



8 May 2019

Rt. Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP
Government Equalities Office
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: SC7065

Dear Penny,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the APPG on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.

Over the last six months, the APPG has been running an inquiry into the experiences of survivors in accessing support services and the criminal justice system. Data was gathered in various ways: a survey of 365 survivors; direct testimony from 12 survivors in Parliament; evidence from the sector including the Victims Commissioner, The Survivors Trust, NHS, and Victim Support; written evidence from survivors, academics and specialist third sector organisations.

The data we have collated has been drafted into three reports to be released through 2019. On Tuesday 7 May we launched the first report, which looks at the quality and availability of information and support for survivors. I have enclosed a copy of the report along with this letter.

I am writing to you specifically regarding the recommendations that I believe falls within the purview of the Government Equalities Office, while recognising it is a cross-departmental response that is required to improve outcomes for survivors.

Research into whether BAME, LGBT and disabled survivors have difficulty in accessing services.

- Only 16% of survivors who responded to the survey were directed to specialist support services appropriate for them by police, e.g. Women's/Men's/LGBT/ BAME.
- Evidence submitted to the inquiry did not sufficiently explore the specific needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) and disabled survivors of child sexual abuse for the APPG to draw conclusions on whether or not existing provision meets the demand.
- In light of the absence of available information and the need to promote the voices of marginalised survivors, GEO should consider how to explore these needs through its future activity and how to capture the resulting data.

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- Government should explore the commissioning of specialist LGBT and BAME services for adult survivors of child sexual abuse and consider how to rectify any shortfall once the data has been generated.

I would welcome a response from your Department regarding the recommendations and would be pleased to discuss further with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal stroke.

Sarah Champion MP.

Chair of the APPG on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.

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