

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE ON 00.01am MONDAY, 31 MAY 2010

Much to welcome in coalition programme of reform

JUSTICE welcomed many of the proposals published in *The Coalition: our programme for government* in its response published today.

Roger Smith, JUSTICE's director, said:

The coalition has taken up many issues for which we argued under the previous government. We hope that, over time, the coalition will advance rights through a positive programme, as well as by simply repealing existing legislation. There are some areas where we think that the coalition has gone too far. We would not, for example, extend anonymity to those accused of rape. There are areas where it has not gone far enough: we would have liked to see greater powers of legislative scrutiny given to the House of Commons.

Overall, however, we welcome the programme and the first steps towards its implementation. We were pleased that the principle of never condoning the use of torture has led the Foreign Secretary to establish a judicial inquiry into British complicity in the torture of those detained in the 'War on terror'. We hope to work with the government in its commitment to find ways of using intercept evidence in trials so that control orders may be reduced or eliminated.

For further information contact Roger Smith on rsmith@justice.org.uk or 020 7329 5100.

Note to editors

1. A PDF of the JUSTICE Response to the Coalition Programme for Government is attached.

Chairman of Council **Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws QC** *Director* **Roger Smith OBE**
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