

Victim or Survivor Member of the CSSA Survivor Reference Panel

Voluntary role

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) is seeking applications from those who have experienced church related abuse, or who have been harmed by their contact with the Church to join the CSSA Survivor Reference Panel.

The panel brings together survivor representatives from the Catholic Church in England and Wales to support and inform the work of the CSSA, by ensuring that the voice of in particular victims and survivors of clerical abuse is heard and learnt from.

We are looking for members who:

- are a victim or survivor of church-related abuse within the Catholic Church in England and Wales;
- are committed to helping the Catholic Church in England and Wales to fulfil its safeguarding mission;
- can make a positive contribution to the work of the CSSA to improve responses to disclosures and the church's support for those hurt by abuse;
- can inform and influence the work of the CSSA by forwarding and receiving issues for discussion or ideas for pieces of work;
- can provide the CSSA with advice and recommendations on matters relevant to victims and survivors, especially of clerical abuse, by offering knowledge and insight into the experience of those who have been abused or hurt by their contact with the Catholic Church;
- have strong inter-personal skills, an ability to listen, engage effectively and work collaboratively;
- can communicate effectively by expressing their own views; work with differing opinions; challenge appropriately;
- can manage personal emotions and issues that may be raised from discussions in meetings or sight of documents pertaining to abuse;
- can review documents and provide verbal and/or written feedback;
- as may be requested from time to time, provide input on media and communications strategy.
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Terms

Each member of the Panel shall serve for a term of 3 years. Appointment to a further term will be subject to review of panel membership. Panel members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Fees:

This is a voluntary position but reasonable expenses will be paid in accordance with the CSSA expenses policy.

Closing date for expressions of interest – Sunday 5 December 2021

Interviews will be held on 16 December 2021

Terms of Reference attached

For further information or to arrange an informal discussion about the role please contact anna.gebski@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

More information about the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency 'CSSA' has been established to develop the highest calibre regime of safeguarding within the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Background

In October 2019, an independent review of the safeguarding structures and arrangements within the Catholic Church in England and Wales was set in motion.

The need for change was fuelled by the awareness of those who had suffered due to the failings in existent structures and the desire to prevent future hurt. Case studies showed that even when abuse was known, the Church was slow to address it and, in some instances, ignored it. Repeated failures betrayed the moral purpose of the Church and greatly reduced its credibility and moral standing. Change was clearly needed. The review led by Ian Elliott, sought in particular to listen and learn from those who had experienced abuse ultimately making a series of proposals and recommendations to address these failings and to reshape the safeguarding provision in the Catholic Church going forward. The recommendations of this report, along with those made by the separate Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) were wholly accepted by the Bishops conference in November of 2020.

Central to these recommendations was the replacement of the then existent national safeguarding bodies: the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) and Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) with the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency: A new professional standards body with regulatory powers.

For further information please visit www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk