

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER LO4: UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGES

### AC4.2 EXPLAIN HOW SOCIAL CHANGES AFFECT POLICY

#### AC4.3 DISCUSS HOW CAMPAIGNS AFFECT POLICY

**TIP:** Remember, these two areas are **NOT PRESCRIPTIVE**. You will not be asked about specific changes affecting one particular area. Instead you should have a range of examples to illustrate how norms, values and mores can impact changes as well as a range of campaigns that you can discuss in detail with reference to the laws that they led to. This KO simply provides you with some examples but you can **USE YOUR OWN** if you prefer.

**AC4.2:** You should be able to explain how social changes affect policy development. Social changes could refer to norms, values, mores, public perceptions, structure of society, demographic changes or cultural changes.

**AC4.3:** You should be able to discuss a range of different campaigns for example a newspaper campaign, an individual campaign and a pressure group campaign. For each one you should give some background on why it was started, who was involved and refer to a **specific change in law/policy that it led to**.

### AC4.2 CONTENT OVERVIEW

An exam question will not ask you to discuss specific laws. However, it is important that you refer to examples such as laws surrounding **smoking, homosexuality, women's rights, domestic abuse or the death penalty**, as these will allow you to answer a more general question in this area. The wording of an exam question in this area could include the following terminology: **social values, norms and mores; public perception of crime; structure of society; demographic changes, and; cultural changes** (other examples can be found at the bottom of this page).

**Social Norms:** these are social expectations that guide behaviour and explain why people behave and act in the way that they do. They help to keep deviant behaviour in check. It is expected behaviour but can vary from culture to culture. For example, in the UK it is the norm to wear black or dark colours to a funeral but in China it is the norm to wear white. An example of related policy is the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 which challenged the norm of people using 'legal highs' by making the behaviour illegal.

**Social Values:** these are rules and beliefs that are shared by the majority of people in society. They are more like general guidelines for what a culture believes is important. For example, most people feel we should respect the elderly. An example of policy is the use of cannabis oil, as the use of cannabis is controlled due to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, in 2018 some doctors were allowed to prescribe it as a medicine showing how values surround the application of drugs has changed.

**Social Mores:** these refer to the good or moral ways of behaving. They are norms that a culture would think are too serious to break e.g. murder. An example of policy related to changing mores is the act of 'Upskirting' which due to changing mores surround inappropriate sexual behaviour is now a distinct crime, punishable with up to two years in prison as a result of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019.

### AC4.3 CONTENT OVERVIEW

CAMPAIGN	TYPE OF CAMPAIGN	REASONS BEHIND CAMPAIGN	CAMPAIGN METHODS	POLICY INTRODUCED
<b>Sarah's Law</b>	<b>Newspaper / Individual</b> The News of the World backed the campaign that was led by Sarah's mother, Sara Payne.  Similar to Megan's law in the USA.	Abduction and murder of 8-year-old Sarah Payne by Roy Whiting, who was already on the sex offenders register for abducting and indecently assaulting a 9-year-old girl a few years earlier.  Sarah's parents started a campaign to have information about known sex offenders made available to the public.	A <b>petition</b> was promoted by the News of the World <b>newspaper</b> and received 700,000 signatures. Sara Payne made multiple <b>TV and public appearances</b> in order to keep the campaign high profile and keep the public aware.	<b>Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme.</b>  Allows people who are able to protect children to apply for details of those living in the area with convictions for child sex offences.  It was initially a pilot but due to its success it was rolled out to all of England and Wales in 2011.
<b>Bobby Turnbull and Gun Laws</b>	<b>Individual campaign.</b>  Bobby Turnbull started a campaign to change the gun laws when members of his family were shot and killed.	Bobby Turnbull's mother, sister and aunt were killed on New Year's Day 2012 by Michael Atherton, her mother's boyfriend. Atherton had a history of domestic violence and his legally owned guns had been removed from him at one stage but later returned.  Bobby Turnbull started a campaign to change the gun laws and also sought to have a gun hotline established for people to report concerns.	A <b>petition</b> to change the gun laws gained 20,000 signatures.  Bobby Turnbull also regularly appeared in the <b>media</b> and <b>lobbied</b> MPs.	Amendments were made to the <b>Firearms Act 1968</b> preventing any person who receives a suspended sentence of three months or more, for any offence, from purchasing or possessing a firearm.  Any incidents of domestic violence would lead to a review by the police of any firearm certificates.
<b>'UR Boss' Howard League for Penal Reform</b>	<b>Pressure Group campaign.</b>  Although the Howard League for Penal Reform campaign on a variety of concerns with the criminal justice system, this campaign focused on the rights of young people and their experiences.	One of its most recent successes of the Howard League for Penal Reform is the ' <b>UR Boss'</b> campaign, which aimed to improve young people's experiences in the criminal justice system. They were concerned about the emotional, psychological and also physical harm that young people could encounter throughout the criminal justice system and set out to improve these experiences.	Wide range of resources including contributing to <b>policy consultations</b> , giving evidence to a number of <b>parliamentary groups</b> , speaking at party political conferences, on <b>event panels and to the press</b> and building <b>web and social media</b> resources.	<b>Ending routine use of strip searching</b> on arrival at a Youth Offenders Institution <b>A change to remand legislation</b> so that 17-year-old are now treated as children (have Section 20 status). Substantially raising the remand threshold under the <b>Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act</b>

### SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

**Explain** how social values, norms and mores may impact policy development. [7 marks]  
With reference to examples, **analyse** how laws change due to time, place and culture. [9 marks]  
  
**Discuss** how social changes can affect policy development. [8 marks]  
**Discuss**, using examples, how laws have changed over time. [7 marks]

### OTHER EXAMPLES OF SOCIETY'S CHANGING VIEWS

**Racism**  
**Abortion**  
**Disability Rights**  
**Hate Crimes**

### OTHER EXAMPLE OF CAMPAIGNS

**British Lung Foundation – and anti-smoking**  
**Ann Ming – double jeopardy law**  
**Michael Brown – Clare's Law**  
**Natasha & Gary Groves – Lillian's Law**