

## **Survivors First**

As Survivors we have attended many meetings over the years. We have been helped by Future Pathways but not everyone appreciates how Survivors feel. Some Groups or individuals have an agenda that is not beneficial to everyone. The redress Bill covering historical child abuse in care affects thousands of Survivors. After consultation Scottish Government has passed to parliament a bill that strips us of our right to sue.

### **Waiver**

Why is the Scottish government asking survivors of child abuse to sign a waiver to give up their rights to raise civil action against the government or the organisations that committed the abuse in the recently published redress scheme. The Scottish child abuse inquiry was set up so that those who abused the children of Scotland could be held accountable, but how can you have accountability without justice. The Scottish child abuse inquiry was set up so that those who abused the children of Scotland could be held accountable, but how can you have accountability without justice.

### **Evidence**

The bill states that applicants will have to provide documentary information to satisfy the decision-making panel who may not be unbiased. What this means is that survivors will have to produce their records. How many survivors do we know who can access their records? This alone is a dangerous position to put survivors in. This section also states that survivors will be asked to provide a more detailed account of the abuse they suffered and will be required to provide supplementary information. During the Assessment period survivors are going to have to go back over the severity, frequency and duration of abuse along with other relevant matters. Where on earth is someone who was abused forty or fifty years ago going to find such information? In my estimation, roughly 90% of survivors who come forward are going to fall at this hurdle and what is so disturbing is that as is normal in Scotland there is no details of any organisations that people can turn to for support. Where is the compassion here from the Scottish government in offering support to survivors to find their records. This really is quite disturbing.

### **Deceased**

Deceased Survivors relatives can be awarded up to 10k this is an insult to everyone who has died especially during the current process. This bill will cripple survivors of historical child abuse and once again the Scottish government is going to cause major distress to the most vulnerable people who were let down as children.