

To:

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Date:

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Discussions such as this often become heated but rather than have it end arbitrarily, I hope one last comment might be allowed. FBGA have been fighting, and I mean fighting, hard for a Judicial Public Inquiry for the past eight years since David Whelan's integrity was brought into question by the BBC and the family and friends of his convicted abuser, going as far as an unprecedented interview of John Porteous in prison. What happened then should be a lesson to all those who were abused while in care. That lesson being, that if David had not been able to prove his honesty and integrity, he would have been destroyed and everything he and other Courts System survivors, and those who opened themselves up to the pain of reliving past abuse, had been through would have been for nothing. The 'True Victim Survivor' knows that if just one person associated with this issue is found to have lied, it will bring down everything True Victim Survivors and others have fought for. It has nothing to do with building a hierarchy with those who brought their abusers to justice on top, it has everything to do with fully understanding the issues and being scrupulous about honesty in order to keep the fight for a Full Judicial Public Inquiry alive.

The same might be said for those who claim to advocate for True Victim Survivors. If your dealings are not fair, open and transparent, you stand to negate the years of hard work it took to even have this issue talked about in the halls of power. I would ask CLA what, or who, prompted them to introduce themselves into the Scottish In-Care Abuse issue and what their relationship is with SIRCC and the SHRC? I am a survivor of physical and mental abuse who has been a member of FBGA since 2005 and I have never been made to feel that my experience was less than that of others in the Group. That was done by the Strathclyde Police Department which informed me that only sexual abuse reports would be followed up.

I will admit to not being comfortable with a group which suddenly became involved in the in-care abuse issue in Scotland without any discussion with FBGA, the group which has been at the center of this issue.

Further to an article in the TimesOnline.uk on Jan. 24, 2010, regarding Solicitors advertising in prisons for abuse victims in order to make money, I believe the same can be said for groups who purport to speak for careleavers while availing themselves of the money the Scottish Government in particular spends to avoid dealing head on with the real issue...which is Acknowledgement and Accountability towards those who were abused while in care in Scotland. I believe any group involved in this issue should be as vigilant about honesty in all things as they would demand from the people they say they represent and should work hard not to dilute the voices of the True Victim Survivors.

Chris Miller