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IICSA Two Years On - Survivors ask Government to respond to Inquiry as reported cases of child sexual abuse reach record levels

- 15 survivors speak at London conference about the impact of child sexual abuse on their lives.
- Survivors call on Government to respond adequately and urgently to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).
- Event marks almost two years since IICSA Changemakers was formed with a mission of tackling child sexual abuse across the country.



Jess Philips MP with speakers Poppy Eyre and Aunee Bhogaita

Yesterday (10th September), survivors of child sexual abuse spoke at a conference in London where they urged the Government to take action to ensure future generations of children can be better protected, and adult survivors could have better support.

This comes as earlier this year, the centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) revealed that for the second year running, police forces in England and Wales recorded over 100,000 child sexual abuse offences last year.

The event was unique in approach as all the speakers were survivors of child sexual abuse themselves. The survivors were hosted by the IICSA Changemakers, an alliance which has representation from over 68 organisations and is formed of survivors, charities, survivor organisations, law enforcement, frontline public sector organisations and health bodies that represent the sectors that both engage and protect children.

The IICSA Changemakers came together following the final report into the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in October 2022, which found the scale of child sexual abuse in England and Wales to be “horrific and deeply disturbing”.

Since that time further consultations have taken place but the required actions behind the 20 recommendations of the final report have not yet been delivered.

Critical to the original inquiry was the expertise and testimony of victims and survivors. IICSA Changemakers have continued that focus by working with victims and survivors in policy and service delivery for the prevention of and response to child sexual abuse.

At the event, speakers, including Aunee Bhogaita, Poppy Eyre, and David Tait, outlined the action needed by Government to tackle child sexual abuse, highlighting to delegates that the abuse they suffered is as alive today as it was when it happened to them.

Aunee said: *"We hear the statistics, so casually now, 500,000 children every year are believed to be affected by Child Sexual Abuse. We shouldn't casually accept this. We should be outraged. We should be disgusted. We should be taking action."*

"The reality for children is most likely that this figure is significantly underestimated because we don't have a prevalence study to understand the scale and nature of child sexual abuse in today's environment."

"We need to follow the data, understand the nature of the threat and reality of child sexual abuse and communicate widely the options of support for children and train our frontline professionals to spot the signs of abuse so that the right support gets to the right people at the right time".

Jess Philips MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, attended the event and listened to the views of survivors.

Sir Peter Wanless, Chair of IICSA Changemakers and CEO at the NSPCC, said: *"Yesterday, we came together to show the need for the new Government to finally deliver on the clear recommendations set out by the IICSA Inquiry."*

"This event highlighted the continued prevalence of child sexual abuse in our society. The powerful testimonies from speakers revealed that the abuse they suffered is still alive today."

"We need to be doing better for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. It is crucial that the new Government takes bold action to support the thousands of children facing abuse each year."

ENDS.

There are spokespeople available for interview. For further information please contact Megan.Sutherland@NSPCC.org.uk

Notes to editors

- For the second year running, police forces in England and Wales recorded over 100,000 child sexual abuse offences last year, with an increase of 2% in 2022/23 to 105,286. Karsna, K and Bromley, P. (2024) [Child Sexual Abuse in 2022/23: Trends in Official Data](#). Barkingside: Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse.

Background

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Following 2.5 million pages of evidence and thousands of hours of evidence sessions, collectively involving more than 7,300 victims and survivors, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published its final recommendations in October 2022. On April 20th 2023 the government were duty-bound to respond publicly to this inquiry.

The testimony heard by the Inquiry was shocking and sobering. The report called the nature and scale of abuse in England and Wales "horrific and deeply disturbing" and explained that institutions too often "prioritised their personal and institutional reputations above the welfare of those they were duty bound to protect". It concluded that "child protection must be given a much greater priority in public life."

The final report with a quick read guide can be found here: [The Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

About IICSA Changemakers

The IICSA Changemakers are a group of 68 organisations and individuals who represent the sectors that both engage and protect children including; charities, law enforcement, frontline public sector organisations and health bodies. They have come together to inspire a national mission to prevent child sexual abuse and provide much improved support to victims and survivors.

Members

IICSA Changemakers consist of three groups. A steering group, a wider group and organisations who can't be publicly named but commit their time and expertise to the network.

Steering Group:

1. Six VSCP members
2. Action for Children
3. Barnardo's
4. British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
5. Catch 22
6. Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse
7. Childnet
8. Designated Health Professional network for children
9. Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
10. Male Survivors Partnership (MSP)
11. Marie Collins
12. NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood)
13. National Children's Bureau
14. National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)
15. NWG Network
16. NSPCC including Childline
17. Rape Crisis England and Wales
18. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
19. Survivors Trust
20. Survivors UK
21. The Children's Society
22. The Lucy Faithfull Foundation
23. RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project)
24. Victim Support

Wider Group:

1. Baptist Church
2. Christian Forum for Safeguarding
3. Methodist church
4. Coram Voice
5. Girlguiding UK
6. Liberal Judaism (LJ)
7. Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)
8. Race Equality Foundation
9. Safe Wales
10. Save the Children
11. The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP)
12. The Football Association
13. The Scout Association