

**Taking action. Creating change.  
Preventing child sexual abuse.**

WELCOME TO OUR

# Survivor Newsletter

**In this edition you will find:**

Our final updates before IICSA Changemakers disbands...

Endings are never easy.

No matter the journey, no matter the reason, ending is often a lot like grieving.

We have spoken to many of you over the last few months about IICSA Changemakers coming to an end. We see and hear you. We know it's tough. And we're not here to bypass those feelings, it's important to witness and hold them.

This final newsletter is a chance for us to give you the last updates we have around this work. As well as a chance for us to 'feel and hold' the sadness of our alliance disbanding.

We don't have all the answers, but we have never tried to be perfect, we have only wanted to try to be *\*real\** and human with you. We hope we have managed to show that.

Read this newsletter as and when it feels right for you.

# Recent Moments....

## BBC RADIO 4 - ILLUMINATED, THE ENDEMIC TRUTH

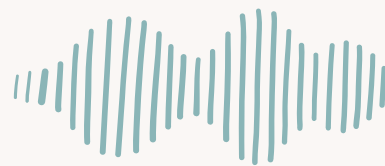
At a time when child sexual abuse is making headlines, four survivors from IICSA Changemakers offer crucial insight into what real justice looks like, and how society must act to protect children while supporting those whose lives have been irrevocably changed by abuse.



Voices: *Laura, Bryony, Joe and Chris*  
Consultant: *Natalie Dormer, Ambassador NSPCC*  
Sound design and music by *Phoebe McIndoe*  
Production Support: *Clare Kelly & Denise Pringle*  
Produced by *Phoebe McIndoe* assisted by *Tess Davidson*  
*A Falling Tree production* for BBC Radio 4

**We are so grateful for all the survivors that gave their time, emotional labour and vulnerability to this piece. We also want to thank Natalie Dormer for bringing her creativity and expert guidance to the project, and also Phoebe and Tess from the production team who truly modelled and embodied active allyship in their work.**

## CHANGEMAKERS LISTENING CIRCLE



This month we ran a closed and private 'Listening Circle' with some of our survivor advisory community members and Changemakers organisations. So there could be dedicated space for survivors to express how this ending is sitting with them, how Changemakers has impacted them and anything that we all need to remember going forward.

What was shared in that space, remains in that space. Circles are sacred and unique communing of peoples. But we wanted to publicly acknowledge our thanks for those that took part, both as speakers and listeners. Your effort, wisdom, emotions and presence were hugely appreciated. **The songs, poetry and words shared were powerful reminders of why community matters. Why this work matters. And why each and every one of you, matter.**

# **POLICING - STRATEGIC INSIGHT MEETING**

---

Clare and Denise attended the most recent Strategic Insight meeting with Hydrant and the CSE taskforce. It was a chance for us to suggest ways that they can continue to push for change and work on the spirit of the IISCA recommendations.

It was a productive, genuine and reflective meeting. Both DCC Becky Riggs and Director of Hydrant Richard Fewkes, shared personal and emotional messages of gratitude to all Changemakers survivors and allies for their collective impact and collaboration.



(For a breakdown of what the Home Secretary's announcement in January mean for Policing, take a look at our previous February newsletter which explains this in more detail)

## **REPORTS**

---

Throughout our time sending these newsletters, we've tried to make it easier for you to access and find the latest reports from the sector, as we recognise the huge mental and emotional labour it takes to research. Below is a collection of reports and resources that have been released lately.

You do not have to read or look at these if you don't want to. Being a powerful ally and advocate in this space doesn't mean you have to immerse in all details. Pick what resonates and interests you, and be mindful and considerate when moving through these as they will have references to Child Sexual Abuse within them.

**Funding and Commissioning child sexual abuse services - CSA Centre**

**Race, Racism and safeguarding child - Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel**

**National analysis of police recorded CSAE - VKPP**

**Reclaiming my voice - IFAS**

**Lost Childhoods - Refugee Council**

**Working alongside organisations when publicly sharing experiences of child sexual abuse - Marie Collins Foundation**

**Independent report: the challenge of regulating online pornography**

# What now?



Although IICSA Changemakers is concluding, the organisations and individuals that have been part of the alliance still remain in their own areas fighting for change. We have outlined and provided recommended plans for all of our members on how they can create impact going forward.

Clare's contract, (Head of Programmes) will be ending on the 31st March. Clare remains passionately dedicated to working with survivors to make change. She hopes her path will cross with many of you again in the future.

Denise, Survivor Participation Manager, will be here for a bit longer. NSPCC have been able to continue her role for a period time in order to help support the Home Office on establishing the survivor panel that was promised by the Home Secretary. Her role will look a bit different going forward, but her email will remain the same. **If you'd like to keep in touch with any future survivor participation work (in whatever form that may look like) please reach out to her on: [denise.pringle@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:denise.pringle@nspcc.org.uk)**

In discussion with our members and survivor advisors, we felt it was vital and important that the work of Changemakers is not erased, forgotten or diminished. As such, we have been able to establish an archive of all the work completed.

