



Immediate release

28 January 2026

Over 120 editors, lawyers, academics, journalists, publishers and civil society representatives call on the Government to give parliamentary time to stamp out SLAPPs.

On 28 January 2026, marking the 5th anniversary of the UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition, 127 representatives from a wide cross section of society co-signed an [open letter](#) sent to Prime Minister Keir Starmer joining the Coalition's call for anti-SLAPP provisions to be included in the next King's Speech, expected in May.

While the Prime Minister, and other members of his Cabinet, have spoken out about SLAPPs and the need to address them, no new legislation has been brought forward under the current Government. As the letter outlines, while the inclusion of anti-SLAPP measures in the 2023 Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) was a welcome and official recognition of the problem, the provisions are both limited in scope and flawed in approach.

Parliamentary time must be given to advance universally applicable, and robust, anti-SLAPP measures to ensure our courts can no longer be abused by those seeking to avoid the sort of scrutiny that sustains democracy.

Signatories to the letter include: editors and leaders of outlets including The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Times, The FT, Reach PLC, Bloomberg, Reuters, The Independent, The Economist and Mill Media; legal experts including Reach PLC's General Counsel, New York Times' Deputy General Counsel, Dow Jones General Counsel and The Times Editorial Legal Director, lawyers from RPC, Doughty Street Chambers, Miller Korzenik Rayman LLP, Wiggin, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP and Haynes Boone, as well as barristers including Gavin Millar KC, Marc Willers KC and Keio Yoshida; academics from institutions including the University of Oxford, University of Melbourne, University of Liverpool, University of Sheffield, University of Exeter and University College London; journalists and writers including Catherine Belton MBE, Alan Rusbridger, Tom Burgis, Eliot Higgins, Cat Neilan and Paul Caruana Galizia and representatives of civil society, including PEN International, Greenpeace UK, Can't Buy My Silence UK, State Capture Accountability Project, Transparency International (UK), Centre for Women's Justice and the UK Open Government Network.

Please see below for quotes from signatories. If you would like to contact the UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition please email: info@antislapp.uk

The UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition co-chairs said:

"A commitment to stamp out SLAPPs is a commitment to ensuring British justice remains a level playing field. Only then can SLAPP targets - be they journalists, campaigners, local organisers, sexual violence survivors, victims' advocates or anyone speaking out in the public interest - mount a defence without being threatened into silence by the costs, trauma and disruption an abusive legal threat can cause. With the significant number of signatories, demonstrating the consensus across many sectors of society, echoing that already seen across political parties, we hope this letter serves to underscore to the Government the urgency of this issue, and the need to prioritise introducing measures that protect the right to speak up to challenge wrongdoing, scrutinise power and express ourselves freely."

Joshi Herrmann, Founder and Editor, Mill Media said:

"It's far too easy for bad actors to abuse the law in the UK in order to bully media companies and suppress public interest journalism. Mill Media has been threatened by wealthy and powerful people several times in the past few years, and we often receive legal threats that are clearly designed to stop us publishing accurate and important stories. The government needs to keep its promises and pass strong anti-SLAPP rules fast to protect the free press, one of this country's most valuable legacies."

Nina Cresswell, SLAPP target and writer said:

"I signed this letter because defamation law was weaponised against me by the man who sexually assaulted me. In 2020, UK law allowed him to harm me further through legal threats and the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act wouldn't have protected me. It took three years of my life fighting and I will never be the same again. SLAPPs are used to silence victims, human rights campaigners, and anyone speaking uncomfortable truths. We need comprehensive anti-SLAPP provisions to stop predators exploiting the legal system to compound abuse."

Rupert Cowper-Coles, Head of Media, Reynolds Porter Chamberlain (RPC) LLP said:

"With the EU and parts of Canada and the US already benefiting from anti-SLAPP legislation or in the process of introducing protections, the UK is at risk of becoming an outlier in its failure to introduce universal anti-SLAPP protections. That is concerning where all the evidence shows London is one of the 'SLAPP' capitals of the world and a first port of call for the wealthy when seeking to silence public interest speech."