



Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors

Newsletter Issue 4 - 2018

Freephone Helpline
0808 801 0340

Wednesdays
7.00pm - 9.30pm

Saturdays
09.00am - 11.30am

INSIDE... MACSAS Gives Evidence to IICSA... who MACSAS are and what we do... how you can get involved...

Welcome to our newsletter!



Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors (MACSAS)
Supporting women and men who have been sexually abused as children or adults, by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the Churches

2018 has been an exciting and busy time for MACSAS.

We have been working hard at the Public Inquiry, IICSA and have been heavily involved in the investigations into the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Peter Ball investigation.

We continue to provide as much support as possible via our helpline, email support and representing individual survivors on a case by case basis.

We continue to press the churches for improved safeguarding and better responses and support for victims and survivors.

Who are we?

MACSAS was founded by Dr Margaret Kennedy in 1981. Margaret later became a lecturer in training multi-disciplinary professionals in how to protect disabled children from abuse. We are now a community organisation run by a volunteer committee comprising a range of skilled and dedicated people who are nearly all survivors themselves. All of the committee members have extensive experience in supporting and representing survivors of church abuse.

What do we do?

We are a secular group dedicated to supporting those who have been abused both as children and adults by clergy. We do this through support letters or our volunteer run helpline, which offers support to callers by our trained volunteers. (see above for number) Macsas also seeks to educate faith institutions on how to develop policies that better respond to and support those who have been abused, and crucially improve safeguarding to help reduce the amount of abuse that is able to take place in these settings.

We often contribute to and speak at conferences on the subject, and are active in the media, helping to increase awareness of what is often considered a 'taboo' subject.

We aim to help survivors of abuse realise it was not their fault and they can improve their lives by listening to them when it feels like no one else will. We know what it's like because we have been there.

Why do we do what we do?

Despite the increased awareness of institutional abuse, we are still working hard to make the major faith institutions face up to the huge harm that is caused by child abuse and campaign for them to acknowledge this and to provide or fund much better support for the victims. The sad fact remains that very many abuse allegations against them remain unconvicted, indeed a mere 3% of all reported abuse cases to the police result in conviction. Macsas is only too aware of the devastating effect any form of abuse has on mental health, causing untold emotional and financial problems, including addiction, self-harm and even suicide. Macsas seeks to educate people on the effects of abuse, in an effort to better support those who live with the trauma as well as supporting survivors of abuse, but we need help! We need to let people know about the crucial work we do in order to break the taboo of abuse and to help the thousands of survivors who live with the trauma of abuse by ministers and clergy.

Where do we work?

The Macsas committee live nationwide. Our helpline is open to all residents of the United Kingdom. We also have links with other national and international survivor organisations.

MACSAS receives no regular income and is run entirely by volunteers. We need your donations of time or money to help us continue our vital work. Please find out how you can get involved overleaf.

www.macsas.org.uk • enquiries@macsas.org.uk

MACSAS Gives Evidence to Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA



Phil Johnson giving evidence at IICSA

HARROWING details of child sex abuse carried out by Church of England clergy were described at a public hearing conducted by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse on the second day of hearings into the Anglican Church.

Two witnesses, both survivors of clerical sex abuse when they were children, were questioned by the Counsel to the Anglican investigation, Fiona Scolding QC.

The first witness, known only as AN-A15, a woman, confirmed that she had been sexually abused at the age of nine by Canon Gordon Rideout, who was the army chaplain and a commissioned officer on the army base where her father, a sergeant, was stationed.

Rideout was jailed for ten years in 2013 for 36 separate counts of sex abuses against 16 children in Hampshire and Sussex in the 1960s and 1970s.

The abuse and subsequent events affected her education and her ability to form relationships with others as an adult, the witness said. "I became very withdrawn and moody; I didn't want to engage with anyone; I didn't trust anyone; I was very much on my own; so I stopped taking an interest in my education. I think I am intelligent enough that I could have gone on and gone to college."

The letter of apology that she had received 30 years later from the current Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, was "too little too late", she said.

When asked what the Church could have done differently, she said: "They could have been more open to hearing what was happening at the time, and not have been quite so dismissive about it.

"It was not just me: there were lots of other people, and he [Rideout] was allowed to carry on with his career and be honoured in his

career, and they [the Church] didn't listen to anybody."

