

Media release: Immediate release

Government needs to go further to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse, according to major new alliance

- Government issues response to Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) which found scale of child sexual abuse in England and Wales to be “horrific and deeply disturbing”.
- Over 64 organisations come together as IICSA Changemakers to welcome response but ask for a more appropriate commitment from Government to deliver meaningful and lasting change for children.

A new alliance formed to inspire a national mission to prevent child sexual abuse and to improve support to victims and survivors has today welcomed the Government’s response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) but says that further measures are needed to support child victims and adult survivors of sexual abuse.

The IICSA Changemakers consist of 64 organisations and individuals who represent the sectors that both engage and protect children and support adult survivors including charities, law enforcement, frontline public sector organisations and health bodies.

Members include representatives from the IICSA Victims & Survivors Consultative Panel, Barnardo’s, The Football Association (FA), The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), Marie Collins Foundation, The Children’s Society, The National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Muslim Council of Britain, Rape Crisis for England and Wales and The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC), NWG Network and the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse.

Last October, the Government committed to responding to the 20 recommendations set out in IICSA’s final report. This was followed by a commitment from the Home Secretary in April 2023 to open a consultation on mandatory reporting and introduce new support and funding to tackle group-based offending of the sexual exploitation of children.

Today, the Government has issued a [response](#) to the recommendations set out by IICSA which includes a commitment to:

- Launch a call for evidence on mandatory reporting for those who work with children and young people.
- Provide survivors and victims of child sexual abuse redress from the abuse that they have experienced.

They are also looking at ways to improve access to therapeutic support for victims, enhance data collection within police forces and reform the child protection system.

In a joint statement the IICSA Changemakers said: *“We are pleased to see the Government respond to the recommendations set out by this Inquiry and their commitment to reforming some elements such as redress and better data collection.*

“However, we are concerned by the lack of any meaningful support for children and adult survivors. The commitments that have been made do not translate to immediate action which would achieve the scale of change required to create and sustain a national movement to prevent, recognise, and address child sexual abuse.

“It is disappointing that a significant number of the cross-sector recommendations that could have led to real change have been curbed by the Government, which is either narrowing them down or assuming that existing mechanisms already address the need.

“Today’s announcement did not commit to vital recommendations that would have made a real difference.

“We need to see a determination from Government to prevent and tackle the ongoing situation where child victims of sexual abuse are left traumatised and adult survivors are left without the appropriate support to rebuild their lives.”

On average, 282* child sexual offences are being reported to the police every day, highlighting the need for significant and co-ordinated action across Government to tackle a crime that is damaging and destroying countless lives.

The IICSA Changemakers continued: *“As IICSA Changemakers we are committed to keeping children safe from this abhorrent harm as well as supporting the many thousands of adult victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. This is a missed opportunity to deliver the step change that the IICSA report called for and this Coalition will work tirelessly to press Government to implement these recommendations in full.*

“We need the Government to take all contributions to their upcoming consultation seriously, listen attentively to what victims and survivors are telling them and then act appropriately. They must play their part and protect all children from all types of abuse in our society. The survivors who shared their story and future generations of children deserve no less.”

ENDS.

There are spokespeople available for interview. For further information please contact Megan.Sutherland@NSPCC.org.uk

*The 282 is derived from 103,055, which is extracted from Police recorded child sexual offences for 2021/22.