

UNDER EMBARGO: 00.01 1 NOVEMBER 2023

IICSA One Year On - Charities and survivors come together to speak at London conference aimed at tackling child abuse

- Key spokespeople, including NAPAC's Gabrielle Shaw and Richard Fewkes from the Hydrant Programme, set to address a conference of survivors, charities and organisations in London today.
- Conference theme "keeping the lights on" aims to hold Government to account for inadequate response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).
- Event marks one year since the Inquiry brought the IICSA Changemakers together with a mission of tackling child sexual abuse across the country.

Today, representatives from IICSA Changemakers will meet in London to illuminate the continuing issue of child sexual abuse in our society.

The alliance, which has representation from over 64 organisations, is formed of survivors, charities, survivor organisations, law enforcement, frontline public sector organisations and health bodies who represent the sectors that both engage and protect children.

The group came together last year, following the final response from Government on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), to inspire a national mission to prevent child sexual abuse and provide much improved support to victims and survivors.

Speakers at the event include Sir Peter Wanless, Chairman of the IICSA Changemakers and CEO of the NSPCC, alongside Gabrielle Shaw Chief Executive of NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood), Richard Fewkes, Director of the NPCC Hydrant Programme and representatives from the Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel.

At the event, they will examine what more can be done by Government to adopt a joined-up response to the 20 recommendations set out by the Independent Inquiry. So far, the Government have only committed to a redress scheme for victims and a consultation into mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse.

The IICSA Changemakers welcome these announcements but say, a year on, the Government haven't gone far enough to action meaningful change that will transform the child protection system and offer better therapeutic support for victims of child sexual abuse.

Chris Tuck, who will address the conference from the Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel (VSCP), said: *A year has gone by since the Government responded to the Inquiry and yet, on behalf of all those that inputted, we are disappointed, dismayed and left feeling dejected about the amount of movement that has happened since the final paper was released.*

"Without the transformative change of delivering cross departmental recommendations and overhauling this broken system, we cannot and will not move this endemic from a place of national disaster and instil a system focussed on prevention."

Sir Peter Wanless, Chairman of IICSA Changemakers and CEO at the NSPCC, said: “*Last year, the Inquiry shone a light on the pervasive issue of child sexual abuse in our society. Today, we are coming together to keep those lights on and continue to hold the Government to account for their fragmented response to the clear recommendations set out by the Inquiry.*”

“Children who experience child sexual abuse face a challenging road ahead. With very little therapeutic support available to help them recover and a courts system that can leave them waiting years for support, the situation has become dire. We need the Government to act now and change the tide for 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

- Latest data on recorded rates of child sexual abuse: [The scale and nature of CSA - CSA Centre](#)

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](#)

The response from Government

[New measures to tackle child sexual abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Response to the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

About IICSA Changemakers

The IICSA Changemakers are a group of 65 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