through personal experience that there is discrimination in many areas, including education, employment, insurance and housing. Sharing our experiences will reduce isolation and support the fight for anti-discrimination laws."

UNLOCK is actively looking for new members to join the community.

Visit www.unlock.org.uk to view the forum and to join.

For more information, please contact T: 01634 247350 or email chris.stacey@unlock.org.uk

Ends

Notes

1. Unlock, the National Association for Reformed Offenders, exists to achieve equality for reformed offenders. It is a unique organisation founded in 1999 by a group of reformed offenders, each of whom, in their own way, successfully rebuilt their lives after serving prison sentences.
2. The UK Government Offender Index currently lists 7.3 million people who have previous convictions
3. Bobby Cummines (Chief Executive) served 13 years in prison, across two sentences, spending many years within the UK's high security prison estate. He is now one of the most widely recognised and passionate advocates of penal reform in the UK, advising Government and the Judiciary and regularly appearing in the media. He advised the Chairman in the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry.