



NI Church home abuse inquiry to recommend compensation

Survivors of abuse at Church run children homes in Northern Ireland should be paid compensation, an inquiry will say.

The trauma endured by victims should be recognised, the head of the inquiry into historical institutional child abuse in Northern Ireland has said. Retired judge Sir Anthony Hart, pictured above, said despite the inquiry not being finished it, was clear payments to victims would be appropriate.

The inquiry, one of the largest into harm to children at homes run by the church, state and voluntary organisations, was formally established in January 2013 by the Northern Ireland Executive to investigate child abuse which occurred in residential institutions over a 73-year period from 1922 to 1995.

While the inquiry's investigative work is not scheduled to finish until next summer, with a report due to be submitted to Stormont ministers the following year, Sir Anthony said he was already in a position to recommend compensation.

"Because our investigations are not complete we are not yet in a position to say what our findings of systemic failings will be, or what all our recommendations will be," he said.

"However, what we can now say is that from the evidence we have heard so far we will recommend that there should be a scheme to award financial compensation to those children who suffered abuse in children's homes and other institutions in Northern Ireland between 1922 and 1995."

He has also announced a further six institutions that will be investigated by the inquiry, bringing the total number to 22.

Manor House (a C of I related children's home near Lisburn); Millisle Borstal; St Joseph's Training School for Girls (at Middletown, Co Armagh); and three Good Shepherd convents at Londonderry, Belfast and Newry, have all been added.

He added: "Any recommendations that we make for any form of redress, including compensation, will apply to any person who was abused within a children's home or other institution within our terms of reference, whether or not that home or institution was investigated by the inquiry."

Sir Anthony emphasised that the final decision on whether compensation would be paid did not rest with the inquiry.

"Although our terms of reference provide that the inquiry will make recommendations and findings on a number of matters, the final decision as to whether there should be any form of redress, and what form it may take, are matters for the Northern Ireland Executive to decide," he said.

Victims campaigners have called for interim compensation payments to be offered before the inquiry is completed, highlighting the age of many of those who suffered abuse.

Stormont's Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister has not commented on the call for interim pay-outs.

PCI Conferences look at the 'Challenges facing the Church in the Middle East and at home'

Rev. Farouk Hammo, Senior Pastor, Baghdad Presbyterian Church, Iraq is the main speaker at the morning session of 'Faith in the Furnace' conference, which is being run in conjunction with Open Doors on Tuesday, November 2015.

Rev Hammo has seen membership of his congregation drop dramatically due to the violence and persecution of Christians in Iraq over the past 10 years. Despite the dangers inside the 'Fiery Furnace,' Rev. Farouk plays an important role in caring for the many displaced Christian families driven by IS from Mosul and the surrounding Christian villages.

PCI's Global Mission Secretary, Rev. Uel Marrs, will also share his thoughts following his recent visit to Lebanon, where he saw how the local church is responding to the crisis in Syria, and how refugees fleeing conflict are turning to Christ having 'come through the furnace'.

Rev. Uel Marrs said, "The Arab Spring, the rise of ISIS, the conflict in Syria have all brought great changes in the Middle East and far beyond. At the two conferences, we hope to discover more about how the local churches in the Middle East, especially in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon are coping with the challenges, and discuss what we in Ireland can do to stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ there.

"We also hope to learn from them, especially as we continue to welcome refugees here in Ireland, and to learn more about the practicalities of getting involved in helping refugees who arrive here."

At the afternoon conference, 'The Refugee Experience – Challenges facing the Church at home', Dr. Edith Shillue, who works for the Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS), will give an

explanation of the asylum and refugee system and processes in the UK, and talk about the experiences of those in the system. Following this, there will be a discussion session on how churches can best help and support new refugees who arrive here.

The two conferences are being held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. They are open to anyone with a desire to hear more about these issues, and will include table group discussions.

For more information on the conferences, go to www.presbyterianireland.org/events.

To book a place, contact the PCI Mission Department on +44 (0)28 9032 2284 or email global@presbyterianireland.org or cmi@presbyterianireland.org.

The closing date for bookings is Friday, 13th November.

Unfortunately the afternoon conference – ‘The Refugee Experience – Challenges facing the Church at home’ is now fully booked. (It is hoped to run this conference only for a second time in the near future. Everyone interested in this

should contact the Mission Department as soon as possible).

Dundela Parish will play its part in the CS Lewis Festival

As has become tradition, the Parish of Dundela will be a significant contributor to the Third Annual CS Lewis Festival, being held in Belfast from 19–22 November.

The Parish will host a landmark Narnia themed Craft Fair, inviting people to come aboard the Dawn Treader and sample the dozens of stalls available on the day. Open from 10.00 am–5.00 pm on Saturday 21 November, the Craft Fair is a must for a few early Christmas presents and a chance to enjoy live music and delightful refreshments.

On Sunday, 22 November, at 10.30 am the mid-morning service in St Mark's will commemorate the life of CS Lewis with specially chosen hymns, and readings from Lewis' works as well as Holy Scripture. The preacher at the service will be the Revd Roy Taylor, a retired cleric living in Down and Dromore who attended lectures by Lewis

and briefly corresponded with him while an undergraduate at Cambridge.

