

## Consultation Questionnaire

**Q1. Do you agree or disagree with the purpose of a National Confidential Forum?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Support to survivors will be a very important part of the process both prior to attending at the forum itself and afterwards due to the risk of being re-traumatised. Many survivors have issues with mental health and/ or disability so there may be the necessity to offer alternatives to attending a forum in a specific location.

**Q2. Do you agree or disagree that the Forum should operate independently from Government?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Many survivors have issues with trust and therefore it is very important that this is an independent body.

**Q3. Should the Forum**

**(a) be integrated into another public body ?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

**(b) be a separate unit within another public body?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

We feel that this should be a completely independent body that oversees the forum due to the trust issues highlighted above.

**Q4. Do you agree or disagree that all adults who were placed in residential care by the State should be eligible to take part in the National Confidential Forum?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

It is very important for those adults placed in care to have their voices heard to inform the future experiences of children who are placed in care. This would include those who had a positive experience as those testimonies are also important to identify areas of good practice. However priority should be for survivors of abuse in care.

**Q5. Do you agree or disagree that the process should be the same for all participants, regardless of whether they regard themselves as survivors of abuse in residential childcare?**

Agree  Disagree  No preference

Survivors of abuse in care will require additional intensive support to go through the process. As above priority should be given to those abused in care.

**Q6. Do you agree or disagree that people who were in the following types of residential care should be included:**

- residential schools and children's homes
- residential educational provision for children with special needs
- long-stay hospital provision for children with acute medical and/or mental health needs
- secure accommodation

Agree  Disagree  No preference

While we can see that there may be resource implications and that it is important to prioritise those in residential care many of the survivors seen by the In Care Survivor Service Scotland have had very negative experiences of foster care. This was often in many foster homes. There are similar long term physical and mental health issues for survivors who have experienced both types of care.

**Q7. What other support do you consider that participants would benefit from before, during and after the Forum?**

We feel that this is one of the most crucial elements of a forum as it can revisit the trauma and create further difficulties. We feel that this should be a specialist agency such as ICSSS. While more generic services can offer support they are unable to provide the specialist support that ICSSS can provide due to knowledge and experience of the needs of in care survivors. If this was offered to all survivors attending they could meet a worker some weeks prior to attending and then have ongoing support afterwards. Without appropriate support there are substantial risk factors.

**Q8. Do you think that the participants should be protected from legal action in connection with their work for the Forum?**

Yes  No  No preference

We feel that all parties should be protected from legal action as this potential would create anxiety.

**Q9. Do you think there are any barriers that would prevent people who are eligible to take part in the Forum from participating?**

Yes  No

As mentioned above many survivors have severe mental and physical health issues and would find participation difficult.

**Q10. Do you wish to add any additional points about the Forum?**

Yes  No

We feel it is very important that there is open access to the forum for anyone abused in care to ensure that no groups feel marginalised.

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Introduction

The public sector duties require the Scottish Government pay “due regard” to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, victimisation, harassment or other unlawful conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic.

These three requirements apply across the “protected characteristics” of age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex and sexual orientation.

In effect, this means that equality considerations are integrated into all the functions and policies of Scottish Government Directorates and Agencies.

A key part of those duties is to impact assess all our policies to ensure that we do not inadvertently create a negative impact for equality groups and also that we actively seek the opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

## The Aim of the National Confidential Forum

The aim of the National Confidential Forum is to give adults who spent time in residential care as children the opportunity to talk about their experiences.

In this section of the consultation questions we are particularly interested in finding out your views on whether the National Confidential Forum meets the needs of the following groups:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion and Belief

Your responses to the questions will help us to carry out a full equality impact assessment for a National Confidential Forum.

## Questions

1. Do you think the creation of a National Confidential Forum will have a disproportionately negatively impact on particular groups of people in our target audience?

Yes  No

We feel this will be a positive process for closure and moving forward but consideration of the risks to mental wellbeing must be considered.

2. Do you think the creation of a National Confidential Forum will have a positive impact on particular groups of people in our target audience?

Yes  No

With the right support this process will enable closure for many survivors

3. What negative impacts do you think the National Confidential Forum will have on a particular group?

The risk of initial difficulties with flashbacks and memories for those with mental health difficulties.

4. What positive impacts do you think the National Confidential Forum will have on a particular group?

The forum will enable survivors to have their accounts heard which will enable them to improve in wellbeing in the longer term.

5. What changes would you suggest to reduce any negative impact you have identified?

As above survivors should have appropriate support

6. What changes would you suggest to enhance any positive impacts you have identified?

Support must be targeted to the specific needs of survivors

7. Are there any significant issues we need to consider in relation to:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Religion and Belief?

A large number of the survivors that we work with have disabilities and physical impairments which may make participation difficult.