The second witness, Philip Johnson of the survivors group MACSAS, was then questioned on the abuse that he experienced from Roy Cotton, who died in 2006, before he could be held to account.

Mr Johnson, who is now a member of the Church of England's National Safeguarding Panel, confirmed that he had been groomed from the age of ten by the then Vicar of his church, Cotton, while he was in the choir, which had developed into repeated sexual assault by Cotton until Mr Johnson was 19.

"By that time, the abuse was routine and very serious," Mr Johnson said. "Towards the end of it, I went along with it just to get it over it... That leaves you with a huge sense of shame and guilt... I desperately wanted to prove to myself that I was a normal heterosexual male..."

Yet I was having to sleep with a fat vicar on a regular basis. And that messes your head up."

Mr Johnson said that he was also, at least once, violently sexually assaulted by Colin Pritchard, a known accomplice of Cotton, was convicted of several counts of rape against a teenage boy in the 1980s and 1990s earlier this year.

Mr Johnson described how repeated abuse had affected his own relationships.

"It is almost as if my body has a memory of what happened to me. . . . You are never free. It is a stain on your soul."

Mr Johnson moved away to college, and his brother was subsequently abused by Cotton.



Alana Lawrence, the former Chair of MACSAS also gave evidence about the role of MACSAS in uncovering church child abuse over the last 30 years.

Many of the Core Participant witnesses were represented by MACSAS' Solicitor, David Greenwood.

His opening and closing statements on behalf of the victims and survivors were widely reported and praised.

He also represents several survivors in the Catholic Investigations.

"I do not know who I would have been if this had not happened to me, and that is very deep," he told IICSA. "Although that is not a psychiatric condition, that is something that will affect me for the rest of my life."

Mr Johnson then gave a detailed account to IICSA of his disclosure of the abuse to Sussex Police in 1996. This investigation was closed in 1999. He also gave an account of his subsequent communications in 2007 with the Bishop of Lewes at that time, the Rt Revd Wallace Benn, and the Chichester diocesan safeguarding officer at that time, Shirley Hosgood, who was later to give evidence to IICSA.

It was during these meetings that Mr Johnson was informed by Ms Hosgood that Cotton

had had a previous conviction for child sex abuse in 1954 — before Cotton had been ordained in the Church of England. "It was as if nobody believed anything I said until the conviction of Colin Pritchard in 2008," Mr Johnson said.

He was later questioned on his involvement with the Roger Meekings and Baroness Butler-Sloss reviews, and on how the Church could improve its handling of allegations of abuse. He called for the simplification of its safeguarding policies, mandatory reporting, and an independent statutory body to hold the Church to account.

"Abuse has dominated my life," he concluded. "That has had a huge impact on me and my family. The Church has continually failed me, and has failed many others.

It has been slow to change and slow to accept responsibility."

MACSAS Supports Survivor in Destruction of Headstone



The gravestone of a senior Roman Catholic priest has been destroyed following allegations he sexually abused a boy.

Canon Dermot Fogarty, who died in 2012, is accused by Stephen Bernard in a book written by the Oxford academic.

Dr Bernard says the four years of abuse started in 1987 when he was 11 years old.

Deirdre McCormack, of MACSAS, the canon's next of kin, called for the stone's removal as she felt the epitaph to a "much-loved, wise priest" was a "blatant lie".

The Church agreed to remove the stone following a meeting with Ms McCormack.

Ms McCormack arranged for the destruction of the headstone to be filmed by MACSAS and asked for it to be broadcast.

In the video, a man can be seen smashing the headstone into pieces before others join him to help clear up the debris.

The headstone read: "A wise priest much loved by his family and all who knew him."

Ms McCormack had chosen the words on the headstone herself, but said she could no longer live with it.

Dr Bernard claims he suffered 300 separate sexual attacks until the abuse ended in 1991.

Canon Fogarty worked in the Arundel and Brighton diocese for 67 years.

His funeral was attended by senior figures, including the then head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor.

In a statement the Church said that following a meeting with Ms McCormack, it was agreed that the current headstone in the private cemetery of St John's Seminary, Wonersh, near Guildford, Surrey, would be removed as requested.

It added: "The destroyed headstone will be replaced with a simple headstone."

The diocese first received Dr Bernard's allegations on in 2012 - before Canon Fogarty died - but it insists good safeguarding procedures were followed.

