



House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Press Release – For immediate release**

**Sarah Champion  
Member of Parliament for Rotherham  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Sarah speaks in Parliament on Child Abuse in the UK**

After stating how proud she was to be the MP for Rotherham, Sarah Champion MP spoke out strongly in Parliament regarding the 'shadow cast across the town' in the form of persistent allegations of failures by key institutions to protect our children, coupled with prosecutions for child sexual exploitation.

Explaining that it is vital to understand that both perpetrators and victims can come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, Sarah made the point that child sexual exploitation is not a crime restricted to British Pakistani males or white British girls, despite the media coverage of high-profile cases.

Emphasising that it is totally inaccurate to say that Rotherham is doing nothing, Sarah now believed in the commitment and drive shown by the services in Rotherham to protect every child.

"I welcome the fact that the council has commissioned an independent inquiry" she said.

Sarah believes that the only way to tackle child sexual exploitation is by services working collaboratively, as Rotherham does, with the child sexual exploitation service including specialist child abuse police officers, social workers, specialist health workers, parents, youth workers and voluntary sector representatives, all working to reduce sexual exploitation through deterrence and prosecution.

Sarah concluded: "We all have a duty of care to be diligent and to report suspicious behaviour to the police. Unless we do so, this vile crime will continue unchecked."

**To read exactly what Sarah said, click here**

**<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130912/debtext/130912-0003.htm#13091227000593>**

**ENDS**