

## take action [police spies out of lives . org . uk > act now](http://police spies out of lives . org . uk > act now)

We need your help. This issue is far wider than this one court case. Not everyone affected can take the police to court for what happened. For those who are, the process is long and painful. Please join them, and us, in speaking out and taking action in whatever way you can, and encouraging others to do the same.

- Sign up to and promote the *Where We Stand* statement (see overleaf)
- Demand accountability from your MP, and Police & Crime Commissioner.
- Petitions, campaigning, writing, discussions and critiques .
- Join the debate on twitter - use #policespiesoutoflives
- Keep fighting for social and environmental justice - don't let their abuse put you off.
- Go to the *Act Now* on our website for more suggestions

## donate [police spies out of lives . org . uk > donate](http://police spies out of lives . org . uk > donate)

We are currently fundraising for legal costs, counselling for the claimants, and administration costs. Whether you are sending a personal donation, putting on a benefit gig to raise pennies, or sending money from your group, we really could not thank you enough.

[For email updates or to send a message of support:](#)

POLICE SPIES  
**OUTofLIVES**.org.uk

contact @ police spies out of lives . org . uk c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX

Police Spies Out Of Lives is a support group for the women involved with this case. It is a loose affiliation of concerned individuals, friends, and family members of the eight women who are bringing the case. We extend our solidarity and sympathy to all those affected by systematic abuse by the police. However, for practical and legal reasons, we are unable to offer practical support to anyone other than those involved in this specific case.

# POLICE SPIES **OUTofLIVES**

**In December 2011 eight women launched legal action against the Metropolitan Police for the harm caused by undercover officers deceiving them into long term intimate relationships.**

The case concerns the deployments of five of the officers who infiltrated social and environmental justice campaigns. The deployments of these 5 officers span well over 20 years, While the officers are individually guilty of immoral conduct, the command structures (and those who head them) must take responsibility for the abuse committed by their officers.

*The women assert that the actions of the undercover officers breached their rights as protected by the European Convention on Human Rights, including Article 3 (no one shall be subject to **inhumane and degrading treatment**) and Article 8 (respect for **private and family life**, including the right to **form relationships without unjustified interference by the state**). The women are also bringing claims for **deceit, assault, misfeasance in public office and negligence**.*

The eight women seek to highlight and prevent the continuation of psychological, emotional and sexual abuse of campaigners and others by undercover police officers.

[read more >](#)

# where we stand

The women who are bringing this case, and their many supporters, believe that:

There are **no circumstances** in which it would be acceptable for an undercover police officer to engage in intimate relationships with either targets or members of the public under the guise of their undercover identity.

The fact that this has taken place repeatedly, despite being morally wrong and unjustifiable, shows that within the police forces in the UK there exists:

- **institutional sexism** – women have been used to shore up undercover identities, without regard for those women's right to a private life (whilst men have been affected, evidence so far shows that it is primarily women's lives that have been abused in this way).
- **institutional prejudice** against members of the public who engage in social justice and environmental campaigning, including a disregard for their human rights.

Both these forms of institutional prejudice must be challenged and stopped; each has reinforced the other.

## We call for:

- A **clear and unambiguous statement** that the abuse has ceased, and will never, in any circumstances, be permitted.
- The **past to be thoroughly and openly investigated**, so that the damage may be acknowledged, those responsible may be held to account, and that as a society we may come to terms with what has happened, heal the wounds that have been inflicted and be confident that the practice has ceased.
- **Action and change** to prevent these human rights abuses from ever happening again, including stronger support for whistle-blowers and greater protection for rights of association and expression.

Until these things happen, we have no reason to believe that these abhorrent abuses have stopped, or that the police acknowledge their actions are wrong, and that they must change.

We come from different backgrounds and have a range of political beliefs and interests, and we are united in believing that every woman, and every person, has a right to participate in the struggle for social and environmental justice, without fear of persecution, objectification, or interference in their lives.

**We welcome allies who wish to engage with the above issues in this spirit of democratic empowerment.**

Please visit [police spies out of lives . org . uk](http://police spies out of lives . org . uk) to sign and promote this statement.