INDEPENDENT INQUIRY
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Introduction to the Inquiry

Russell Knight
Head of Engagement

Trigger warning: Mentions child sexual abuse

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

Terms of Reference

- 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**

Inquiry Core Projects

Investigations

Truth Project

Research

Engagement

Recent and upcoming publications

- Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks (CSEN) Investigation Report (1st February 2022)
- Residential Schools Investigation Report (1st March 2022)
- LGBTQ+ Engagement Report
- Final Report

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Hearing the voices of people with lived experience of CSA in a major independent Inquiry

Justine Skeats
Lead Safeguarding Officer

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Hearing the voices of people with lived experience of CSA in a major independent Inquiry

- The importance of hearing victim and survivor voices
- How the Inquiry has heard from those with lived experiences of child sexual abuse
- How the Inquiry works to support victim and survivor's wellbeing
- Some of the key points emerging from this work so far

Hearing the voices of people with lived experience of CSA in a major independent Inquiry

> "They stole so much from me that cannot be fixed when they abused me. But with this Inquiry comes renewed hope; hope that whilst we cannot stop child sexual abuse, we can learn how to limit it, and how to support those affected by it when it does happen. This will undoubtedly save lives."

Truth Project Participant

The Chair and Panel

“I know how hard it can be for victims and survivors to speak about the abuse they suffered. The courage they display is remarkable. Many who have come forward have said they felt motivated to share their experiences in order to help others. We hope that people will continue to do so, both for themselves and for the better protection of children now and in the future.”

Professor Alexis Jay OBE,
Chair of the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse

The importance of hearing victim and survivor voices

- Credibility
- Better understanding of the profound impacts of CSA
- Insight into patterns, frequency and locations
- Supports the efficacy of findings and recommendations

How the Inquiry is hearing from those with lived experiences of child sexual abuse

- Victim and Survivors Consultative Panel (VSCP)
- Truth Project
- Victim and Survivors Forum
- Specific communities work
- Engagement with Children and Young people

Wellbeing

- Trauma Informed Approach
- Choice and Control
- Support
- Safeguarding

Key messages

There needs to be a cultural shift, so that talking about sexual abuse becomes more acceptable

The need to recognise specific cultural barriers for accessing services, or more broadly the culture that discourages discussing and/or responding to child sexual abuse.We heard that the media's tendency to sensationalise child sexual abuse and focus on the perpetrator detracts from the impacts on the victims and survivors.

Victims and survivors face delays or barriers in accessing support

We also heard that the government should consider the long-term negative impacts for victims and survivors who have not received earlier support.

Listening to children

We heard the importance of listening to children and/or reading their behaviour, believing and supporting

Key messages

Statutory bodies should improve their response to child sexual abuse and exploitation.
Some victims and survivors said their experience of the statutory services was traumatising and disempowering.

Relationships and sex education (RSE) in schools does not reflect current challenges facing children, and is mostly inconsistent and inadequate.
We heard that RSE should focus on appropriate touch and consent, and should start younger.

Creators of social media apps and internet platforms must take greater responsibility.
We heard that social media companies have a duty to better protect the children and young people using their apps.

Final thoughts..

- Imperative that we heard survivor and victim voices to improve child protection in the future
- Supporting people properly is the key to involving and incorporating lived experience within an organisation
- Move away from thinking it is challenging to seeing it as essential

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Thank you

For further information please visit our website: iicsa.org.uk

Contact: engagement@iicsa.org.uk