



## About

**WHAT WE DO (/WHAT-WE-DO)**

**CONTACT (/CONTACT)**

We are a feminist campaigning organisation that supports, and advocates on behalf of, women who have fought back against or killed violent men. Over the past years, Justice for Women has developed considerable legal expertise in this area, and has been involved in a number of significant cases at the Court of Appeal that have resulted in women's original murder convictions being overturned, including Stacey Hyde

(<http://www.justiceforwomen.org.uk/staceya/>), Kiranjit Ahluwalia

(<http://www.justiceforwomen.org.uk/kiranjit-ahluwalia/>), Emma Humphreys

(<http://www.justiceforwomen.org.uk/emma-humphreys/>), Sara Thornton

(<http://www.justiceforwomen.org.uk/sara-thornton/>) and Diana Butler

(<http://www.justiceforwomen.org.uk/diana-butler/>).

## OUR MISSION

Justice for Women contributes to the global effort to eradicate male violence against women, which includes sexual and domestic violence, and coercive control. Our focus is on the criminal justice system of

England and Wales. We work to identify and change those areas of law, policy and practice relating to male violence against women, where women are discriminated against on the basis of their gender.



I would like to say thank you to Justice for Women, my legal team, friends and family for believing in me and giving me hope and strength to never give up. I will be forever grateful and blessed to have been given my life back

— Stacey Hyde

## OBJECTIVES

- To work towards an end to discriminatory provisions in the legal and policy framework of England and Wales relating to the criminal justice system as it impacts on male violence against women and to ensure that this framework is effective in preventing continued discrimination against women.
- To change opinion relating to women and men's experience of male violence against women. The targets for this opinion change include the



where women who have experienced male violence face criminal charges resulting from discriminatory treatment on the basis of gender by any aspect of the criminal justice system, in relation to the male violence they have experienced.

- Conducting public campaigns on behalf of and ensuring adequate legal representation for individual women who are facing criminal charges as described above, or who have been convicted of these charges.
- Developing and maintaining networks of women's organisations and other civil society organisations – both within and outside the UK – concerned with male violence against women, and facilitating direct links between women activists.
- Justice for Women is made up of women from all walks of life, including legal practitioners, researchers, activists and women working in the field of male violence.

**SUBSCRIBE**

EMMA-JAYNE MAGSON  
(/EMMAJAYNE-  
MAGSON)

FARIEISSIA MARTIN  
(/FARIEISSIA-MARTIN)

SALLY CHALLEN  
(/SALLY-CHALLEN-  
APPEAL)

STACEY HYDE  
(/STACEY-HYDE-1)

KIRSTY SCAMP  
(/KIRSTY-SCAMP)

SHARON AKERS  
(/SHARON-AKERS)

JANE ANDREWS  
(/SHARON-AKERS-1)

ROSE SWAN (/ROSE-  
SWAN)

CHRISTINE DEVANEY  
(/CHRISTINE-DEVANEY)

JOSEPHINE SMITH  
(/CHRISTINE-DEVANEY-  
1)

DONNA TINKER  
(/CHRISTINE-DEVANEY-  
1-1)

ZOORA SHAH (/ZOORA-  
SHAH)

DIANA BUTLER  
(/ZOORA-SHAH-1)

SARA THORNTON  
(/SARA-THORNTON)

EMMA HUMPHREYS  
(/SARA-THORNTON-1)

JANET GARDNER  
(/SARA-THORNTON-2)

KIRANJIT AHLUWALIA  
(/KIRANJIT-  
AHLUWALIA)

PATRICIA GALLAGHER  
(/KIRANJIT-  
AHLUWALIA-1)

Sally killed Richard in 2010 after years of being controlled and humiliated by him.

At the time of her conviction, 'coercive control' was not a crime in England and Wales, only becoming recognised in law as a form of domestic abuse in 2015.

Coercive control is a way of understanding domestic violence which foregrounds the psychological abuse and can involve manipulation, degradation, gaslighting (using mind games to make the other person doubt their sanity) and generally monitoring and controlling the person's day-to-day life such as their friends, activities and clothing. This often leads to the abused becoming isolated and dependent on the abuser. It was dramatised very well in Helen's storyline in Radio 4's *The Archer's back* in 2016.

Sally was only 16 when she met 22 year old Richard. At first he was charming but gradually the abuse began. He bullied and belittled her, controlled their money and who she was friends with, not allowing her to socialise without him. But, whilst he forced strict restrictions on her behavior, he himself, would flaunt his money, have numerous affairs and visit brothels. If she challenged him, he would turn it back on her and make her feel she was going mad. Although Sally did manage at one point to leave Richard, even starting divorce proceedings, she was so emotionally dependent on him that she soon returned, even signing a 'post nuptial' agreement he drew up that denied her full financial entitlement in the divorce and forbade her from interrupting him or speaking to strangers.

It was not long after this reunion, that Richard the offence took place. Sally, so utterly dependent on Richard, wanted to believe that they could be together, but his behaviour towards her was increasingly humiliating. The final straw was when he sent Sally out in the rain to get his lunch so that he could phone a woman he had been planning to meet from a dating agency. Sally returned suspicious and challenged him, he commanded her not to question him and she struck him repeatedly with a hammer.

Her defence at trial was diminished responsibility, the legal team downplayed the abusive behavior of her husband, Sally was convicted of murder and sentenced to life

imprisonment with a minimum tariff

of 22 years, reduced to 18 at appeal. Despite the death of their father, Sally's two sons and all those who knew Sally and Richard well have supported her recognizing that she was completely controlled by Richard.

about Sally  
Challen...

In 2017, Justice for Women submitted new grounds of appeal to the Criminal

in 2017, Justice for Women submitted new grounds of appeal to the Criminal Appeal court highlighting new psychiatric evidence and an expert report showing how coercive control provides a better framework for understanding Sally's ultimate response in the context of a history of provocation. Unfortunately, permission to appeal was refused by a judge who read only some papers. On 1st March Sally's legal team submitted a renewed oral application for appeal before three court of appeal judges and Sally was granted leave to appeal.

On 27th and 28th February the Court of Appeal heard new evidence and Sally's conviction was overturned and a retrial ordered. In June 2019, prosecutors accepted Sally's plea to manslaughter and was sentenced to 9 years and 4 months meaning she walked free due to time already served.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this campaign.

Sally's case featured in a BBC2 documentary aired in December 2019 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000c65v>

Too small

#### **REAL CRIME PROFILE :**

Laura Richards and Lisa Zambetti discuss Sally Challen's murder conviction and successful appeal on March 1st, the pioneering coercive control law and the lawyer, Harriet Wistrich, who is holding the state to account when they let women down. This is a special episode to mark International Women's Day and pay tribute to Harriet and other leading advocates who tirelessly lobby, campaign and raise awareness of injustice on behalf of women who have lost their voice and been let down

More can be read about Sally's case here (/sally-challen) and press can be found here (/press-1)