

Best practice in engaging survivors of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)

RSH Helpdesk Number 3

1. Overview

Survivors can make important contributions to policymaking on sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH). However, meaningful engagement involves policymakers acting appropriately and responsibly to ensure that survivors' voices are heard without causing further harm. This document provides a rapid review of the documentation of efforts to engage survivors of SEAH (and other types of violence, where relevant) in developing policy, as well as reviewing research conducted on survivors' needs and priorities.

This query was first written in July 2018 and updated in June 2020. The methodology for this rapid query began with an initial literature review using searches¹ on Google and relevant electronic databases, as well as through the VAWG Helpdesk alliance partners. However, due to the lack of information on engaging survivors in policymaking, as well as limited research on their needs and priorities, this query has instead focused on several case studies where more detailed information exists on engaging survivors and their needs/priorities (see table below), including public inquiries, global forums and summits, and advisory councils.

	Time-frame	Country	Focus
Global Forum for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	2016	Global	Child sexual exploitation and abuse
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse	2015 - present	UK	Child sexual abuse
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	2013-2017	Australia	Child sexual abuse
United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking	2015-present	USA	Trafficking
Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) Stigma Programme	2016-2017	Global	Sexual Violence in Conflict
Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict	2014	Global	Sexual Violence in Conflict

¹ Key search terms included: harassment*, abuse, exploitation, violence, trafficking, survivor*, engage, participation, policy, plan, forum.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	Ongoing	Global	Gender inequality, FGM, violence, trafficking
Forced Marriage Unit	Ongoing	UK	Forced marriage
DFID-led listening exercise	2018	UK	SEAH in the aid sector
Stand Speak Rise Up! To End Sexual Violence in Fragile Environments	2019-ongoing	Global	Sexual violence in fragile environments
Survivors Consultation for developing London-wide VAWG strategy	2018-2019	UK	VAWG
Consultation with Survivors of Institutional Abuse	2019	UK / Ireland	Child sexual abuse in residential institutions
VOICES for Truth and Dignity: Combatting Sexual Violence in European Sport	2016-2018	Europe	SEAH in sports
Survivors Empowering and Educating Services (SEEdS)	2017-2020	England and Wales	Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Survivors Speak Out	Ongoing	UK	Torture
ECPAT UK Youth Group	Ongoing	UK	Trafficking and Exploitation

Key findings on how to meaningfully engage with survivors to develop policy:

- **Processes should be survivor-led and designed (including deliverables and follow-up):** For example, at the Global Forum for Adult Survivors of Childhood sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), survivors designed the Forum and agreed the deliverables which were presented to a range of policymakers, including those of governments, international entities, regional mechanisms, the private sector, and civil society. Similarly, the PSVI Stigma programme involved survivors in developing the agenda and format to ensure that survivors were included on an equal footing. At the consultation with survivors of child SEA in residential institutions, survivors used the quote ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’ to emphasise that survivors should be central to any process.
- **Provide different options for survivors to choose how they want to engage,** including in writing, in an audio file such as a podcast, in a video, or in person. It is also important that the discussion and content is survivor-led, with survivors choosing how and to what extent they detail their experience and the impact of SEAH. Facilitators or organisations should also be aware of power dynamics at play and that the survivor may feel pressured to participate.
- **Ensure informed consent is received for any images, quotes or written work that is used.** It is important that survivors are explained what the purpose of their involvement is in a way that they understand and that they are made aware of consequences of using images or quotes. For example, ECPAT UK ensure that all survivors are aware of who may see any material, ensure anonymity and that a survivor is in a secure enough place to participate.
- **Adopt survivor-centred and trauma-informed approaches to minimise re-traumatisation.** Examples include:
 - **Ensure that support is available for survivors if they are affected by anything during the consultation.** It is also important to include referrals to local services for ongoing support. For example, during the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, 81% of survivors who participated took up the emotional support and counselling offered, and of these 93% said it was useful. Both Survivors Empowering and Educating Services (SEEds)

programme and ECPAT UK Youth group highlight the need for a support network around the survivor and sign posting for further support.

