

Scottish Human Rights Commission and Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland

InterAction on Justice for Historic Child Abuse

Principles for the InterAction : Ensuring fairness for All

The purpose of the InterAction is to give those affected by historic abuse and those who have or who have had responsibilities for the residential care of children, an opportunity to engage directly in addressing how to implement the Human Rights Framework on historic child abuse. The purpose will be to develop an action plan outlining the agreed steps to advance the access to justice, a time frame within which steps will be taken and an independent monitoring process.

The path to a successful outcome will depend on participants feeling satisfied that they have been heard and fairly treated, and that their human rights have been respected.

We ask therefore that those participating in the InterAction respect the following principles:

Do no harm: Everyone who participates in the InterAction process must recognise the fundamental importance of doing everything we can to ensure no-one is harmed as a result of taking part.

Voice: Everyone needs time to explain their perspective which may involve giving a personal or organisational narrative. Participants will be treated with respect and allowed to have their voice heard.

Being Heard: The term 'historic abuse' implies that this is in the past. For those participating in the InterAction, the consequences are very much in the present. Each participant will take time to hear what participants say and to take this seriously.

Respectful Treatment: Participants will treat each other with politeness, courtesy and consideration at all times.

Constructive engagement: To achieve the purpose of the InterAction, which is to develop an Action Plan to advance justice for victim survivors of historical child abuse. Participants will engage in negotiations constructively and will give serious consideration to the feasibility and appropriateness of further steps.

We welcome your interest in the InterAction and look forward to your active participation

Thank you.

Professor Monica McWilliams

Chair of the InterAction on Justice for Historic Child Abuse