To:

Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP

Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman MP, Home Secretary

Cc:

Hon. Sarah Dines MP, Minister for Safeguarding

Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Unit, Home Office

Rt. Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB, QC, MP, Leader of the Opposition

Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper MP, Shadow Home Secretary

25
 May 2023
Updated with additional signatures 15 July 2023

We are a group of UK based researchers, practice and policy leads whose work focuses
on addressing child sexual abuse. As the Westminster Government releases its

epidemic scale. Children are sexually abused across all strata of society and in every
type of institution. That includes (but is not limited to) families, schools, sports and
leisure clubs, care and welfare services, religious institutions, and within the criminal
justice system. Prevention, early intervention and better support for victims are vital in all
contexts in which child sexual abuse occurs.
Overlooking and/or misrepresenting the sheer scale and varied nature of child sexual
abuse, however unintentional, is dangerous. It inhibits timely recognition, hampers
effective responses and weakens the societal fabric necessary to keep children safe.
Policies which start from a basis of singling out one ‘type’ of abuse as more heinous and
worthy of attention than any other are ineffective and un

● Better identification of all forms of child sexual abuse to limit the impact and
prevent further harm. This means fostering a society in which those who experience
abuse feel safe and supported to tell, and where others are empowered to recognise
potential signs of child sexual abuse and respond effectively. It also means
challenging the silencing and stigma that is associated with such abuse, and the
silencing victim-blaming narratives that often accompany this.
● Timely access, for victims and survivors, to effective long-term support to
address therapeutic, advocacy and wider support needs. This should address
children’s intersectional identities and associated needs, recognising how multiple

professionals, and prioritising meaningful impact over short-term media cycles. Children
deserve nothing less.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Helen Beckett, Director, Safer Young Lives Research Centre, University of
Bedfordshire
Dr Ella Cockbain, Associate Professor in Security and Crime Science, UCL
Dr Camille Warrington, Associate Professor, Safer Young Lives Research Centre,
University of Bedfordshire

Dez Holmes, Director, Research in Practice
Dr Lucie Moore, Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) & Visiting Research
Fellow, University of Bedfordshire
Diana Fawcett, Chief Executive, Victim Support
Anna Edmundson, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, NSPCC
Sheila Taylor MBE, CEO, NWG Network
Patricia Durr, CEO, ECPAT UK (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)
Victoria Green, CEO

Richard Barber, Director, Leeds Visible Project
Karen Garland, Lawyer/Child Safeguarding Specialist, HCI
May Baxter-Thornton, Marie Collins Foundation and IICSA VSCP
Chris Tuck, Former VSCP Member and Consultant to IICSA/Founder & Director of
Survivors Of aBuse (SOB)
Stephanie Grimshaw, Head of Public Affairs and Communications, Welsh Women's Aid
Welsh Women's Aid, Welsh Women's Aid
Dr Elsie Whittington, Greater Manchester combined authority
Vanessa Dixon, CEO, The Birchall Trust
Nichola Williams, ISVA CYPISVA Coordinator at Horizon SV, Cyfannol Womens Aid
Lisa Lenton, CEO, S.H.E UK
Anji Hall, Clean Slate
Dianne Ludlow, Advocacy Manager, One in Four
Dr Louise Hill, Head of Policy, Evidence & Impact, Children 1st
Steve Canning, Project Director, Operation Emotion
Claire Bloor, CEO, SARSAS (Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Service)
Caroline Freeman, CEO, First Step, Leicester & Rutland
Namita Prakash, CEO, Trust House Reading
Mary Trevillion, CEO, Family Matters - Sexual Abuse & Rape Service
Mags Godderidge, CEO, Survive - Support for survivors of rape and sexual abuse
Sarah Lyles, PSHE, Wellbeing & Surrey Healthy Schools Lead, Surrey County Council
Emma Lewis MBE, Victim and survivor consultative panel member, Previously IICSA
Rachel W, Managing Director, Animal Assisted Therapy for young people
Dr Craig Barlow

Poppy Eyre, Ambassador for Family Matters UK
Dr Grace Robinson, Founder and CEO, Black Box Research and Consultancy
Lynne Sanders, CEO, Swansea Women's Aid
Dr Sara Scott, Director, DMSS Research
Fiona Ellis OBE, Co- founder & CEO, Survivors in Transition; PhD Student & Visiting
Fellow Institute Social Justice & Crime University of Suffolk
Dr Sarah Lloyd, Trainer and Researcher
Adrian Phillip, IBM
Frida* (*not her real name), Survivor of child sexual abuse &

Dr Claire Cody, Senior Research Fellow, Safer Young Lives Research Centre,
University of Bedfordshire
Dr Stephen Cowden, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of Gloucestershire
Professor John Devaney, Chair of Social Work, University of Edinburgh
Dr Sukhwant Dhaliwal, Course Leader, Woman and Child Abuse programme, London
Metropolitan University
Dr Katie Ellis, Senior Lecturer in Child Welfare, University of Sheffield
Dr Fiona Factor

Professor Samantha Lundigan, Director of the Policing Institute for the Eastern Region
(PIER), Anglia Ruskin University
Stacey Maher, Doctoral Researcher, University of Huddersfield & Child Sexual Abuse
Practitioner and Advocate
Dr Gary Manders, Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Social Sciences, University of
Bedfordshire
Nicholas Marsh, Social Worker & PhD Researcher, University of East London
Dr Elena Martellozzo, Associate Professor in Criminology, Middlesex University
Dr Franziska Meinck, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh
Hannah Millar, Research Assistant, Safer Young Lives Research Centre, University of
Bedfordshire
Dr Mary Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of Edinburgh
Dr Fiona Morrison, Lecturer in Childhood Studies, University of Edinburgh
Dr. Carole Murphy, Director, Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and
Abuse Abuse, St Mary's University
Alexandra Myers, Doctoral Researcher, University of Huddersfield
Dr Rachael Owens, Assistant Professor (Research), Durham University
Professor Jenny Pearce OBE, Professor of Young People and Public Policy, Safer
Young Lives Research Centre, University of Bedfordshire
Keith Pringle, Professor Emeritus in Sociology with s specialism in social work work,
Uppsala University
David Porteous, Associate Professor (Criminology), Middlesex University
Professor Ethel Quayle CBE

Professor Kay Tisdall, Professor of Childhood Policy, University of Edinburgh
Dr Waqas Tufail, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Leeds Beckett University
Joanne Walker, Assistant Professor, Durham University
Camille Waring, Researcher & Academic, University of Westminster
Dr Jo Woodiwiss, Reader in Sociology and Youth Studies, University of Huddersfield
Professor Richard Wortley, Jill Dando Institute of Security & Crime Science,
University College London
Dr Lauren Wroe, Assistant Professor (Research), Department of Sociology, Durham
University
Alice Yeo, Senior Research Fellow, Safer Young Lives Research Centre, University of
Bedfordshire