



**Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers Homes**

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## **Statement by FBGA**

Further to the announcement made by the Minister Adam Ingram today with regards Historical Abuse Survivors.

FBGA have worked constructively with the Scottish Government within a subgroup set-up to look at and address the in-care historical abuse issues.

FBGA have submitted health and social comprehensive service provision plans and proposals which we believe will address these issues.

**FBGA are in broad agreement with the Scottish Government on the service provision and would like to thank the Minister for taking concrete steps to address the major issues affecting survivors in Scotland.**

**We welcome in principle the commitment to implement all of Tom Shaw's recommendations and look forward to their full implementation in their entirety.**

## **Truth and Reconciliation**

The Survivors are not aware of the Terms of Reference or the proposed make-up of the proposed Scottish Model to-date and we await full clarification from the Scottish Government.

FBGA have raised some concerns in relation to Truth and Reconciliation which we have asked the Scottish Government to take into account and consideration these are minuted in the Subgroup minutes of 10/12/2008. We have also addressed these concerns to the Children's Commissioner for Children, Katherine Marshall.

Please see copy of section of Subgroup minutes.

## **Re: Truth and Reconciliation**

1. FBGA believe in the right to a fair trial and hearing (European Legislation, Human Rights, section 6) by those alleging abuse and those being accused. The process of Truth and Reconciliation would circumvent the current legal judicial court system.
2. FBGA are concerned it will interfere with the rights of organisations to be able to defend against such child abuse allegations.
3. FBGA believes that it has the potential to permit or allow within such a process an individual to create false allegations and embellishing of abuse if the process does not have judicial oversight and proper powers of investigation.

FBGA are concerned as recently it has been brought to our group's attention that individuals may be embellishing their own personal abuse experience.

Also many survivors continue to feel excluded from the processes and it would be in everyone's interest that these issues are fully addressed through a proposed National conference which FBGA have previously requested of the Scottish Government to allow all individual survivors who wish to express their individual view.

We are concerned that those purporting and claiming to represent victim/survivors are not fully representing their views properly and are the only voices currently in these issues (Frank Docherty and his group previously in Incas is a prime example of those currently excluded).

## **Scottish Law Commission**

Given the Law Lords recent decision. Is it still the Scottish Law Commission's contention and position that their views and findings should prevail in these matters.

**FBGA (Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes)**