The Revd Adrian Dorrian, Rector of Dundela, said: 'The CS Lewis Festival is a wonderful programme of events and we're delighted to be playing our part – especially in this 2015 Year of Mission. Our Craft Fair is real value for money and we'd be delighted to welcome visitors to our special service on 22nd November.

For further information about either of these events, get in touch by emailing

dundela@gmail.com.

Details of the whole festival can be found at [this link](#).

Ethical Fundraising and Funding Workshops

The Church of Ireland General Synod Board of Education (NI) and the C of I Youth Department have organised two workshops in Belfast and Omagh to look at innovative ideas for fundraising and practical advice on sourcing and applying for ethical funding.

The workshops will be delivered by James Lavery of Community Change . James specialises in supporting churches and faith groups with funding issues. Following the workshops, we can arrange a further session of one-to-one consultations where James can support individual churches through specific funding applications.

Community Change is a highly experienced registered charity that works to meet local and/or regional needs of disadvantaged communities within our society. It works throughout Northern Ireland to deliver capacity building, facilitation and training sessions to a wide range of organisations within the community, voluntary and statutory sectors.

Community Change works directly with community and voluntary groups creating training and development to support specific needs. It specialises in working with grassroots volunteer-led local groups and collectives responding to their group needs through the delivery of training and support at an appropriate level, time and pace for the group.

James Lavery has been the Facilitation, Training & Development Officer at Community Change since September 2013 where among his duties he manages various grant-funded projects. He previously worked for NICVA for 10 years as the Fundraising Advice Officer where he administered the Grant Tracker project and trained groups in the various aspects of fundraising.

James is an expert on researching funding sources and has significant experience in helping groups obtain funding from trusts, foundations and EU funding. He has sat on numerous grant assessment panels including Coca Cola and various EU funds and was also the Secretariat for the Northern Ireland Trusts Group. James is a member of the Institute of Fundraising (NI) Committee.

Thursday, 26th November. 7.30–9.30 pm. CIYD Office. Church of Ireland House, Belfast

Thursday, 3rd December. 7.30–9.30pm. St Columba's Church Hall, Omagh

To book a place email admin@ciyd.org or phone 028 9082 8890.

Lecture on Irish versions of the Bible

Ciarán Ó Coigligh PhD (President of Newman College Ireland) will present a lecture on The Irish versions of the Bible in The Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Co. Derry at 8.00 pm tonight

The Respondents are Revd Canon Harold Given (Church Of Ireland) & Revd Alan Wilson (Presbyterian Church). Christians of all denominations, those of other faith groups and those of no religious affiliation will be most welcome contact: www.newmancollege.ie or the Drummond Hotel 2 Main Street, Ballykelly, Co. Derry Telephone: 028 7772 2121

Brand new Your Church Wedding website launched

The Church of England has launched a brand new re-design of their hugely popular website www.yourchurchwedding.org, with essential information for couples planning their wedding within the Church of England.

The current website, which received over 990,000 visits in 2014, enables couples to explore the possibility of a church wedding, and to make choices about their service. A total of 77,500 weddings have been drafted on the website with the Ceremony Planner tool since its launch.

The re-designed website contains everything a couple needs to know about a church wedding, from where they can get married and how they can get in touch with the church to the choices they can make about their ceremony. There is also a section called 'more about marriage' which will help clergy to have conversations with couples as they look forward to their future together.

Among the interactive tools available include the ability to listen to the most popular wedding hymns, ideas for wedding readings and a new step by step guide which walks you through the entire wedding service.

The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Projects and Developments for the Archbishops' Council, said, "From today yourchurchwedding.org will be even better:

couples will be able to use the site on mobiles and tablets, accessing valuable information whether they are at home or out and about. The new look site is easier to use than ever and new features will help couples get a real sense of what is involved in a church wedding before they talk to their vicar. We hope this website will help couples realise that in choosing a church wedding they will be sure to have a really special wedding day, with all the support and help that the church can offer not just for the day but for all the years that lie ahead"

Anglican Consultative Council to meet in Lusaka, Zambia in 2016

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Zambia will host over 100 members of the Anglican Consultative Council for its 16th meeting next April.

More than one hundred lay people, priests and bishops will gather next April in Zambia for the 16th meeting of the [Anglican Consultative Council](#) (ACC).



Lusaka Cathedral

The [Anglican Communion Standing Committee](#) and the [Church of the Province of Central Africa](#) have started the preparations and consultation

process for the next year's meeting taking place in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Lusaka, on April 8-20.



The overarching theme for the meeting is to be “Intentional Discipleship in a World of Differences.” This is in response to the challenges facing the church today of articulating our faith in a way that can apply it to Christian ethics in all spheres of life. The theme was commended by the archbishop of Canterbury and approved in the recent meeting of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion.

