

34 Responsible Citizens

Dear Judge Edmunds

21 July 2023

Update

We write to provide an update on our letter of 17 July.

Suppression of evidence has been driving the climate crisis and undermining democracy for decades. The [minutes of the American Petroleum Institute's 'CO2 and Climate task force' from 1982](#) reveal, for example, that Exxon's own research programme predicted 'globally catastrophic effects' by the middle of this century.

Yet those making vast profits from the carbon economy chose to conceal this information from the public, and to sponsor the demonising of those speaking out.

And now, as our planet burns, just as Exxon and others knew that it would, the British courts perpetuate that pattern of silencing and suppression. Undermining the democratic right to trial by jury by stealth. Banning the ordinary people taking proportionate action to defend themselves and those they love from explaining their motives to the jury. Threatening them with prison or sending them to prison if they do. Meanwhile, those who destroy the conditions which make the planet habitable walk free.

Today we exercise our rights of freedom of expression and assembly not only with signs that uphold the principle the jurors are free to reach decisions of conscience - a right which is being deliberately concealed from juries. But also with blank signs, [the international symbol of state repression](#). What can we say about why we did what we did, with our liberty on the line? *Answer on a blank sign.*

By failing to safeguard the public and by enabling the destruction of our families, homes and communities, the British courts turn themselves into a site for civil resistance. We're ready to face the consequences for upholding the law, in solidarity with all those who are criminalised for speaking the truth about injustice and the 'highway to climate hell' that we're on.

And because the duty to protect life is so sacred, we will not be deterred.

Yours sincerely,

34 Responsible Citizens, namely

Anne Richards, Emeritus Professor
Ana Heyatawin, Grandmother, Retired Bus Driver
Dr Katharine Fallon, retired GP
Dr Juliette Brown, Consultant Psychiatrist
Simon Bramwell, gravedigger
Elizabeth Cambray, retired NHS Psychologist, grandmother
David Lambert, historian
Dr Stuart Drysdale, retired GP
Susan Reid, grandma and retired Community Care Worker
El Litten, web developer
Graham Cox, retired domestic appliance engineer
Val Saunders, retired art tutor
Richard Painter, father and retired bank official
Tim Crosland, father and former Government lawyer
Dave Hampton, father, grandfather, radio presenter, former GB rower & civil servant
Mary Light, retired nurse
Susan Hampton, ex teacher, author
Laura Clarke, retired social worker
Ms Yvonne Hall, retired BBC News Reporter
Christine Welch, retired teacher and SENCo (special educational needs coordinator)
Brian John Barker, retired charity worker, NHS GSA Cardiothoracic theatre, teacher
Martin Strivens, Chartered Accountant
Dr Neil Stevenson, retired GP
Maddy Hamey-Thomas, copyeditor
Dr Diana Warner, retired GP, grandmother
Phil Laurie, retired Engineer, father
Christopher Ward, web developer
Yvonne Hayward, Grandma, retired teacher
Rosa sharkey, International development student
Annie Webster, Grannie, retired cook
Jane Augsburg, Carer
Leslie Tate, retired teacher
Claudia Penna Rojas
Lachlan Ayles, teacher