

Taking part in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Truth Project

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If you are a victim or survivor of child sexual abuse, you may be able to take part in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

One way you can share your experience with the Inquiry is by contributing to its **Truth Project**, which is the part of the Inquiry that will take consider the individual accounts of child sexual abuse by victims and survivors.

This is separate from the Inquiry's **Public Hearings** which will examine specific case studies of child sexual abuse linked to particular institutions, and are due to begin in 2016.

1. How do I give my account to the IICSA Truth Project?

The easiest way to start the process of taking part in the IICSA is by filling in this online form, which can be found at www.iicsa.org.uk/submit-information-online

If you need assistance filling out the online form, you can contact the IICSA helpline on 0800 917 1000.

What information do I have to provide?

The online form will ask you the basic details of the abuse that you suffered as a child:

- When and where the abuse took place
- How old you were at the time of the abuse
- Whether any people in authority knew about the abuse, and whether they took any steps to stop the abuse
- Your contact details
- Whether you consent to your contact details being given to the police
- Basic details such as your gender and ethnic background
- How you would like to share your experience with the Inquiry. You can choose from attending a private session or sending in a written statement.

You do not need to fill in every part of the online form if you do not feel comfortable doing so, but you must leave your contact details if you want the Inquiry to contact you.

What happens after I have submitted the online form?

You will be contacted by the IICSA within 15 working days of filling out the online form.

You can then choose to:

(1) Attend a Private Session: this is a **private face-to-face meeting** with a member of the Inquiry which will be arranged for you November 2015

to tell your account in person. You can take someone, such as a friend, relative or advocate, with you to this meeting. There will also be a **trained professional from the Inquiry** on hand to provide you with additional support.

What you say during this meeting will be **audio recorded** and a written summary will be produced of what you said. You will have the opportunity to read the summary and ask for anything to be added to it or removed.

Approximately one week after your Private Session, you will be contacted by the Inquiry Support Service to speak with you and check whether you require any additional support.

(2) Provide a Written Statement: statement: you can choose to set out in writing your experience of child sexual abuse and any responses by persons of authority to your account. You will be provided with a guide to help you write your Statement, and can include as many or as few details as you like.

You will also be invited to provide an **anonymous statement about the Inquiry itself**. This can be about any aspect of the Inquiry or what it means to you. These statements will be published alongside the Inquiry's Annual Reports alongside the statements of other victims and survivors.

2. What will the Inquiry do with the information I give it?

The Inquiry will use your account to **inform its recommendations** about how child sexual abuse should be dealt with in the future.

The Inquiry will also publish **anonymous summaries** of the accounts it has received as part of its reports.

3. Will the police be told about any information I give to the Inquiry?

The Inquiry will only provide your name and contact details to the police *without asking your permission first* if it is necessary to protect a child from child abuse today.

In all other cases, the Inquiry may pass on allegations you make to the police but *will not give the police your contact details without your permission*.

4. Will the Inquiry keep my information confidential?

The Inquiry is legally bound to keep the information you provide it with confidential. It has set out in the *Inquiry's 'Information Management Policy'* the steps that the Inquiry will take to ensure that all of the information it gathers is kept secure.

The only time that the Inquiry is allowed to share your information without your consent is if it is necessary to protect a child at risk of abuse. In these circumstances, it may share your information with the police.

On 16 November 2015, the Inquiry published a Restriction Order, which is a legal ruling designed to provide further protection of the confidential and private information provided by people who contribute to the Inquiry. We have produced a *separate Factsheet* on

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this Restriction Order.

5. What support will be offered to me if I take part in the IICSA?

The Inquiry runs a **Support Service** which will contact you directly if you have had participated in Public or Private Hearing to offer you support.

You can also contact the IICSA Helpline on **0800 917 1000** to request additional support.

If you are considering taking part in a Public or Private Hearing, and are worried about doing so, it could be a good idea to contact your GP or an independent support service. The following independent organisations have experience of providing support to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in England and Wales:

National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)

0808 801 0331, support@napac.org.uk

NAPAC

PO Box 63632, London, SW9 1BF

The Survivors Trust

01788 550554, info@thesurvivorstrust.org

The Survivors Trust, Unit 2, Eastlands Court Business Centre, St Peter's Road, Rugby Warwickshire, CV21 3QP

Minister & Clergy , Sexual Abuse Survivors (MACSAS)

08088 01 03 40, helpline@macsas.org.uk

BM MACSAS, London, WC1N 3XX

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