A number of further priorities for the ACC agenda were identified earlier this year in Dublin in a consultation with provincial Secretaries who were representing various member churches of the Anglican Communion. Mission and evangelism, environment and climate change, refugees and

migrants, reconciliation and difference are among the main topics identified in the consultation. The detailed ACC program is still being developed.

The local launch of the ACC-16 will take place in a dedicated service in Lusaka Cathedral on Nov. 29 and will gather representatives from all the dioceses in the Province of Central Africa (Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia). The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, will preach at the service and a video message from the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will also be shown.

The new logo designed for ACC-16 has as the central image the iconic shape of the roof of Lusaka Cathedral. The colors used in the image are all the colors in the flags of Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia – the countries of the dioceses that make up the Church of the Province of Central Africa. The cross in the logo is in the style of the one over the nave altar in Lusaka Cathedral.

The role of the ACC is to facilitate the cooperative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information and help to

co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organization and structures of the communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the church, including ecumenical matters.

The Anglican Consultative Council is one of the four [instruments of the Anglican Communion](#), together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates Meeting and Lambeth Conference. It is the most representative bodies as it includes lay and ordained members. Each province, depending on its size, has one to three representatives.

The Anglican Consultative council meets every three years in different parts of the world. There have been fifteen meetings of the Council. [The last meeting, ACC-15, was held in Auckland New Zealand in 2012.](#)

Media digest

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Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the leader of the Orthodox Christian Church have called on followers to fight climate change. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople,

Bartholomew I, insisted that global warming is a “moral crisis” requiring millions of people to change their behaviour as much as politicians making treaties on the environment. The two leaders, meeting at Lambeth Palace yesterday, hope to mobilise their churches’ support ahead of the UN conference in Paris next month aimed at reaching a new global agreement to limit carbon dioxide emissions.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11973107/Science-alone-cannot-save-the-planet-insists-spiritual-leader-of-Orthodox-Church.html>

BBC/Mail/Ind/Guard/Tel

Older teenage girls are most risk of being victims of sexual abuse, crime data analysis suggests. Using the Crime Survey for England and Wales, the Children's Society estimated that 50,000 girls aged 16 and 17 were sexually assaulted last year. This group does not have the same legal safeguards as those who are younger because they are able to consent to sex and the charity is calling for changes to the law to give them more protection. Only one in 10 of the allegations identified by the Children's Society was reported to police.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34712255>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3302899/Teenagers-don-t-report-sex-attacks-Report-shows-45-000-young-people-never-police-abuse-fear-won-t-believed.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3302899/Teenagers-don-t-report-sex-attacks-Report-shows-45-000-young-people-never-police-abuse-fear-won-t-believed.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3302899/Teenagers-don-t-report-sex-attacks-Report-shows-45-000-young-people-never-police-abuse-fear-won-t-believed.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/teenage-sex-crime-victims-dont-report-offences-as-they-fear-not-being-believed-a6720296.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/04/tens-of-thousands-of-sex-crimes-against-teenagers-unreported-charity-says>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/child-protection/11973211/Scared-and-suspicious-teenagers-not-reporting-sex-crimes.html>

Metro/Exp/Mirror

Reports the funeral of fundraiser Kirsty Howard at St Michael and All Angels in Wythenshawe, Manchester, who died at the age of 20. Miss Howard was as born with her heart back-to-front and defied medical odds after her parents were told she would not live past the age of four. Miss Howard who was the only British child – and one of only two worldwide – born with the condition, died last month after raising £7.5million for a hospice charity.

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/03/thousands-of-mourners-pay-tribute-to-inspirational-kirsty-howard-at-her-funeral-5478355/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/616675/Coronation-Street-Kirsty-Howard-funeral-girl-born-back-to-front-heart>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/kirsty-howard-funeral-live-updates-6758300>

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The Community of Anglican Sisters who inspired the BBC 1 drama “Call the Midwife” are selling their Grade II listed convent to downsize. The five remaining Sisters of St John The Divine Community in Alum Rock, Birmingham are hoping to continue their ministry by moving to smaller premises in Marston Green. One of the convent's District Midwives was the inspiration for the TV show although the BBC moved the drama to East End London.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/11973522/Nuns-who-inspired-Call-the-Midwife-forced-to-sell-their-convent.html>

Mail

A miniature Bible owned by Eleanor Rigby - the star of the classic Beatles tune - has been put on sale for the first time. The book, which bears the

signature of the so-called 'lonely woman' Rigby, is expected to fetch as much as £20,000 at auction thanks to its connection with the song's mysterious figure. Rigby died in 1939, before the Beatles had formed, but John Lennon and Paul McCartney were familiar with her grave in a Liverpool cemetery.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3302397/Miniature-Bible-owned-real-life-Eleanor-Rigby-written-pencil-inside-cover-discovered-thought-worth-20-000.html>

Comment

Responsible Finance: Malcolm Brown, the Director of Mission and Public Affairs at the CofE writes about the Church's involvement with the Credit Union movement.

<http://responsiblefinance.org.uk/2013/09/the-church-of-england-and-the-credit-union-movement/>

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