

# Truth Project

**Sharing your experience:  
what to expect**

# Sharing your experience with the Independent Inquiry

If you have chosen to share your experience with us, you are helping us to investigate institutional failings to protect children from sexual abuse.

**As part of the Inquiry's Truth Project, we want to hear from:**

- anyone who was sexually abused as a child in an institutional setting like a care home, a school, a hospital or a religious, voluntary or state organisation
- anyone who first came into contact with their abuser in an institutional setting
- anyone who was sexually abused as a child and reported their sexual abuse to a person in authority for example a police officer, a social worker or a teacher where the report was either ignored or not acted on properly

We are required by our Terms of Reference to pass on all allegations of child abuse to the police. However, we will not provide your name or contact details to the police without your consent, except where it is necessary to protect a child at risk of abuse.

# Sharing your experience: what to expect

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## You tell us some basic information

You can tell us some basic information about your experience

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## We contact you

If you provide us with your contact details, we will contact you to arrange the best way for you to share your experience

3

## You share your experience

You can choose to share your experience at a private session of the Inquiry, or by writing a detailed statement

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## We take account of your experience

We do this in three ways:  
We take your experience into account when we make our recommendations for the future  
We publish anonymous summaries of the experiences we have heard  
You have a chance to have your say

# A step by step guide

## 1 Tell us some basic information

**You can tell us some basic information about your experience**

By completing an online form, you can let us know some basic information about the experience you would like to share. For example, we'd like to know where in the country you were sexually abused, when it took place, and whether anyone in authority knew about it.

You can choose to give us your contact details, so we can get back in touch with you.

## 2 We contact you

**If you provide us with your contact details, we will contact you to arrange the best way for you to share your experience**

We can either call you, email you or write to you and you can let us know when would be convenient.

You can choose whether to arrange to attend a private session of the Inquiry to share your experience in person, or you can provide us with a detailed written statement.

## 3 You share your experience

**You can choose to share your experience at a private session of the Inquiry, or by writing a detailed statement**

You will have a chance to describe your experience to a member of the Inquiry at a private session. You can bring friends, family or other support with you. A support worker and counsellor will also be available for additional support should you want it.

Your experience will be audio recorded and a full transcript and written summary will be produced. Everything you tell us, and everything included in the written summary, will be held securely.

You will receive a follow up call from the Inquiry survivor support service about a week after you have attended a private session to see how you are. If you would like longer term support, our support service will be able to advise you about support services in your local area.

Alternatively, if you don't want to attend a private session of the Inquiry, we will provide you with a guide to help you prepare a detailed written statement.

## **4** We take account of your experience

**We take your experience into account when we make our recommendations for the future**

### **Our Reports**

The Chair and Panel of the Inquiry will consider your anonymous written or oral accounts, and those of all victims and survivors who have assisted the Inquiry during the Truth Project.

That evidence will inform their reports and the recommendations. However, they will not publish your name.

### **Anonymous Summaries**

If you share your experience in either a private session or through a written statement we will turn this information into an anonymised summary that we may publish alongside our reports.

We will produce this from the information you tell us but will not publish any of your personal information.

Publishing these summaries will help to give victims and survivors of child sexual abuse a voice, and by allowing your information to be used like this, you will help us show people the impact of childhood sexual abuse, and help highlight failures by institutions to protect children. However you will be able to tell us if you do not want your experience to be used in this way.

### **Have your say**

If you share your experience in a private session of the Inquiry, or through a written statement, you will be able to leave a short message about any aspect of your experience. This could be a sentence or two about what happened to you or about the effect it has had on you or others. Or it could be your opinion on how we can better protect children in the future.

These messages will be published anonymously alongside the Inquiry's annual reports as a collective message to the nation.

**Start the process on our website**

**[www.iicsa.org.uk/share-your-experience](http://www.iicsa.org.uk/share-your-experience)**

## **Contact details**

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**Telephone:** 0800 917 1000

**Email:** [share@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:share@iicsa.org.uk)

**Address:** Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse  
PO Box 72289  
London  
SW1P 9LF

**Website:** [www.iicsa.org.uk](http://www.iicsa.org.uk)

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