

WHISTLEBLOWING AWARENESS WEEK

follow up event

(#WBAW) 28th & 29th November 2023

“Show me a sector and I will show you a scandal that has been brought to light by a whistleblower”.

Whistleblowing is barely out of the news. We cannot turn on the TV without a headline or plot that relies on whistleblowers and how badly they are treated. Since March we have seen countless new stories including about the Countess of Chester Hospital, HS2, Post Office Horizon, Greater Manchester Police, Sanctions Busting and Green Washing – the list goes on...

Why a follow up event and why now?

In March the APPG ran the UK's first **Whistleblowing Awareness Week** in Westminster. The event heard from speakers across all sectors bringing together over 1000 people from over 10 countries; regulators, lawyers, academics, organisations and whistleblowers. What we have firmly established is that whistleblowing is not an employment matter. It is essential that new laws properly address, the protection of whistleblowers, independent and thorough investigation of concerns, accountability of those responsible and a programme of public education to ensure that everyone knows their rights and responsibilities.

Whistleblowing Awareness week **inspired the Government to launch the Whistleblowing Framework Review**. This programme coincides with the first report by the Minister and former vice chair of the APPG Kevin Hollinrake MP at the Department for Business. Furthermore it is another opportunity to remind the Government why our proposals in the Whistleblowing Bill should be adopted as part of any reform. We need to **make whistleblowing work** by introducing laws that are a safety net for every citizen.

I look forward to you joining the discussion and being part of the **Future of Whistleblowing**.

Mary Robinson MP, Chair APPG for Whistleblowing



@Awhistleblowing #WBAW23
www.appgwhistleblowing.co.uk
Contact the APPG -
email: secretary@wbuk.org



The Programme

WHISTLEBLOWING AWARENESS WEEK

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TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

SESSION 1 - COMBATTING FINANCIAL CRIME & THE IMPORTANCE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

Palace of Westminster - No 1 Parliament Street Room C - 10:30-12:00

The important role of whistleblowing in combatting serious organised and financial crime is widely recognised but why do so many whistleblowers spend years afterwards regretting their decision while watching the wrongdoers continue undeterred? Following the decision of the CMA to increase its incentive to whistleblowers and the recent announcement by David Lammy MP of a commitment to reward whistleblowers who expose sanctions what, if any role, should restitution play in supporting those who want to expose wrongdoing and how do we decide?

SESSION 2 - TECH AND AI - WHISTLEBLOWING IN AN UNREGULATED SECTOR

Palace of Westminster - Portcullis House, room Q - 13:00-14:30

As the world comes to terms with the corruption at the heart of the Bankman-Fried case and the role of technology we will be looking at the treatment of whistleblowers and whether the proposals in the Whistleblowing Bill go far enough to protect them and the victims of these crimes. In this case, the swift fall from hero to villain of the crypto sector exposed years-long fraud that traced back to FTX's launch in 2019. We will also look at the role of AI with industry leaders, policy experts and whistleblowers to consider best practice and destigmatising whistleblowing to prevent stifling an important and rapidly changing sector.

SESSION 3 - OFFICIAL SECRETS, JOURNALISTS & WHISTLEBLOWING

Palace of Westminster - House of Lords, Residence 1 - 15:00-16:15

At a time when the world has rarely been less stable is there still an argument for treating those who raise concerns about the conduct of the institutions entrusted to keep us safe more harshly than the rest of our citizens? This session will explore why journalists appear to be being increasingly targeted for reporting on the treatment of whistleblowers and the secrets they reveal? We will hear from journalists, whistleblowers and the lawyers who are challenged, often at great personal peril, with the arguments for a fairer approach to those who sometimes risk more than just their liberty.

This is a unique opportunity for Parliamentarians to explore the risks confronting whistleblowers who fall between the legal cracks.

SESSION 4 - A JUDGE'S PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON WHISTLEBLOWING, THE CONSTITUTION & DEMOCRACY

Palace of Westminster - House of Lords, Committee Room 3a - 16:45 - 18:15

Whistleblowers engage in litigation seeking vindication, with an expectation that justice will be seen to be done. Many feel disappointed with the outcome and question the law and the role of those who dispense it.

Judges are the very last arbitrators in the case of whistleblowers but how well does this really align with the expectations of the public and is there another way to reconcile their position while retaining judicial independence? This session will be a unique opportunity to hear from those on the front line and discuss the challenges.

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WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

SESSION 5 - WHISTLEBLOWING IN HEALTHCARE - A LESSON IN FUTILITY?

Palace of Westminster - House of Lords Committee Room 1 - 10:00-12:00

A chance to discuss whistleblowing in the health sector with a range of health professionals.

Challenges facing the NHS have been amplified by the media coverage of the crisis faced by whistleblowers across the health service. This despite a well documented understanding of the consequences that retaliation and victimisation of healthcare whistleblowers has for patients and the public. This discussion promotes the need for urgent change to completely reframe whistleblowing in the NHS. The panel will demonstrate how a successful and safe healthcare system could be grounded in the proposals in the Protection for Whistleblowing Bill [HL] and an Office for the Whistleblower. We will provide information that will inspire Parliamentarians to take practical, measurable steps to move the agenda forward and join the All Party Parliamentary Group on Whistleblowing.

SESSION 6 - NDA'S, PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION - EXPLORING THE PERSONAL COST & COST TO SOCIETY OF WHISTLEBLOWING

Palace of Westminster - Portcullis House, Room Q - 13:00-14:30

Whistleblowing is a hot topic in governments and boardrooms around the world. We will be looking at how and why UK law has failed to address the culture of fear that prevents people from speaking up, and why whistleblowers are heralded as "heroes" and "courageous" but more often than not are rewarded for their actions with a well used playbook of retaliation. This discussion will explore the sophisticated methods of retaliation deployed to undermine and discredit whistleblowers. Labels such as "vexatious" or "malicious" are regularly used to describe those only failure was to try to prevent harm to the public. We will hear from those who have been labelled, those who have been forced into career suicide and about the pervasive use of NDAs.

SESSION 4 - WHAT'S NEXT WITH MARY ROBINSON MP THE CHAIR OF THE APPG & HER TEAM

Palace of Westminster - Portcullis House, Room Q - 15:00 - 16:30

Mary Robinson will be setting out the plan to continue to the campaign for the introduction of the Office of the Whistleblower and how everyone can get involved.

THIS SESSION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WESTMINSTER HALL DEBATE - TBC

This House supports the OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER.

**TO ATTEND IN PERSON EMAIL SECRETARY@WBUK.ORG
STATE WHICH SESSION/S YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.**

**N.B - SPACES ARE LIMITED DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE ROOMS AVAILABLE -
SOME SESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ACCESS ONLINE PLEASE SEE WEBSITES FOR DETAILS
WWW.WBUK.ORG/ WWW.APPGWHISTLEBLOWING.CO.UK**

Important Information

The APPG for whistleblowing is an informal group of cross party parliamentarians who have come together to transform whistleblowing laws and the treatment of whistleblowers. The APPG is open to **all** Parliamentarians and we welcome new members. Information about the APPG including our aims and objectives, our members and our work can be found on the website **www.appgwhistleblowing.co.uk**

The APPG for Whistleblowing is supported by its secretariat **WhistleblowersUK** a not for profit organisation which receives no government funding and relies on the generosity of the public to provide its services. WhistleblowersUK supports the APPG by providing administration, the organisation of events, research, training and casework assistance to Parliamentarians, If you would like more information or assistance with a whistleblowing matter

email: secretary@wbuk.org

to donate - please visit: www.wbuk.org

Thank you to our supporters

