

## SHRC InterAction on Historic Child Abuse

### InterAction Action Plan Review Group Meeting

#### Update on the Time-Bar Bill

- The draft Limitation (Childhood Abuse) Scotland Bill was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.
- The Bill is included in the SNP Manifesto as a commitment:  
*“We will lift the time bar on the right of survivors to bring forward civil claims against those who abused them, in circumstances where they were abused after 1964. Human rights law prevents this approach for claims arising before 1964 so we will consider what more can be done to provide these older survivors with urgent financial and practical support. We will work with care providers to ensure that they play an appropriate role in this.”*
- We are committed to introducing the Bill during the first year of this Parliamentary session. The First Minister will set out her Programme for Government in September when the Scottish Parliament reconvenes after the summer recess.
- Further work is on-going to ensure the Bill works in practice and is fit for legal purpose:
  - Key considerations, e.g. neglect
  - Recent developments in Australia:
    - Limitation of Actions Amendment (Child Abuse) Act 2015 in Victoria, Australia
    - Limitation Amendment (Child Abuse) Act 2016 No 5: in New South Wales, Australia
    - Proposed The Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia
- The new Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Ms Annabelle Ewing MSP, will be taking the Bill through Parliament. The Scottish Government is keen to meet with survivors ahead of the Bill being introduced.

#### Contact Details

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