

INQUIRY NEWSLETTER

Keeping you updated with our work across England and Wales

November 2018

Welcome to the latest Inquiry newsletter, bringing you news of the progress we've made so far this year and plans for the winter months.



UPCOMING HEARINGS AND SEMINARS

An up to date list of all scheduled hearings can be found on the [hearings timetable](#).

Public hearings

We have held the following public hearings since the last newsletter:

- [The Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions](#) (July 2018)
- [Peter Ball, case study in the Anglican Church investigation](#) (July 2018)
- [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (October 2018)

We will be holding the following hearings in the next few months:

- Archdiocese of Birmingham, case study in the Catholic Church investigation (November 2018)
- Accountability and Reparations (November and December 2018)
- Ealing Abbey, case study in the Catholic Church investigation (February 2019)
- Protection of Children Outside the United Kingdom (February 2019)

Seminars

The Inquiry held a well attended seminar on mandatory reporting on 27 September. All materials and transcripts are on the [Inquiry website](#). It looked at existing obligations to report child sexual abuse in England and Wales, and at the experiences of other countries where mandatory reporting legislation exists. A number of experts attended from around the world, along with representatives from English and Welsh bodies, including the police and the Welsh Government. Victims and survivors were also present, as well as campaign group Mandate Now.

The Inquiry will hold a further seminar at the end of April 2019. It will consider the arguments for and against the introduction of mandatory reporting legislation in England and Wales, and the practical considerations involved in introducing such a law.

For details about how to attend hearings and seminars, please go to the [Inquiry website](#).



Ampleforth and Downside (English Benedictine Congregation case study) Investigation Report

The Inquiry published its fourth substantive report on 9 August, following three weeks of public hearings into child sexual abuse at Ampleforth and Downside Abbey schools. The report considered the extent to which institutional failings may have allowed the sexual abuse of children at Ampleforth and Downside schools.

The Inquiry's Twitter feed reached over 22,000 users with our posts, which were tweeted about by some very high profile news outlets including Sky News, The Guardian, ITV News, BBC, The Spectator, The Tablet and the Times Educational Supplement. James O'Brien was a pupil at Ampleforth School, and led a fascinating discussion on his LBC radio programme.

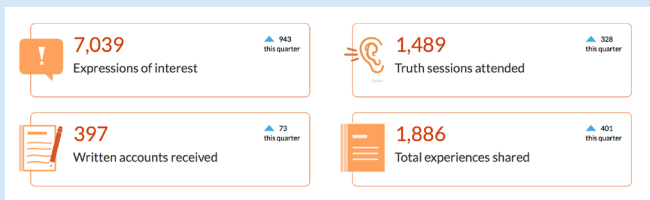


TRUTH PROJECT

The Inquiry has received over 7,000 expressions of interest from people wanting to share their experience through a private session.

Quarterly statistics

Quarterly statistical information about the Truth Project can be accessed from the Inquiry's website.



Experiences shared online

On 16 October, the Inquiry published 125 anonymised narratives from the Truth Project.



The accounts are available on truthproject.org.uk/experiences-shared, in the first ever online anthology dedicated to the experiences of victims and survivors in England and Wales.

We will be adding accounts every quarter, so by the end of the Inquiry about 1,000 experiences of child sexual abuse will be online.

The impacts of child sexual abuse reported by survivors in the accounts include difficulties keeping friends and partners in later life, eating disorders, PTSD, homelessness and rape leading to pregnancy.

Early insights from the Truth Project show that nine percent of victims and survivors experienced marital problems in the years following their abuse, 85 percent reported an impact on their mental health, 13 percent had difficulties eating and sleeping and one fifth suffered PTSD.

'I will be heard' campaign

On 1 October, we launched the 'I will be heard' awareness campaign across England and Wales, raising awareness of the Inquiry's Truth Project. The campaign includes local and national radio and press coverage.

We are keen to work with our stakeholders to ensure as wide a reach as possible to tell victims and survivors about the opportunities to speak to the Inquiry through the Truth Project.



We are actively promoting the 'I will be heard' campaign and would be happy to support you in sharing information about the Truth Project with your stakeholders and networks.

