

UNLOCK, The National Association of Reformed Offenders



UNLOCK
The National Association
of Reformed Offenders

T: 01634 247350

F: 01634 247351

E: enquiries@unlock.org.uk

W: www.unlock.org.uk

Who are UNLOCK?

- UNLOCK was established as a charity in 2000
- UNLOCK was set up by and is led by reformed offenders
- UNLOCK has over 4,000 members and 5 employees
- UNLOCK is independent
- UNLOCK does not take government funding to deliver contracted services
- UNLOCK aims to achieve equality for reformed offenders and a society in which reformed offenders are able to fulfil their positive potential through equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities.

What does UNLOCK do?

UNLOCK receives thousands of letters, phone calls and emails. In response we:

- Offer direct information, support and referrals to expert organisations
- Develop and deliver innovative projects to demonstrate how problems can be solved
- Run campaigns that seek to change discriminatory laws, policies, practices and attitudes
- Act as a channel for the voices of reformed offenders to influence policies, practices and attitudes.

What are UNLOCK's current objectives?

- Improved access to bank accounts, insurance and financial capability training
- Implementation of anti-discrimination laws to support equality for reformed offenders
- Enabling of prisoners to vote in line with the European Court of Human Rights judgement
- Establishment of a community-based alternative to prison focused on training and employment
- A trusted, flexible and high quality information service
- More positive public opinion of reformed offenders
- Development of a strong community of reformed offenders committed to equality

What has UNLOCK achieved so far?

- Provided thousands of reformed offenders and family members with information and support
- Developed a service offering access to insurance to people with convictions and their families
- Highlighted prisoners' need to open bank accounts and convinced Halifax to run a pilot project
- Set up bank account opening projects in 5 prisons, in partnership with Halifax and Barclays
- Developed financial capability training specifically for former offenders called 'UFC'
- Trained 130 staff and peer supporters in 33 prisons and 8 community-based charities to deliver UFC
- UNLOCK has contributed to many TV and radio programmes, as well as stories in the printed media including the BBC, Sky, Channel 5, The Times, The Guardian and the Independent
- Established the UNLOCK Forum, an internet-based community solely for people with previous convictions to share experiences, highlight issues, ask questions, support each other and work towards equality