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Subject: Times

Date: Thu, 28 Jan 2010 16:20

Dear David

I read your comments in response to the Sunday Times article.

I agree entirely with you that [genuine] victims of abuse should not be frustrated in their attempts to bring their concerns to the notice of the wider public (including Parliamentarians). I also agree that the voice of victims be heard and not just the voice of those who say they represent them – although some are excellent. At least you have victim 'champions' or 'ambassadors'. We don't.

As for the figures I think you make too much of them. True we sometimes report that some 200 teachers etc maintain been falsely accused in the Court which when compared with the thousands who say they have been abused is not disproportionate.

The important thing for both sides is to recognise that false allegations are made as well as true ones. We should also agree that both are probably under-reported. Polarising the issue doesn't help.

One of the things we made very clear to the Sunday Times was that we fully accept that some young people have been abused (or will be) by their carers and teachers – but the emphasis we put on this was not reflected in the article.

Best wishes

Michael

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F.A.C.T. (Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers) is a UK wide voluntary organisation. It exists to support carers and teachers falsely accused and/or wrongly convicted of child/vulnerable adult abuse, and to campaign on their behalf for change in investigative practice and in the criminal justice system. F.A.C.T is unable to provide advice or support to anyone accused of abuse by a spouse, partner, relative or friend.

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