It added: "At this time Dr Bernard did not report this matter to the police or give permission for the information to be passed on to any third parties.

"The diocese was also aware that Dr Bernard reported his complaint to the police in 2015 and the diocese is committed to cooperation with the statutory agencies."

Historic Address to Synod by MACSAS wins Standing Ovation!

MACSAS has delivered a presentation to the General Synod of the Church of England, the first time that survivors have been able to directly address the assembly.

The presentation followed a fringe meeting the previous evening where the views of survivors attending were sought and then reported to Synod ahead of the Safeguarding debate.

At the conclusion of the presentation from Jo Kind of MACSAS, and Sheila Fish from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), they received a standing ovation, Synod members then voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion to "take note" of a report from the House of Bishops committing the Church to improving its safeguarding practices.

Introducing the report, the Bishop of Bath & Wells, the Rt Revd Peter Hancock, said:

"Over the years, the Church and its leaders have singularly failed to see what was before

our eyes. We did not give safeguarding the prominence it deserved. We failed to put preventative measures in place. We failed to listen to those who had come forward with powerful accounts. We failed to fund safeguarding at a senior level in the Church."

He supported an amendment from Canon Simon Butler (Southwark), which was later carried, which called on the House of Bishops to introduce, "as a matter of urgency, ways to improve relations between the Church and those survivors currently in dispute with National Church Institutions, including, where appropriate, by the use of mediation processes".

Canon Butler also reminded the Synod that people who worked in safeguarding were the people employed to "get us out of the mess that we have made, not them". Professional staff were "people, not heartless functionaries. If survivors have names, so do staff."

He was sometimes ashamed of way in which members of the Synod, "claiming to speak for survivors", spoke about these professionals. The anger and frustration were "palpable, particularly on social media", and this was a "deteriorating and concerning state of affairs".

He had been contacted by survivors who felt inhibited about sharing their stories publicly, because of the tone of the conversation.

In her presentation, Jo Kind, of MACSAS, said "Many survivors feel, or are made to feel, like they are the problem," she said. A change of culture was needed to ensure that the Church was a safe place, and "cultural change needs a radical reorientation of the process."

She urged the Church keep its focus on the needs of people, not the reputation of church officers. "Instead of turning away from survivors, walk towards us." This meant "starting with a blank piece of paper" rather than "tweaking" the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM), she said.

Dr Sheila Fish, of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), which is conducting a survey with MACSAS of the Church's response to clerical abuse and safeguarding concerns, said that about



Jo Kind of MACSAS (left) addresses General Synod with Dr. Sheila Fish of SCIE (The Social Care Institute for Excellence)

40 people had responded so far. "When survivors come forward and disclose, they are providing a valuable service, often at great cost," she said. The survey was asked: "Are we celebrating and rewarding them?"

Another theme had been recognising the long-term impact of abuse by those within the Church, Dr Fish said: mental illness, relationship breakdowns, self-harm, suicide, and secondary impacts on the children of survivors. It was sobering and shocking, she said. "No one chooses to be a survivor."

Both presentations, and several speakers in the debate on the report, referred to a Synod fringe meeting for survivors of abuse, organised by MACSAS on Friday evening. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Hancock, and the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, were among those who had attended it.

Bishop Mullally said, in a maiden speech, that, to date, survivors had not been involved effectively in the process. "We have come far. I believe I have seen change; but we have far to go." She spoke on independence: of scrutiny, disclosure processes (particularly for those who had been abused by clergy), and redress, supported by an independent ombudsman.

"But the responsibility, I am clear, is mine to provide a safe environment. We should not lose our responsibility and hand over safeguarding completely independently."

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, the former lead bishop on safeguarding, agreed with calls for an independent ombudsman. The hearings being conducted by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse (IICSA) showed that the country must come to terms with a "deeply, deeply shameful" past. Prevention of abuse remained "critical" for the Church, and "handling what happened in the past helps us be a better preventative organisation today."

The Dean of St Paul's, the Very Revd David Ison (London), disagreed. The complaints process needed to be delegated to an independent body, because of prejudicial interest. Speaking directly to the Bishops' bench, he said: "Stop trying to do everything: you cannot. Do it by delegating to independent authorities." The Church should also be making millions of pounds available to people who had been hurt and marginalised by it.

