

EDITION 2

IICSA
changemakers

MAY 2024

Taking action. Creating change.
Preventing child sexual abuse.

WELCOME TO OUR

Survivor Newsletter

In this edition you will find:

The latest events, reports and key updates.
As well as hearing from one our Survivor Advisory Community.

Recent publications



Remember that you don't have to immerse yourself in academic or detailed publications around child sexual abuse if you do not want to. You are in control of how much information you absorb and what is actually useful for you and your wellbeing. Below are a pick of some recent publications that may be of interest, but skip this section if you want to!

[Truth Project - research paper 2 - using staff training and consultation](#)

[Truth Project - research paper 1 - how did survivors experience participation?](#)

[Support matters: an overview of services for children and parents affected by sexual abuse](#)

[Internet Watch Foundation annual report](#)

[Recommendations for Change: an NSPCC learning podcast series](#)

What's 'actually' happening?



In all honesty, this update looked completely different a week ago!

With the announcement of the General Election by the Prime Minister a lot has changed for us within Changemakers as the majority of our work focuses on lobbying government and working on legislation and policy. Here are some of the main things to be keeping an eye on:

Victim and Prisoners Bill

After the announcement of the general election, it was a tricky 24 hrs of not knowing if this Bill would or wouldn't come back into what is called 'wash up' (where they finish bills that are open and far enough along the passage of a bill to be completed). Thankfully it had its third reading last week and passed royal assent. This is a huge relief as many of you have been working on this in some capacity for the last 2 years and it's integral to how children and survivors of CSA are treated.

Criminal Justice Bill

This unfortunately did not make it into 'wash up' which means the bill will be dropped. This is most directly relevant for our work because this is where the Mandatory Reporting (MR) amendment was sitting. At the moment we've had no reply about what will happen to MR in general and officials have said they will release a written statement in due course. No matter our individual views on MR, the fact this bill is being dropped is frustrating and deeply disappointing in many ways.

Law of Apologies

We're awaiting further information on this but indication from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has been that they will keep this consultation open as planned. However, due to parliament dissolving soon, that consultation will then not be able to be actioned or progressed so we're trying to ascertain from the MoJ what the intention is behind keeping it open.

Finally...

Many of our Survivor Advisory Community and wider colleagues are feeling a deep tiredness this week, which often arises when faced with yet another change or shift in the landscape and timelines of our work around child sexual abuse. Please remember, no matter whether you are a disclosed or undisclosed survivor, family member, practitioner or just someone reading this out of interest - it is okay, and vital, to take time out to rest, feel, breathe deep and steady yourself in order to continue the momentum.

The **Survivor Advisory Community** has opened its doors!



→ 24 MEMBERS CURRENTLY

→ THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON VCOP, MANDATORY REPORTING, PRESS PIECES, SURVEYS AND CONSULTATIONS SO FAR!

Meet... Elizabeth

Elizabeth is a member of the IICSA Changemakers Survivor Advisory Community, she is also an author, poet, public speaker.

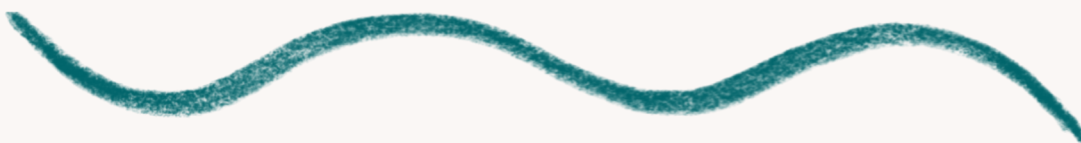
Before writing her first book, '**Silhouette of a Songbird**', Elizabeth had never read or written any poetry. Her previous counsellor suggested finding a hobby as an outlet which Elizabeth did somewhat reluctantly, joining a community choir.

To her surprise, singing in choir had such a positive impact on her mental health, it encouraged Elizabeth to try other creative avenues taking up singing lessons, drama and creative writing to improve her lack of confidence. With encouragement and support from her drama teacher, Elizabeth began to explore poetry as a creative tool to express all the bottled-up feelings, anger and pain she struggled to articulate as a child.

As well as giving talks about her lived experiences, supporting charities and organisations through writing, podcasts and speaking engagements, Elizabeth uses her poetry to give strength and hope for all those who are searching to make sense of a traumatic past, to empower others to have a voice and right to be heard. She continues to raise awareness of the complexities and impact of childhood trauma to break the stigma and silence around difficult conversations, including the benefits of creative arts.

Elizabeth also loves to explore the humorous side of day to day living, writing comedic verse as a way of navigating some of life's trials and tribulations.

If anyone wishes to learn more about Elizabeth's work, please do feel free to check out her website: www.elizabethshane.com. By sharing her journey, Elizabeth hopes this will help others feel understood and know they are not alone.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SURVIVOR ADVISORY COMMUNITY AND THEY WORK THEY DO IN CHANGEMAKERS, OR HOW TO JOIN, PLEASE EMAIL THE SURVIVOR PARTICIPATION MANAGER AT DENISE.PRINGLE@NSPCC.ORG.UK

Changemaker Spotlight chats

A CHANCE TO SEE THE HUMANS BEHIND THE NAME

Episode 1: Clare Kelly (Head of Programmes IICSA Changemakers)

Episode 2: Matthew McVarish (Survivor, Activist and Co-Founder of The Brave Movement)

Episode 3: *Susie Hargreaves OBE (CEO of Internet Watch Foundation)* **Coming soon!**

Episode 4: *Gabrielle Shaw (CEO of NAPAC)* **Coming soon!**

Upcoming events



IPPPRI AND VSCP WEBINAR 3 (ONLINE): 7TH JUNE

IPPPRI AND VSCP WEBINAR 4 (ONLINE): 28TH JUNE

SUPPORTING PARENTS/CARES WHEN THEIR CHILD MAY HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED - CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: 18TH JUNE

Current learning opportunities

The charity Sounddelivery Media is curating a Festival of Learning, where a festival pass will give you access to a whole range of online masterclasses, learning lunches, peer meet-ups, wellbeing sessions. These sessions will bring fresh skills, new inspiration, and best practice to social purpose organisations, with lived experience expertise at the heart.

“And here you are living, despite it all”

Rupi Kaur

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH PLEASE EMAIL US

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[IICSA CHANGEMAKERS WEBSITE](#)

