

WELCOME TO PROBATION QUARTERLY 22



Jake Phillips
Editor, Probation Quarterly

When I was appointed Editor of *Probation Quarterly*, I decided to dedicate part of an Issue to race and racial inequality in the context of probation and I am delighted to be bringing that aim to fruition here. It has long been recognised that people from ethnic and racially minoritized groups are over-represented in the criminal justice. This takes place because of myriad processes which increase the chances of people from marginalised groups being criminalised. However this over-representation occurs, it has important ramifications for probation work, some of which are explored in the articles presented here. I will admit that it was difficult to bring the themed section on race together and I was, at times, dismayed at the apparent lack of research that is being undertaken in this area. There does not appear to have been an in-depth study on race in probation for almost twenty years and upon revisiting the much-lauded Lammy review I realised how much less it had to say on probation when compared to the rest of the system. This neglect, I worry, may have contributed to a general apathy around properly understanding the role of probation in perpetuating racial inequality.

That said, I am pleased to be including a number of articles which highlight some of the issues that probation services need to deal with. We thus have two articles that focus on the experiences of Muslim women by Sofia Buncy and colleagues and Seema Patel. I am pleased to include a summary of the HMI Probation report into racial inequality by Kevin Ball as well as an examination of the role that community-based scrutiny could play in terms of supporting the Probation Service to be more inclusive by Nina Champion and Hannah Pittaway. Pamela Ugwudike's article explains and explores artificial intelligence and the way it shapes risk assessment. In turn, this could perpetuate racial

inequality and discrimination. Olivia Dehnavi from Working Chance provides a summary of their research into Black women's experiences of seeking employment after a period of punishment before, finally, Aisha Ofori and Alexandra Cox look at the experiences of young people in the criminal justice system through the lens of racial inequality.

In the aftermath of the Black Lives Matters protests of 2020, the Lammy Review and a wider recognition that insufficient attention has been paid to race inequality it is good to see that the Probation Service has created a Race Action Programme and I look forward to seeing how this develops. Overall though, it feels to me as though probation has not adequately scrutinised its role in relation to race and I hope that this Issue makes a contribution to this important social issue.

The general section of PQ22 has a distinctly international feel with articles from Ireland, India and Norway, shedding light on how other countries do things. We then have a selection of articles which are more policy focused with two articles on the increasing role that technology and digital services can play in keeping people safe and supporting desistance. Thien-Trang Nguyen-Phang provides a summary of her research examining children who are violent to their parents and considers the implications of this for probation practice. Finally, Tony Margetts provides an analysis of the implications of the Carol Black review for probation with a particular focus on the challenges of commissioning.

I would like to thank all contributors for their articles which, together, make for a fascinating and, hopefully in some cases challenging, read for all.