- **Create a protected and supportive environment.** as in the ‘Private Sessions’ model for Australia’s Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In the PSVI Stigma workshops, survivors as well as other staff who were affected by the difficult discussions were able to access a ‘safe space environment’ with quiet spaces where people could have a glass of water on their own.
- **Include workshop space for healing.** For example, the Stand Speak Rise Up! To End Sexual Violence in Fragile Environments Forum included interactive workshops for survivors involving dance therapy and sports therapy.
- **Be clear, truthful and realistic with expectations.** For example, ECPAT UK highlight that survivors of trafficking have often been lied to and exploited by people they trust. It is important that facilitators or organisations are realistic about what they can or cannot do, manage expectations and deliver what was agreed.
- **Protect survivors’ privacy and confidentiality** so that people can retain their anonymity if they wish or speak out about their involvement. For example, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse had a Restriction Order to protect survivors’ anonymity; while the Inquiry kept this information confidential, its Terms of Reference required it to refer all allegations of child abuse to the police. Engaging survivors on online platforms requires special considerations, for example the virtual component of the Global Forum was adapted from an existing, well-tested and secure platform used by a survivor-focused organisation in the USA. Experienced moderators monitored the online discussions.
- **Clear and friendly communication with survivors before and after the process.** Several of the examples highlight the importance of clear communication with survivors so they know what to expect before participating and what follow-up action will be taken. Survivors, who participated in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia, received a personal thank you card signed by the Chair, reimbursements for travel expenses, and a booklet describing what they could expect in the weeks and months following a private session. In the UK, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse received early feedback that the Inquiry communications were too institutional and presented in a “civil service” way, which were alienating survivors and preventing them from coming forward.
- **Consider accessibility, with regional trips, workshops or offices** to ensure that survivors who are geographically remote can still engage in the process. For example, the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (which is comprised of survivors) conducts regional trips across the United States to engage survivors in roundtable meetings and discussions. In the UK, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse opened offices in Liverpool, Darlington, Cardiff and Exeter, following early concerns from survivors about the accessibility of the Inquiry. Likewise, the Royal Commission in Australia held public forums and private meetings with survivor groups in regional and remote communities.
- **Focus on diverse and vulnerable survivors** and make sure that processes for engaging are inclusive for people from different ethnicities, cultures and abilities, including people without computers, with learning difficulties, and survivors in prison, as was the case in the Inquiries in Australia and the UK. The DFID-led listening exercise on SEAH in the aid sector engaged with a range of organisations representing diverse groups of survivors, including people with disabilities, children and young people.

- **Put in place measures to protect Whistleblowers:** In the UK, survivors expressed the need to ensure there are strong legal protections in place for whistleblowers that wished to contact or participate in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- **Financially compensate for survivors' expertise,** this is particularly the case for more extended engagement as in the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking which acknowledges that survivors, like any other employee or consultant, deserve financial compensation for their time and expertise. ECPAT UK Youth groups also provides food, travel and vouchers for young people who do not have a bank account.
- **Include opportunities for survivors to form networks and group support,** as in the VOICES project on SEAH in the sports sector where survivors who participated in the forums formed a communication group to connect and support each other.
- **Provide a space to hear children's and young survivors' voices.** Although the Global Forum for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was for survivors over 18 years for child protection reasons, the Forum encouraged children to submit videos/drawings, poems and other creative inputs. Another interesting case study is the Summit Youth Group during the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which provided a space for young survivors (aged 17-26 years) to inform policies. The young delegates participated throughout the full Summit, attending expert and Ministerial discussions as well as engaging in events in the Fringe. Two representatives from the group delivered a summary of their policy recommendations in the Summit plenary session on the final day.
- **Survivor roundtables can be a useful way of validating findings after engaging survivors in a process and ensuring recommendations are appropriate,** as was the case in the survivor consultation for the London-wide policy on VAWG. The DFID-led listening exercise on SEAH in the aid sector involved survivors groups throughout the process, including in agreeing the findings and recommendations in the final report.
- **Consider 'restorative approaches'** which focus on the importance of voice, building relationships, identifying the harm, the impact of the harm, the needs arising from the harm, and looking at ways to attempt to repair the harm. For example, in the survivor-led consultation with survivors of child SEA in residential institutions in UK/Ireland, the process involved 'Restorative Circles' where survivors shared their voices in a safe space, taking it in turns with a 'Talking Piece' passed around the circle but no obligation to speak.
- **Consider Acknowledgement Forums as a useful way to acknowledge and reconcile SEAH within a sector,** as was the case in the VOICES project on SEAH in the sports community where national Acknowledgment Forums were held with survivors and key stakeholders from the sports sector.
- **Be self-reflective and consider your own biases and prejudices** (conscious and unconscious). It is important when working with survivors to reflect on personal experience and views and how that may impact on decision making and interaction with others. It is important to never judge a survivor on their response. This was highlighted in the SEEds project and ECPAT UK Youth Group.