Our website will be updated late March/early April to show a timeline trail of everything we worked on. Take a look here: **[IICSA CHANGEMAKERS](#)**

## ***BUT WHAT ABOUT EVERYTHING LEFT TO DO!...***

The work in implementing the IICSA recommendations and improving survivor experience, protection and justice systems is still very much needed. This isn't us wiping our hands clean and forgetting.

In order to ensure the fight continues, the baton is passed and everyone still is in this fight, we created a closure paper to help guide organisations and individuals in areas of activism and legalisation that they can focus on. This paper will be uploaded onto our website as part of our archiving.

# SURVIVOR ADVISORY COMMUNITY

---

March marked the closure of the Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community. It has been a hard, difficult but powerful time of ending. We have shared our thanks in private with members but we also want to publicly thank each and every survivor who has been part of our Community and work.

Your joy, your humanity, your grit, your expertise, your time and your wisdom have been deeply appreciated. Below are poems and words from some of our survivor members that wanted to share messages with you all.



## SWEETNESS OF HONEY

Your story:  
setting of the sun  
echo of the moon  
encapsulating sweetness and sorrow  
invisibility discarded  
Hope for tomorrow.

## COURAGEOUS WHISPERS

Trees nod gently as they gather  
to absorb courageous whispers of songbirds,  
testing sounds as if exhaling air for the first time.

It is not a merry tune,  
but a soulful acknowledgement  
of truth.

*Finally, they could breathe.*

© **Elizabeth Shane – 2025** (CSA Survivor)  
[www.elizabethshane.com](http://www.elizabethshane.com)

## WATER FROM THE WELL

Bitter grey, cajoling sky-coloured haze to betray  
lullaby wishes, covered beneath brittle shells  
Time waits for parched lips to gasp  
Laborious trudge across dangerous terrain,  
every breath ignites flames of courage.  
She draws water from the well

Each sip gives life.

Her beauty is not encased in binding submission,  
neither is it ugly nor weak being silent in prayer  
Strength wrapped in softness  
as gentle arms gather young hearts

She trembles at the edge of the horizon,  
a risk to travel forward,  
remembering perilous journeys  
inflicted with jagged uncertainty

She knows.  
Her voice, the women yet to speak,  
share water from the same well.

Let us sing together, weep together,  
learn to laugh and love together.  
No longer bound by sea and shore,  
we soar on an ocean's breeze.

Together we fly.

## **I CHOOSE MYSELF**

My greatest revenge is that you do not control or own my happiness.

It's mine.

And I am allowed it.

So although the monster may never stop haunting me.

It will never reach me.

It will never touch me again.

You are not me.

and I am not you.

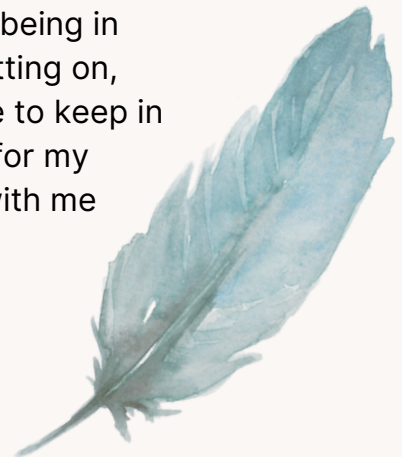
I am light. I am air. I am the clouds moving across the sky. I am joy. I am me.

*ANONYMOUS*



Being part of IICSA Changemakers has been one of the most valuable and amazing experiences in my life. All of you have contributed to that - thank you. Life will be different not being in the 'hub' of things, so I'd love to hear how people are getting on, both personally and campaign work. If anyone would like to keep in contact, my email is [nickyrichards@live.co.uk](mailto:nickyrichards@live.co.uk). I just ask for my address not be passed on to anyone without checking with me first.

Nicky



Being an activist for Changemakers has given my life purpose. With no children to prove I could have done a better job at raising my child all that is left is activism. Is this what my suffering was for? I have achieved many things in my life. The work I have done with Changemakers has changed me if no one else. I'm proud to stand beside each and every one of you. I'm proud of you for standing up and putting your experiences on the table. Whilst this is the end of Changemakers it is not the end of fighting for justice, (for me that fight is over in this world, they will be judged by their God), for the little boys and girls who are being abused today. For adult survivors now and tomorrow my fight will go on. I simply can't walk away saying job done, because it isn't.

For the time being however, I have to take a break and focus on getting better. I'm two years into weekly therapy. Still awaiting EMDR. I have to put myself first, second and third.

