INDEPENDENT INQUIRY
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Truth Project

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@TruthProjectCSA

@InquiryCSA (#TruthProject, #InquiryCSA, #ResearchCSA)

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INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Key facts about the Inquiry

- Set up in 2015 to investigate organisations and institutions that have failed to protect children from sexual abuse
- Led by Chair, Professor Alexis Jay OBE and three Panel members - Professor Sir Malcolm Evans, Ivor Frank and Drusilla Sharpling CBE
- Supported by a Victims and Survivors' Consultative Panel
- Independent of government
- Does not have the power to convict people of criminal offences, determine civil liability or award compensation

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Inquiry Terms of Reference

The scope and purpose of the Inquiry is defined in its Terms of Reference, which state that it should:

- consider the extent to which **state and non-state institutions** have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation
- consider the extent to which those failings have since been addressed
- identify **further action needed** to address any failings identified
- consider the steps which are necessary for state and non-state institutions to take in order to **protect children from such abuse in the future**
- **publish a report with recommendations**

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Inquiry core projects

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Engaging with The Truth Project

Getting in Touch

Expressing an Interest

Participant contacts the Inquiry to express an interest in the Truth Project.
Contact can be made online, via email, via post or by calling the Information Inquiry Line

Invitation

Inquiry Office sends an invitation to share an experience through the Truth Project.
Participant tells us if they wish to share their experience at a private session, by telephone or in writing.
Inquiry Office will respond via the participant's preferred method of communication - email, phone or post

Share your experience at a private session

Inquiry Office will note preference for location (if face to face rather than telephone), date, time, journey and any companions. Inquiry Office will then issue confirmation to the participant.

Share your experience in writing

If a participant wishes to share in writing then an Inquiry Office will send guidance on how to do so.

Support Service

An offer of emotional support is made available to all participants to support them around their engagement with the Inquiry and the Truth Project.

Private Truth Sessions

Participants can talk to a support worker before, during and after their session

Participants can inform the Truth Project of ways to help minimise any potential distress through adjustment requests such as:

- Gender of Support Worker / Facilitator / Assistant Facilitator
- Bringing a companion or service animal with them
- Mobility and accessibility issues
- Specific requests, eg: no red clothing / no brown belts / no ties / no white shirts / no moustaches / no specific accents, etc
- Welsh Language Speaker
- No-one to walk behind them
- Room to be well lit / dimmed lighting

Private sessions will only be recorded with participants' consent

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Anonymised Summaries

From last October, the Inquiry has been publishing anonymised narratives from the Truth Project

Additional accounts will be added every quarter, to collate around 1,000 experiences of child sexual abuse online by the end of the Inquiry

These Experiences Shared form the first ever online anthology dedicated to the experiences of victims and survivors in England and Wales.

The accounts are available on the Truth microsite at www.truthproject.org.uk/experiences-shared

Clive really wants people to understand that for those who have been sexually abused: 'It doesn't need to be stigmatised as some sort of disability, but it does need to be recognised that this will have a lifelong impact.'

Jackie was doing well at school, socially and academically, until an event happened that had devastating consequences on her life. When she was in her early teens a teacher at her school raped her.

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Have Your Say

Participants can also choose to have their say through a message to be published alongside their experience

"With this Inquiry comes renewed hope; hope that while we cannot stop child sexual abuse, we can learn how to limit it, and how to support those affected by it."
Anonymous

"They stole so much from me, that cannot be fixed, when they abused me. But with this Inquiry comes renewed hope."
Anonymous

"It is not your fault. You were taken advantage of. Be kind to yourself. You have been through alot. Let people help you. You are amazing and brave."
Anonymous

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Truth Project To Date

Figures since beginning of Truth Project to February 2019:

14,752
Expressions of interest

2,053
Truth sessions attended

777
Written accounts received

2,830
Total accounts received

These figures are accurate up to 28 February 2019.

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Why get involved in the Truth Project?

I will be heard awareness campaign

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Our ask of you...

What can you do to help us to spread the word about the Inquiry and the Truth Project with individuals within your communities?

How can we expand our reach and continue to engage effectively with your communities?

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Raising awareness within your communities

Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit

- Information about the **I will be heard** campaign
- A range of suggestions to enable you to actively raise awareness of the Truth Project and the Inquiry
- A range of electronic resources and materials to support your activities

The Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit is available on www.iicsa.org.uk in the Victims and Survivors section of the website.

Thank you for your support in raising awareness of the Truth Project within your communities.

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Contact Us

Get in touch

You can call the Inquiry Information line on: 0800 917 1000 - it's open weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturdays 10am-12pm. Calls are free and do not show on your bill.

You can share your experience through the Truth Project, either by emailing us at share@truthproject.org.uk or using our online form.

You can also provide information by email at contact@iicsa.org.uk.

You can write to us via Freepost IICSA INDEPENDENT INQUIRY (no stamp required)

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