

Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

7th Jan 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

### **Response from IICSA Changemakers to recent announcements**

On behalf of the IICSA Changemakers, I would like to thank you for the focus on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse made in your statement to the House yesterday.

The IICSA Changemakers brings together over 68 organisations and individuals including victims and survivors, charities, law enforcement, education, justice, faith frontline public sector organisations, as well as health and sport bodies. Our common core objective remains to inspire a national mission to prevent child sexual abuse and provide improved support to victims and survivors. We came together shortly after the release of the final report by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in October 2022.

We welcome the three core elements of your announcement: progress on mandatory reporting; delivery of a performance framework; and more focus on online abuse and exploitation. However, we still have significant concerns which are best articulated through the words of one of our survivor community members:

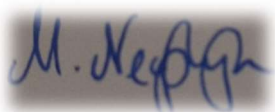
*"I should feel happy and positive, that focus is back on the inquiry after 2 years of continual campaigning by IICSA Changemakers, but like so many other survivors I'm just left feeling hollow. If you strip back the announcements to the core, there wasn't actually any movement on increasing or making more available specific support services for those who have been sexually abused as a child (which remains a key recommendation from IICSA). There was also no announcement on having senior level representation in Government for those who have experienced child sexual abuse. I'm just not sure we are actually any further. I feel like survivors, are once again, being spoken about and on behalf of without anyone actually listening to what is needed."*

It is right that this has become a prominent issue of public concern. We are speaking about 1 in 20 children in the UK who have been sexually abused<sup>1</sup> and over 500,000 at risk of abuse every year.<sup>2</sup> NAPAC also support over 10,000 adults per year as they disclose the abuse they endured as children. This abuse can be prevented, and those who have suffered can recover, but this won't happen without change.

We were pleased to hear that you will be bringing in the voices of victims and survivors through an advisory panel. Our IICSA Changemaker survivor advisory community is made up of over 30 individuals who represent different communities with bespoke needs whose voices must be heard and responded to in this work. Many also contributed to the work of NAPAC who commenced a huge study of what truly supports survivors through the process of recovery.

Our survivors who represent child and adult voices are open to working with you as you set out plans to respond to the rest of the inquiry. They have already contributed to IICSA Changemaker input that is going to the Ministry of Justice as they review the Victim's Code of Practice and detailing what good services looks like for survivors. We hope their input to these two areas will be meaningful and responded to positively.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Maria Neophytou  
Acting Chief Executive Officer of the NSPCC  
on behalf of the IICSA Changemakers

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<sup>1</sup> Radford, L. et al (2011) [Child abuse and neglect in the UK today](#). London: NSPCC

<sup>2</sup> Support Matters CSA Centre Diana Parkinson and Milly Steele Jan 2024