Please contact us to discuss further at engagement@iicsa.org.uk.

RESEARCH

The Research and Analysis Project team has been busy doing fieldwork and commissioning new research to fill a number of important evidence gaps.

Truth Project data analysis

We are continuing to analyse the information that comes in through the Truth Project. A research report on experiences of child sexual abuse in religious institutions will be published in 2019.

Safeguarding in youth custody

Following the publication of the rapid evidence assessment on child sexual abuse in custodial institutions, we have conducted our own fieldwork and interviewed children and staff in different youth custody establishments. A research report will be published in February 2019.

Safeguarding in residential schools

The Inquiry is publishing a literature review on child sexual abuse in residential schools in November. The review will provide context for the next phase of the work. We have commissioned NatCen working with ResearchAbility to explore the role of residential schools in England and Wales in safeguarding children from child sexual abuse and this will include primary research with teachers, students, parents and local authority staff.

Online-facilitated child sexual abuse

We have also commissioned the University of Bedfordshire to explore children's knowledge of staying safe from online-facilitated abuse and their views on the education they receive around this topic.

CSE perpetrators in organised networks

We are looking at how perpetrators of child sexual exploitation operate in organised networks to gain a better understanding of their motivations and behaviours and to identify interventions and promising approaches that could prevent or disrupt them.

ENGAGEMENT

Since the last newsletter, the Inquiry has participated in a wide range of national and regional events, conferences and meetings in locations around England and Wales, focusing on safeguarding, the disability sector and the social care sector, to discuss the Inquiry's work and to raise awareness of the Truth Project and the ongoing 'I will be heard' campaign.

Diverse communities

The Inquiry will be hosting an event to engage with BAME stakeholders in Greater Manchester in December. The Inquiry is currently working with BAME communities throughout England and Wales to raise awareness of the Truth Project.

Access to Truth

The Inquiry is planning national advisory events in January 2019 with organisations that work with disabilities.

These events seek consultation and advice from our stakeholder partners about how to responsibly and appropriately raise awareness and deliver a fit for purpose Truth Project experience to victims and survivors who may have different abilities.

Universities

This month, seven universities around the country (in Liverpool, Newcastle, Exeter, Cardiff and London) are raising awareness of the Truth Project among students and employees.

The Inquiry is keen to ensure that younger adults know about the Truth Project and recognise both that it is available to them and that their contribution can make a difference.



Information they bring to the Inquiry may augment our understanding of the challenges faced in online environments and social media, for example.

A poll conducted for the Inquiry found that only 19 percent of young people are comfortable taking part in a conversation about child sexual abuse with adults they know and trust. In contrast, over twice as many over 65s (45 percent) were comfortable discussing the topic.

We are also working with Exeter student radio to create a podcast on the Truth Project, which will be available in December.

Recognising that our presence may increase disclosures in non-clinical settings, we are also delivering specialist disclosure training to staff and student supporters to ensure anyone making a disclosure gets an appropriate response.

Future work

In addition to our ongoing work through the Truth Project, public hearings and research, the Inquiry will be undertaking a range of engagement activities over the next few months.

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS FORUM

Earlier this year the Inquiry undertook a survey of members' views on the future of the Forum. The results are published on our website. Since that time, membership of the Forum has grown to over 700.

We are now running a programme of introductory events for new Forum members in which we share information about the main workstreams of the Inquiry and provide a space for members to ask questions about our work. So far introductory events have taken place in London, Cardiff, Exeter and Darlington, with Liverpool to follow shortly.

We have recently held our first live streamed event for Forum members on the Inquiry's research programme, which was broadcast via our YouTube channel.

In addition, Forum members have taken part in ongoing website user testing and are assisting us with the market research for the Truth Project awareness raising campaign.

CONTACT US

Call our information line on 0800 917 1000 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and Saturdays 10am and 12pm (we are closed on bank holidays)

Write to us at FREEPOST IICSA INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

Email us at contact@iicsa.org.uk

You can follow the Inquiry on Twitter @InquiryCSA or find us on Facebook @IICSATruthProject