

# MACSAS

Minister & Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors

## Press Release

*The Church of England's past cases review of all reports of child abuse by clergy in all Dioceses in England & Wales in 2008 – 2009.*

*A report of its findings is due to go before the House of Bishops in February 2010.*

### **MACSAS has learned that:**

1. The Church of England past cases review of Child abuse by Anglican clergy is to be presented to the bishops in February 2010.
2. It has been suggested to us that parts of the review will not be made public knowledge.
3. That there is anxiety about the full findings being made public due to litigation by victims.
4. Though victims have been identified through the review process, their needs have not been considered.

We challenge the Church of England to transparency, openness and full accountability in reporting the findings of this important review.

### **We call for:**

1. **Full publication of all parts of the review of child abuse in the Church of England.**
2. Accountability of all who wronged both children and adults by any secrecy, collusion or denial of allegations
3. Restitution and compensation to all victims identified so that lives can be re-built
4. An assurance that the involvement of the police in all cases of clergy abuse in the Church of England has occurred.
5. The rejection of secrecy as a modus operandi in this new year of 2010.
6. A commitment to support and care of clergy abuse survivors.

### **MACSAS will be conducting a survey of Clergy sexual abuse victims in all Christian denominations in the UK during 2010**

We will specifically ask how Church leaderships responded to reported allegations of clergy abuse. We aim to hear from victims how the churches responded to their reports. It is hoped that this survey will reveal the extent of clergy sexual abuse of both children and adults.

The Church of England, House of Bishops, might well ponder any intention to hold back in secrecy any part of its child abuse review in the light of this ongoing 2010 survey, as MACSAS intends to publish the results of this survey. (See website [www.macsas.org.uk](http://www.macsas.org.uk) for further details),

**We call upon the Government of this country** to implement necessary public inquiries headed by independent specialists to examine the findings and search further into the handling of clergy sexual abuse in the Church of England as has recently occurred in Ireland.

MACSAS argues that the forthcoming review should be one of total honesty, total transparency, and total accountability. Any other route is no longer sustainable given the events in Ireland and the public right to know what happened to children in faith communities. If the Church of England chooses to hold secret any part of its findings they cannot expect the people in the UK to respect, or trust the institution as a community of integrity or Christianity.

**We urgently ask the Church of England:**

Do you intend to publish **in full** the findings of the Church of England Review into Child abuse?

Can we have **an assurance** that no part of the review will be held in secret away from public scrutiny?

**Notes to Editors**

MACSAS is a support group for women and men from Christian backgrounds who have been sexually abused by Ministers or Clergy, as children or as adults. We support both survivors who have remained within their Christian communities and for those who have left.

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