



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. Since then, more than fifty women have been found to have been subject to the same human rights violation.

The cases concern the deployment of Metropolitan police officers infiltrating social and environmental justice campaigns. The deployments of these officers span decades. While the officers are individually guilty of immoral conduct, the command structures – and those who head them – must take responsibility for the abuses committed.

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). [Kate Wilson's IPT judgment](#) has some bearing on this assertion.

The women are also bringing claims for deceit, assault, misfeasance in public office and negligence.

Our campaign seeks to highlight and prevent the continuation of psychological, emotional and sexual abuse of campaigners and others by undercover police officers.

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 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
- Demand accountability from your MP and Police & Crime Commissioner
- Join the debate on social media - use hashtags #spycops #policespiesoutoflives
- [Subscribe to our email updates](#)
- Go to the [Get Involved](#) section on our website for more suggestions

DONATE

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

[**https://policespiesoutoflives.org.uk/donate/**](https://policespiesoutoflives.org.uk/donate/)



We 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 the spirit of democratic empowerment.