

10 DAYS TO...

SAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

#PROTESTISNOTACRIME



**FLAT
PACK
CAMPAIGN**



Green Party

FOREWORD

The Government is trying to take away our democratic freedom to protest, but over the next 10 days we have a unique opportunity to stop some of the worst measures outright. **We need your help to persuade Labour to vote against them in the Lords.**



The Government sidestepped the Commons by introducing 18 pages of draconian laws as amendments in the Lords, but that means if peers vote against them they can't be reinserted. Greens will vote against. Lib Dems say they will vote against. Many Crossbenchers will vote against. But we need the Labour Lords to vote against as well. They can't abstain. They must vote against.

We have until mid January to gather those votes. Please help us.

Jenny Jones
Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb
Green Party
House of Lords



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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The government's Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill (the Policing Bill) reaches a crucial stage this month. Many people are aware that this Bill is a threat to basic civil liberties but don't realise how much worse it has become following a series of amendments that have been slipped into the Bill at a late stage, without proper scrutiny or debate. These amendments would:

- Criminalise any protest that might “interfere” with infrastructure such as roads, railways, oil refineries and printing presses. This could be used to ban all effective protests, including protest against airport expansion and picketing by union members taking industrial action.
- Criminalise protesters who attach themselves to another person, to an object, or to land (“locking on”). This was one of the forms of protest used by the suffragettes in their long campaign for votes for women.
- Greatly expand police “stop and search” powers, allowing the police to stop and search people or vehicles if they suspect they might be carrying any item that could be used in prohibited protests. A prohibited protest is defined in the Bill as any protest that has “a relevant impact” on or causes “serious annoyance” to any two people within the vicinity of the protest, or that causes “serious disruption” to any organisation. Material for use in protests might include placards, banners, loudhailers or any other items commonly used by protesters.
- Give police the right to stop and search people without suspicion, if they believe that protest will occur in a particular area.
- In effect the Bill gives the police, acting under instruction from government, the power to stop any protest. The criminal offences created by the Bill and its amendments carry a maximum sentence of 51 weeks in prison.

These are dictatorial powers that would remove some of our most basic democratic rights and freedoms. They would enable the government, or future governments, to turn the UK into a police state.



INTRODUCTION

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The next ten days are crucial. Because the latest amendments to the Bill were slipped in at a late stage in the House of Lords, the Lords are able to remove them. The amendments will fall if the Lords vote against them when they consider the Bill at sittings on 10, 12 and 17 January.

Green and Liberal Democrat peers will oppose these amendments. The Labour Party has so far failed to offer strong opposition to the Bill and **it's vital that Labour and independent peers now join other peers to stop these extremely dangerous amendments.**

There are three things you can do to raise public awareness of the dangers of the Policing Bill and increase pressure on peers and on the Labour Party more generally to oppose it:

1. **Protest** - Either with Jenny Jones and others in London on [12 January](#), or outside your local MP's office. You'll find materials you can use for these protests below.
2. **Social media** - Post about the Bill on your personal and local party social media pages. We've provided materials you can use below.
3. **Contact your MP** - Find out how below.

You can also sign [this petition](#) by 38 Degrees calling on the government to stop this attack on our democratic rights, and encourage others to sign.

Please share this protest pack with friends and contacts inside and outside the Green Party. **Thank you for helping to defend our democratic right to protest!**



1

PROTEST

PROTEST IN WESTMINSTER

If you're in or near London, you can join Baroness Jenny Jones, Caroline Lucas and others at the Statue of Suffragette Millicent Garrett Fawcett in **Parliament Square at 10:00am on Wednesday 12 January**. If you're coming to this, please [sign up at the Eventbrite link here](#).

If there's any change to social distancing rules that makes it necessary to limit numbers, we'll let you know.



STAGE A PROTEST OUTSIDE YOUR MP'S OFFICE

If you're outside London, you can organise a small protest outside the office of your local MP, any time between the 7th and 15th January. At the same time, deliver a letter explaining why you expect them to stand up for the right to protest, based on the one [here](#).

There are posters you can use to make placards for these events in the folder [here](#) – print them off and mount them on cardboard.

