

## **Amendment to The On-line Harm Bill**

### **Whistleblowers**

**We have asked our MP Gareth Bacon to support an amendment to the On-Line Harm bill, asking that whistleblowers be given a special protection category.**

**Whistleblowers will often suffer workplace bullying and harassment as a direct result of whistleblowing. This makes them particularly vulnerable if they are further targeted by troll accounts, bullying and gaslighting.**

**We routinely support whistleblowers at the lowest points in their lives, they are without work and income and isolated by their experiences. Some whistleblowers can be at risk of suicide and its crucial they are protected from online harm.**

**Whistleblowers will often go online to seek the support of other whistleblowers and it is at this point they are targeted.**

**Those who use troll accounts to bully, harass, push an agenda, or attempt to mislead the public should be stopped, the harm they do is often invisible. The tactics vary from vitriolic abuse, which is easier to identify and therefore easier to get social media platforms to act on; but the most damaging harm is subtle and malicious, designed to attack the credibility of the victim and isolate them and is repeated over a long time.**

**We want whistleblowers protected from this harm. We also want an aggravated offence created to deal with any individual perpetrator who is a public office holder and/or in a position of trust, who is found to be using anonymous troll accounts to be held accountable.**