

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Probation and Social Work on Trial - Violent offenders and child abusers  
Dr Wendy Fitzgibbon book launch**

Dr Wendy Fitzgibbon, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at London Metropolitan University, will launch her book 'Probation and Social Work on Trial: Violent Offenders and Child Abusers' on Wednesday 5 October.

The book deals with the tragic child abuse case of 'Baby P' in 2007 and the high profile murderers Dano Sonnex and Nigel Farmer who tortured and murdered two French students in 2008.

In the book, Dr Fitzgibbon explores the key questions:

- Are these types of cases becoming more frequent?
- Could probation and social work professionals have done more to prevent them?
- What does the reaction to these events by media and government tell us about the state of social work and probation agencies?
- What will be the effect of new government policies on the work of these agencies?

The book is based on interviews by the author with a range of social work and probation practitioners. It also includes a careful analysis of media and government responses, together with the various internal inquiries conducted into these high profile cases.

The launch will include a discussion of issues raised by the book led by a panel of invited academic criminologists and senior practitioners from London Probation and Social Services.

Praise for 'Probation and Social work on Trial', published by Palgrave:

"A remarkable and sobering book; it should be required reading for all those concerned about the future of probation and social work in the UK" - Shadd Maruna, Director of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Queen's University, Belfast

"The core task of the criminologist is to uncover the links between private problems and public issues. Fitzgibbon achieves this with enviably clear, jargon-free prose and from a tightly argued theoretical position" - Kevin Stenson, Professor at the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research at the University of Kent, UK.

"A powerful and incisive analysis of some of the main changes in probation and children's social work over the last 40 years" - Nigel Parton, NSPCC Professor in Applied Childhood Studies, University of Huddersfield, UK.

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**Notes to editors:**

Dr Wendy Fitzgibbon book launch

*Probation and social work on trial: violent offenders and child abusers*

Date: Wednesday 5 October, 6pm

Venue:

Henry Thomas Room

Tower Building

166-220 Holloway Road

London N7 8DB

Nearest tube station: Holloway Road

**Panel:**

**Dr Liz Davies** - Reader in Child Protection, London Metropolitan University

**Dr Wendy Fitzgibbon** - Senior Lecturer Criminology, London Metropolitan University

**Professor John Gabriel** – Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Professor Simon Hallsworth** – London Metropolitan University

**Adrian Smith** – Senior Manager, London Probation Area

**Professor Kevin Stenson** – London Metropolitan University

**For more information:**

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