

The Centre for Social Justice  
1 Westminster Palace Gardens  
Artillery Row  
London SW1P 1RL

Telephone 020 7340 9650  
Website [www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

Release date: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012



**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**RELEASE TIME: IMMEDIATE**

## **‘Another riots report reveals a drifting generation and a broken society’, says CSJ**

**Christian Guy, Policy Director at the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), has issued the follow statement in response to the report from the Riots, Communities and Victims Panel:**

“The CSJ welcomes the report from the Riots, Communities and Victims Panel, which exposes the damaging nature of social breakdown and its impact in fuelling the riots.

“Many of the themes the Panel identifies such as: family breakdown; failing schools; worklessness; and a broken criminal justice system, reflect the stark reality of life in Britain’s most deprived communities – a truth which the CSJ has been revealing for years.

“From chaotic families, failed parenting, absent fathers and 16 year old school pupils utterly unprepared for the real world, to a revolving door prison system which does nothing to change lives. The riots were a disgraceful warning shot from a drifting generation which is cut off from the mainstream of society.

“The riots panel is wrong, however, to downplay the role of gang culture last summer. Statistics reveal that within London alone one in five of those arrested was a gang member, and the actual number is likely to be higher because many involved have still not been caught. Furthermore, the Panel’s own analysis shows that the riots took place in areas with high gang activity.

“Street gangs offer many young people a dangerous counterfeit family and undermine all efforts for economic and social reform in an area. Through spontaneous turf war truces and the use of social media to mobilise large numbers, gangs played a pivotal part in the escalation of last year’s rioting.

“Without concerted action to mend our broken society more violent and appalling disorder will rear its ugly head again. There is nothing more dangerous than a group of people who feel they have nothing to gain and nothing to lose.”

For media inquiries, please contact Nick Wood of Media Intelligence Partners Ltd on 07889 617003 or 0203 008 8146 or Alistair Thompson on 07970 162225 or 0203 008 8145.

**ENDS**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)** is an independent think tank established in 2004 to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

In 2007 the CSJ published its landmark report, *Breakthrough Britain*. This publication, which set out 190 evidence-based policy recommendations to tackle poverty in Britain, transformed the social policy and political landscape and was awarded Publication of the Year by *Prospect Magazine* in 2008.

Since *Breakthrough Britain* the CSJ has published over 40 reports which have shaped government policy and influenced opposition parties. These have included the seminal papers *Dying To Belong* and *Dynamic Benefits*, which has led the Coalition Government's welfare reforms.

Further to this, the CSJ manages an Alliance of over 250 of the most effective grass roots, poverty-fighting organisations.