Archbishop Welby said: "I see the power of the argument for more independence, provided that we remain no less committed to our responsibility. Independence will give confidence to what we do." He asked Bishop Hancock what this might look like. He suggested than an ombudsman model would be the most helpful.

MACSAS Working to Establish Survivors Reference Group

Following the successful fringe meeting at the General Synod in July and the presentation made to the assembly, many of those survivors who attended wanted further ongoing and meaningful engagement with the Church of England.

The fringe event and the Survey of Church responses to abuse cases were jointly organised by MACSAS and SCIE (The Social Care Institute for Excellence).

Since then MACSAS has developed a positive working relationship with SCIE and as part of this it was agreed that some of those survivors who attended Synod along with some other MACSAS associated would form a Survivors Working Group and work towards the establishment of a standing Survivors' Reference Group which could be regularly consulted by the various decision making bodies from within the Church.

Two successful meetings of this group have now taken place and it has been agreed that the Reference Group is needed should be formed.

The group recognised that relations between the Church and many survivors are very poor and that there are significant barriers to progress and engagement, not least of which is the lack of trust of the church that exists amongst many of the survivors.

SCIE and MACSAS have produced a report detailing the outcome of these meetings and this is being presented to the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) in November.

The working group has requested the continued funding of the development work that we are currently engaged in and is seeking commitments from the Church about the need for a Survivors Reference Group, funding it and where it can fit into current church structures.

The working group has shown immense goodwill and commitment in getting this far but is obviously fearful that if the decision making bodies of the church don't have to listen to the Reference Group and act on it's wishes and recommendations it could easily be seen as just 'window dressing'.

The NSSG is being asked to address the barriers to progress immediately and to commit to continuing to fund the development work.

The working group has also expressed the strong desire for the Reference Group to be independent and they want MACSAS and SCIE to jointly continue to facilitate the important development work.

We are hoping to hold a meeting for the group to develop a draft constitution in the near future after we have received a response from the NSSG.



MACSAS Honoured by National Secular Society

The National Secular Society has recognised the work done by MACSAS members in holding the Church of England to account over its handling of child sex abuse.

Rev. Graham Sawyer and Phil Johnson were jointly awarded the 'Secularist of the Year 2018' award.

Both Graham and Phil have worked for more than 20 years to uncover abuse and to seek justice and better responses and support for victims of church abuse.

Can you please help us?

Do you know someone who is living with the trauma of clergy abuse and want to give something back?

We are run entirely by volunteers and we desperately need your help to enable our helpline to run longer hours and reach more people. Are you able to fundraise for us?

Are you able to commit to the training and time required to answer calls on our helpline? Or perhaps you can just forward this newsletter to your friends and family, tweet or facebook about us. Do you have some time to help monitor our social networks? Perhaps you can make a financial donation, or a small monthly direct debit?

You can pay directly into our account:

Please contact us for BACS details.

Or pay with just one click though **PayPal**, finding us on paypal; username: enquiries@macsas.org.uk

It all helps, and we are grateful for any support at all: nothing is too small. We look forward to hearing from you!



Are you a survivor of church abuse?

Do you want to talk to someone who understands, to share your story, or simply know you are not alone?

Do you need advice to other services who can help you decide your next steps?

If so, please get in touch.

The quickest way to contact us for support is by email: support@macsas.org.uk

You can call our freephone helpline on

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.30pm

Saturdays 9.00am - 1.30pm

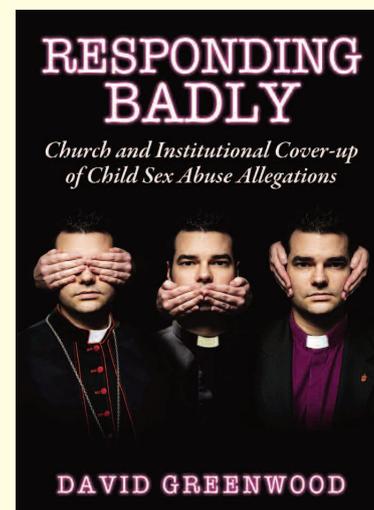
0808 801 0340

Or you can write to us:
BM MACSAS London WC1N 3XX

You can also find links support and information on our website:

www.macsas.org.uk

Responding Badly



Available on Amazon
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All proceeds go to MACSAS

A collection of clergy abuse cases and the shocking responses of the churches. This book is written by David Greenwood the renowned child abuse lawyer and member of the MACSAS committee.