



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



Research Newsletter - June 2020

We hope you are keeping well in these difficult times. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Inquiry's research programme is pressing ahead and continuing to publish research reports. Since our last newsletter, we have published a further two research reports and we are pleased to share details of these publications with you.

"People don't talk about it": Child sexual abuse in ethnic minority communities

Last week, the Inquiry's research team published their report on child sexual abuse in ethnic minority communities. The report highlights the challenges that people in ethnic minority communities face in talking about and responding to child sexual abuse. The research findings include that cultural stereotyping and racism on the part of institutions, professionals and wider society can lead to failures on the part of institutions and professionals to identify and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse. This in turn can make it more difficult for individuals in ethnic minority communities to disclose and speak up about child sexual abuse. The full report can be found here [ADD LINK].

Researcher reflection:

"Whilst the Inquiry research team has significant experience in carrying out research on sensitive subjects, it is fair to say that we approached the topic of child sexual abuse in ethnic minority communities with some trepidation. Researching ethnicity can be fraught with sensitivities and, although this area is important and under researched, we were conscious of the risk that such research can do harm by reproducing bias, contributing to 'othering' or misrepresenting the opinions of individuals and groups.

With this in mind, we took a qualitative approach to the research that emphasised the personal experiences of the people from ethnic minority communities participating in the research. We also benefited from the considerable expertise of the Race Equality Foundation in carrying out focus groups with people from diverse backgrounds. The Foundation gave us invaluable advice throughout the project as well as recruiting for the focus groups and facilitating them. We hope that the resulting report does justice to the powerful personal accounts that participants shared with us and makes a worthwhile contribution to the research evidence base on this important area."

Truth Project thematic report: Child sexual abuse in sports contexts

This [report](#), published June 2020, looks at the experiences of victims and survivors who have shared their account of sexual abuse in sports contexts with the Truth Project. Based on the experiences of 64 Truth Project participants who were abused in sports contexts, the qualitative analysis found that coaches and instructors exploited children's vulnerabilities in order to groom and abuse them.

Researcher reflection:

"The Sports report is the fourth report in a series from our analysis of Truth accounts. For this particular report, a key theme that emerged from the analysis was how much participants wanted to tell someone about the sexual abuse - some participants spoke about the lack of knowledge about sexual abuse in sports as a barrier to them disclosing. Child sexual abuse in sports has become more prominent in the media recently with high profile cases in football coming to light. Our report showed experiences of children at a much more grassroots level, for whom sport was a hobby, but who still suffered the trauma of sexual abuse.

When publishing the report, we were lucky to have professional footballer Paul Stewart and boxer Callum Hancock, survivors of abuse, speak about their experiences and raise awareness of the Truth Project. James O'Brien interviewed Paul on his popular LBC programme on both the report and the Truth Project ([Listen here from 35:20](#)). Callum held an 'Ask Me Anything' session, where the boxer answered questions about his experience of abuse and his road to recovery"



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Upcoming publications for summer 2020

Support services for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse:

Commissioned research exploring victim and survivor experiences of support, barriers to accessing support and the unmet need for support services.

Truth Project thematic report: Child sexual abuse in the context of schools:

The fifth in a series of thematic reports based on accounts from the Truth Project, this report will focus specifically on abuse that has taken place in the context of schools. This includes child sexual abuse that occurred within schools and that was perpetrated by school staff.

If you have any questions or comments on any of the information in this email, please get in touch (research@iicsa.org.uk). You have received this newsletter because you told us you would like to be kept updated about the Inquiry's research programme. If you no longer want to receive these updates, please reply to this email and let us know. If you know of anyone else who would like to be added to our mailing list please ask them to fill out [this form](#).

Kind Regards
The Research Team