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FAO: The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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By email: privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk; WithamMP@parliament.uk; and
public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

CC:

1. Government Legal Department by email only: thetreasurysolicitor@governmentlegal.gov.uk
2. The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State (Minister for Crime and Policing), by email only: kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

22 October 2021

Dear Secretary of State

Inquiry into issues arising from the conviction of Wayne Couzens

We write further to our letter of 15 October 2021, requesting you reconsider the scope and approach of your announced public inquiry in response to the conviction of Wayne Couzens. As you know we requested four main actions be taken urgently which are (in brief):

1. Take immediate steps to implement the recent HMICFRS recommendations on improving police response to violence against women and girls
2. Put the inquiry on a statutory footing
3. Expand the scope of the inquiry so it does not cover Couzens alone
4. Confirm a panel will be appointed for the inquiry and that it will comprise at least one expert in male violence against women and girls.

Since that date, due to the widespread concern that not enough is being done to tackle the wider issues arising from the Couzens' case and to make urgent, meaningful and informed change we have been joined by many specialist women's groups and organisations who work in this field. We know that many others will be adding their voices to the request. We also continue to be contacted by more women who are victims of such abuse and by others with knowledge of serious police failures in this area. Those who have already explicitly supported this request include the following:

- Against Violence and Abuse
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- FORWARD
- Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)
- IRISi
- Justice for Gaia Campaign
- Karma Nirvana
- National Women and Girls Network
- nia
- Police Me Too
- Rape Crisis England and Wales
- Reclaim These Streets
- Refuge
- Rights of Women
- SignHealth
- Solace Women's Aid
- Southall Black Sisters
- Surviving Economic Abuse

We look forward to your response to our original letter by **4pm on Friday 29 October 2021**. In the meantime, should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at to H.Wistrich@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk and D.Dasgupta@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harriet Wistrich', written in a cursive style.

Harriet Wistrich
Director
Centre for Women's Justice