The closure of Changemakers has affected me deeply. Struggling with the narrative no one cares. Unable to fathom how this is even possible. Everyone cares about child welfare except when they have to put their money where their mouth is. The Endemic Truth, recorded for BBC Radio 4, reminds the Government, that while they have kicked the ball into the long grass, again, our story will be around forever, to plague and haunt them hopefully into action.

I'm viewing this end as a sabbatical. I've been to the front line and put my mental health on the line. Being a member of a society that doesn't care is very hard to live with. Whilst this tour of duty is over, I wear my Changemakers badge of honour with pride. As you should too. We had the strength to fight. To stand up and be counted for IICSA and government ministers and officials to hear our stories. We haven't lost the fight because the fight isn't over.

Rest. Recover. Regroup. Continue.

In solidarity,  
Tony





# Signing off....



Although IICSA Changemakers has been a huge alliance, there is actually only two of us that work full time on co-ordinating the work.

The impact you have had on us personally and collectively has been hard to describe, but we both wanted to share some words with you before signing off...

**Dear survivors,**

**I'm sending this to you as probably one of the hardest yet hopeful things I have written in the 2.5 years that I have worked directly on IICSA Changemakers. I say hard because it will be difficult for me not to be in the day to day with you after March, this constant fight we have fought together, but hopeful because I am confident that survivor expertise is going to form the future of the delivery of significant change in relation to child sexual abuse for the better. That hope is solidified by knowing that in some capacity Denise will be able to continue on this journey and my faith in her and her work are never shaken and much like her ethical approach to her work remain always steadfast.**

**I have seen your work, your energy, your time, your pain, your skill literally change the law of our nation and although I have played a small role in this, I assure you there is not a more prouder moment in my entire career than that of working with you in IICSA Changemakers. In recent weeks I've had to do lots of summary work of where we have got to, and I'm pleased to see so many of the changes now taken up or planned for implementation. I have also done some thinking about where this could go next and I look forward to remaining a supporter and pushing in whatever role I go into next for those last ambitions and items of work to be fully delivered.**

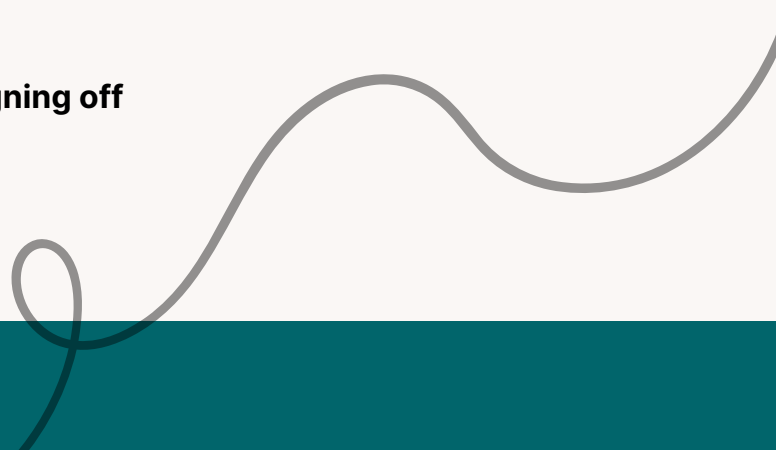
**I would like to say thank you for all that you have done, but thank you seems too small.**

**So instead I will say; That I will remain eternally grateful my entire life for every thought, every minute, every voice that you have shared on changing the identification of and improved response to child sexual abuse. You have mattered, we have mattered and we move to the next chapter stronger because of what we have done**

**All my very best wishes**

**Clare Kelly**

**Head of programmes IICSA Changemakers – signing off**



To those who I've spoken to  
To those I have not, but have been watching and listening  
To those who have disclosed  
To those that have not told a soul  
To those still in the trenches of pain and survival  
To those who have found a slice of hope  
To those who feel safer being seen as a practitioner  
To those who feel proud to be visible as a survivor  
To those that have wept and shaken with terror and fear  
To those who battle each day to find your way through the fog and hypervigilance  
To those that stand proud and loud, shouting for change  
To those whispering words of encouragement on the side lines  
To those that do not have the words yet  
To those who can't remember their childhood  
To those who don't understand their childhood  
To those tattooing their body to claim it back  
To those who have scars upon scars  
To those that have to take a 50 mile detour just to avoid where the perpetrator lives  
To those who scream for justice  
To those too exhausted to even contemplate justice  
To those grieving a life that should have been .....

To all of you, I say... thank you for being here. Thank you for living. Thank you sharing.  
Thank you for meeting me in this fight for change. Thank you, for being \*you\*.

This may be the ending of IICSA Changemakers, but is it not the ending of the power of our collective voices.

Take care, breathe deep, move gently but boldly into your future. You are deserving of love, space and kindness.

Denise Pringle

IICSA Changemakers survivor participation manager – signing off (*for now*)

