

# Advancing justice and institutional integrity through the Innocence Project London

## About

Dr Louise Hewitt's work at the University of Greenwich centres on providing access to justice for convicted individuals who maintain their innocence but have exhausted the appeals process. Through the Innocence Project London (IPL), a law clinic based at the university, Hewitt collaborates with students, lawyers and academics to deconstruct claims of innocence and prepare cases for potential review by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC).



## Work

Louise's work through the IPL exemplifies a sustainable response to limitations in the criminal justice system, particularly in the area of legal aid. By partnering qualified lawyers with student caseworkers, the IPL enables clients to access professional legal assistance they would otherwise be unable to afford. This collaboration ensures that students gain real-world experience while providing a crucial service to underserved individuals.

The IPL annually engages around 40 students from across the University of Greenwich, providing them with hands-on experience in criminal law and the opportunity to challenge injustices within the legal system. This experience has inspired many students to pursue careers as paralegals, barristers, probation officers, prison service staff, academics and further study in law or criminology.

Working on innocence cases shapes students' critical perspectives on the criminal justice system, empowering them with the belief that they can enact positive change. Students report that their involvement in the IPL gives them a sense of agency, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to society, even in small ways.

The IPL's work extends internationally, as the programme frequently hosts interns from universities abroad, furthering its impact on a global scale. By fostering an international network of students and professionals dedicated to justice, the IPL creates a ripple effect that amplifies the reach and impact of its mission.

Louise has started working in four London prisons to develop a leaflet that will provide information to prisoners about how they can obtain their legal case file. This strand of work arose because applicants were telling the IPL they did not know how to get certain documents after their conviction. If successful the leaflet could be rolled out to all prisons in the England and Wales.

## SDGs



Explore the IPL's work at [www.IPLondon.org](http://www.IPLondon.org)