

Inquiry into Unreported Child Victims of Crime: Call for Evidence.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Victims and Witnesses of Crime is holding an inquiry into the hidden victimisation of children. This inquiry has been prompted by concerns highlighted in the ONS statistics released in February 2013¹ that many children and young people do not report crimes to the police. As part of this enquiry, the Group is calling for evidence from statutory agencies, victim service providers, charities and campaigners on the true extent of child victimisation and the reasons why children do not report crime to the police. The group has also partnered with Bedfordshire University in order to explore the issue directly with children, using focus groups and analysing data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. We will launch a report with the findings from the inquiry in Mid-December.

The deadline for submitting evidence is Wednesday 5th November 2014 6.00pm.

Terms of reference

Evidence submitted should cover experiences of any criminal offence committed against children or young people under 18 years of age. We ask that submissions are kept to a maximum of 1,500 words, and appropriately evidenced with case study examples and/or quantitative data. Submissions should seek to answer the following question(s):

- What is the extent of hidden crime amongst children and young people and what are the barriers to reporting such crime?
 - How many children and young people to your knowledge do not report crimes committed against them to the police?
 - Why do young victims not report their experiences to the police?
 - What are young people's experiences of reporting and does the police service need to change practice to address this?
 - Do young people have any trust in the elements of the CJS or charities working in this area?
 - If they do report crime to teachers or parents, why does this not progress through the Criminal Justice System?
 - How do young people identify what is a crime?

Please submit evidence to Kaylee Wildman, Policy Researcher at Victim Support via email to kaylee.wildman@victimsupport.org.uk by Wednesday 5th November 2014.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Victims and Witnesses of Crime is chaired by Sarah Champion MP. The Secretariat is provided by Victim Support.

¹ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_298904.pdf revealed 8% of children aged 10-15 experienced at least one violent incident in the previous 12 months, of which just 15% became known to the police