- A3/A2 poster: [PROTEST IS NOT A CRIME](#)
- A3/A2 poster: [THIS SIGN COULD GET ME SENT TO PRISON](#)
- A3/A3 poster: [PROTESTERS NOT CRIMINALS](#)

NOTIFY LOCAL MEDIA AND SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR PROTEST

If you're organising a local protest, notify local media that you'll be doing this and send out a press release about it afterwards with photos of the event – there's a template you can adapt [here](#).

Don't forget to take photos of your protest and post them on your social media using the hashtags **#ProtestIsNotACrime** and **#PoliceBill**.



2

SOCIAL MEDIA

POST AN IMAGE OF YOURSELF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

1) Post a selfie holding a sign with a message about the Policing Bill and why it's so dangerous. We've made a few you can print out and use, [here](#), or handwrite your own sign with your own message.

- o [This sign could get me sent to prison](#)
- o [Without protest, women would not have the vote](#)
- o [I am a protestor, not a criminal](#)

2) Use the hashtags **#ProtestIsNotACrime** and **#PoliceBill**.

3) Tag in your local MP and/or a Labour/Independent peer, who you can find [here](#).



SHARE INFORMATION OR MEMES

Campaigners against the Policing Bill have provided more graphics and text, including quotes from high-profile opponents of the Bill, [here](#).

We've also made images you can share as memes on social media. You can download them from the folder [here](#).



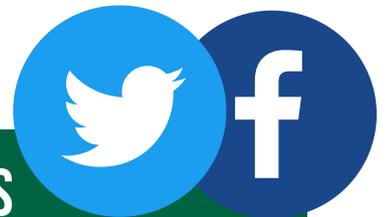
2

SOCIAL MEDIA

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE PHOTO AND HEADER

We've made profile pics and header images that you can use on your Facebook and Twitter pages to temporarily replace your own during this campaign. When you do this, please tweet or post to explain why.

- 1) To update your Twitter or Facebook profile photo with an overlay please follow this [Twibbon link](#) and complete the instructions.
- 2) To update your Twitter or Facebook header, or your Facebook profile photo, you can find images [here](#).
- 3) Share why you're changing your photo - there is some suggested text below - and tag your local MP and/or a Labour/Independent peer, who you can find [here](#).



SUGGESTED TEXT FOR FACEBOOK/TWITTER POSTS

The right to protest is fundamental to democracy. Priti Patel's Policing Bill threatens to remove this right and criminalise protesters.

It would allow this or any future government to stop any protest and create a police state.

#ProtestIsNotACrime - Stop the #PoliceBill

3

CONTACT YOUR MP

EMAIL YOUR MP

Members of the House of Lords tend to have few or no staff and are not able to deal with large volumes of correspondence. Our Green peers Jenny Jones and Natalie Bennett will be writing individually to every Labour and independent peer to urge them to oppose the amendments to the Policing Bill. But it's also vital to put all possible pressure on the Labour Party itself, which will instruct Labour peers on how to vote. A few Tory MPs may also be persuaded to oppose the Policing Bill and may be able to influence colleagues in the Lords.

- You can find your MP at [Write to Them](#).
- There's a template email you can use [here](#). But if you have time, do write your own email using your own words.

CALL YOUR MP

If calling a Labour MP, stress that you expect the main opposition party to be firmly opposing this dangerous piece of legislation, both in the Commons and the House of Lords. If it's a Tory MP, stress that David Davis MP has spoken out strongly about the threat to civil liberties that the Bill poses, and has said that "it hasn't just been the lefty, liberal, legal fraternity that has been worried about this". Davis has also noted that many senior Police chiefs are opposed to the Bill, has condemned the way that it puts the police into "a politicised position" and has said: "Every law that we write must be written on the presumption that it will be a government very unlike ours that oversees it at some point in the future. What if in 20 years time we have an extreme right or an extreme left-wing government?"

- You can find the phone numbers of most MPs [here](#). In your call, try to make the points made in the template email above.

CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

- There's a full list of Labour peers, with email and phone contacts, [here](#). Write to Them has [advice](#) on writing to peers.
- Digital Rebellion gives email and phone contact details for independent peers and a phone script for calling them, [here](#).





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