

# Why are we jailing non violent protestors?

***“The climate crisis poses a well documented and terrifying threat to life, to humanity, to our planet... [the UK] may end up filling up its prisons with the very people who realise that and try to change this deadly path”.***

- Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur for Environmental Defenders



***“Many of us... will disagree more or less strongly with the tactics of JSO, but are deeply worried by the disproportionate nature of these sentences. Is it right that this kind of protest should be treated as more dangerous than a good many more dramatic offences against persons and property?”***

- Former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams

- Cost per year for one prison place: **£52,000** (UK Govnt statistics 2023)
- Rates of assault are increasing in prisons, and self-harm rates have reached their highest ever level, with 73,804 incidents over the past year (one prisoner self-harming every seven minutes.) (Solicitors Journal, July 2024)
- There is no limit to how long prisoners can be kept in their cell and some are locked up for over 22 hours a day (Prison Reform Trust 2022)
- Drugs are an issue in most UK prisons. The Chief Inspector of Prisons, Charlie Taylor, said one prison “had a near tsunami of drugs”

**Protest is a fundamental part of our society.** We need to have the ability to disagree with our leaders, and we need to be able to express that disagreement. With the UK prison population running at over **87,500**, jails at **over 98% full** and **60% of cells overcrowded**, and with Germany having refused to extradite prisoners to the UK because UK prisons are in such poor condition, **we need radical new thinking!**

## Stop Jailing Truth Tellers



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