



WTU: Open Letter Jan 2020

"*We the Undersigned Have a Human Sovereign Right to Cannabis*", also known as WTU, are a community group of 5700+ members and growing every day. WTU have united to raise a legal challenge against the Government to fight for our shared beliefs in the fundamental human rights to a private life, beliefs and practices, self-determination and the development of personality, as we so choose, insofar as no harm is caused to others. Many of WTU have made the fundamental health choice to recognise and utilise cannabis for either its therapeutic, nutritional, relaxational, spiritual and creative benefits or to avoid serious injury or death from side effect ridden pharmaceutical drugs or the poisonous recreational drug alcohol [1]. WTU believe people should not be criminalised for this fundamental health choice.

TO: Max Hill QC, Director for Public Prosecutions, Kit Malthouse MP, Policing Minister and Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary

WTU respectfully ask you to consider and respond fully to the following points **within 14 days** of receiving this letter:

1. On 6th January, 2020, at Carlisle Crown Court, Lezley and Mark Gibson were acquitted of the charges of the unlicensed cultivation of cannabis and possession of cannabis-laced chocolate, after the CPS decided to offer no evidence as it "**was not in the public interest to prosecute**", so long as they purchase an expensive private cannabis prescription [2]. Lezley Gibson uses cannabis to alleviate some of the terrible symptoms of her illness, Multiple Sclerosis, and was previously prescribed Sativex, which was then withdrawn several years ago due to NHS guidelines. She admitted that she had then begun cultivating cannabis to treat her symptoms, which no other prescribed drugs achieved, out of necessity and due to the potential threat to her wellbeing and person through accessing cannabis of unknown quality from the unlicensed cannabis market; the home cultivation of organic cannabis was safer, quality assured and sustainable.

- a) **In light of the above case, do the CPS intend to review their charging decisions in other cases where individuals have been cultivating their own cannabis purely to manage symptoms of a medical conditions?**
- b) **Does this mean that the CPS recognises that prosecuting individuals who use cannabis for the above purpose is not in the public interest and will they issue guidance to prosecutors to that effect?**
- c) **Will the CPS clarify when it is in the Public Interest to prosecute individuals who simply choose cannabis to alleviate the exigencies of daily life?**

2. More than an estimated 1,400,000 British people are using cannabis for medical purposes [3]. The Government estimates that 7.18% of UK adults have used cannabis in the past year. This accounts for approximately 4.7 million people who use cannabis and an estimated unlicensed market value of up to £6 billion per year [4].

As an alternative to the estimated total £31m or 1,044,180 police hours [5] spent on persecuting cannabis consumers, as in 2015, would it not be in the interest of the taxpayer if the existing cannabis market was legalised, regulated and taxed, thereby redirecting revenues from the

uncontrolled market to The State, so that finite Police funds and resources could be redirected towards investigating crimes that cause real harm to the public?

3. Both Home Office [6] and global research [7] has shown harsh drug laws do not yield the desired outcomes and have in fact generated harm, such as “County Lines” gangs [8] and high mortality rates [9]. Government has been accused of “*clinging to their failing policies on “drugs”*” after data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed there were 4,359 deaths related to drug poisoning in 2018, the highest number since records began in 1993.

Cannabis is one of the oldest traditional herbal health remedies, food supplements, and non-toxic recreational drug [10]. It is over a hundred times safer [11] than the Government’s preferred and regulated recreational drug of alcohol.

In view of this evidence, does the Government agree that these harms could be reduced or mitigated by decriminalisation, regulation and taxation?

4. Funding these cases against otherwise law-abiding citizens is an unnecessary waste of tax-payers money, even more so because evidence exists of financial links between parliamentarians and the licensed cannabis market [12]. Corporations, such as GW Pharmaceuticals, can purchase a license to cultivate cannabis to patent a product (over 100 patents at last count) to then sell for great profits [13], whilst ordinary citizens are denied the right to home grow for choice, independence and sustainability. This is economic discrimination with one rule for the rich and powerful and another rule for the poor.

How does the Government justify allowing large, multinational companies to profit from growing cannabis while prosecuting individuals like the Gibsons for seeking sustainability?

5. We believe that all should have the right to home cultivate cannabis, for their own non-commercial uses, in their homes, according to their beliefs and as they have determined for themselves in the development of their personality or maintenance of health. These fundamental human rights were recognised by the Supreme Court in Mexico 2015, and human rights should know no boundaries, borders, nor territories [14], with the right to free access to cannabis also being recognised in the states of Colorado, Nevada, Massachusetts and Illinois as well as in Canada and other jurisdictions.

WTU believe that all should have the right to home cultivate cannabis, parallel to non-commercial home brewing rights for alcohol or home cultivation rights for all other nutritious herbs, fruit and vegetables. It is time the UK recognised these rights as well and the benefits to the public of legalising and regulating the already existing market in cannabis cultivation and use.

6. Finally, given all of the above WTU respectfully ask whether you are willing to work together, within your respective roles and responsibilities, to end the ideological war against cannabis, which is really a war against cannabis consumers, the vast majority of whom are otherwise law abiding citizens.

Signed: We The Undersigned community group

Date: 4/2/2020

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