Key themes and recommendations from survivors on their needs and priorities include:

The table below summarises the main themes coming out of the case studies about survivors' needs and priorities. The most frequently mentioned priority is for survivors' voices to be heard and to improve the criminal justice system. Other key priorities include improving the health sector, support and advocacy services, prevention programming, compensation and redress, and providing grants and small funds to survivors' groups for promising and innovative practices.

	Global Forum	IICSA	Royal Commission	US Advisory Council on Trafficking	PSVI Stigma Programme	Global Summit to ESVC	CSW	Forced Marriage Unit	DFID-led listening exercise on SEAH in aid sector	Survivors Speak Rise Up! To end SV in fragile envs.	London VAWG strategy Survivors Consultation	Survivors of Institutional Abuse	VOICES: SEAH in sports	Survivors Empowering and Educating Services	Survivors Speak Out	ECPATUK Youth Group
Learning from survivors' knowledge and experience	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improve the criminal justice system, particularly how the police and courts treat survivors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Improve in the health sector, including free medical services	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Support and advocacy service for victims and survivors, both at the time of the abuse and long-term.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Prevention programming, including raising awareness, early intervention support and education programmes			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employment and livelihoods support for survivors				✓		✓				✓		✓				

Policymakers to improve understanding of long-term impacts and support		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Improved recruitment checks and vetting of staff		✓	✓					✓						
Compensation and redress schemes which are efficient and straightforward, and where the institutions and those responsible bear the cost	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓				
Changes to organisational culture, including more open, inclusive attitudes and training staff in risk factors			✓					✓		✓		✓		
Providing grants and small funds to survivors or survivor groups, particularly for promising and innovative practices				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Stop perpetrators' repeat behaviour, including by working with security and justice sectors										✓				

Global Forum for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (2016)

Organisation	Council of Europe / ECPAT International
Description	<p>The first Global Survivors Forum was held for adult survivors of childhood SEA in Strasbourg, France on 18 November 2016. The Forum aimed to provide an opportunity for survivors from around the world to shape policy, share good practices and make recommendations. In particular, it aimed to encourage governments to initiate actions that involve survivors in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets related to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.</p> <p>In the lead-up to the forum, 27 local consultations were held in 24 countries, with over 300 voices of survivors heard.</p> <p>The process culminated with 15 survivor advocates and experts from 12 different countries travelling to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg to bring forward recommendations and discuss how to put an end to SEA with policymakers from 82 countries.</p> <p>An online discussion was also held to bring together the voices of survivors in a dialogue around SEA.</p> <p>The forum was a first step towards creating a platform for survivors to speak out and create a survivor-led movement. A key outcome of the Forum was agreement on a 'Bill of Rights for Victims of Childhood Sexual Exploitation and Abuse' that will be widely shared with children worldwide.</p>
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Survivors outlined their priorities and needs in the Bill of Rights with ten specific rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have the right to report what has happened to you (to tell a safe person, a trusted organisation or the police) • You have the right to be protected (police have a duty to prevent and detect crimes and to help you in getting out of danger and away from people who hurt you) • You have the right to file a complaint against the people who hurt you (if you do, the police should investigate your complaint, and together with prosecutors, judges and lawyers should handle your complaint as quickly as possible) • You have the right to special treatment when you participate in the legal process • You have a right to get help that can make the legal process easier for you (e.g. help with translation, information about how the legal system works) • You have the right to be safe during the legal process (and protected from threats of harassment, or being made to change your story or take it back) • You have the right to have your privacy respected during the legal process (police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers should ensure no personal information shared) • You have the right to free medical and social services to help you cope and get better before and during the legal process and until you feel okay again • You have the right to get information related to the legal process, including what is happening with your complaint and in a language that you understand • You have the right to claim compensation for the harm done to you.



<p>Lessons learned for engaging survivors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and wellbeing of survivors: Only survivors of childhood SEA above 18 years of age were able to participate in the Forum. Guidelines were developed and shared to help encourage participants to feel comfortable participating in the Forum. • Engaging survivors on online platforms required special considerations: The virtual component of the Global Forum involved an online platform, which was adapted from an existing, well-tested and secure platform used by a survivor focused organisation in the USA. Experienced moderators monitored the online discussions. Participants in the virtual forum were able to follow the live plenary session and provide comments and recommendations. • Survivor-led and designed (including deliverables and follow-up): Survivors determined the deliverables and how to follow-up. An Outcome Document containing key recommendations of the Forum was prepared, which took into account the experiences of survivors and their unique perspectives, as well as the challenges they faced and continue to face. The document was presented to a range of policymakers, including those of governments, international entities, regional mechanisms, the private sector, and civil society. • Hearing children's voices through creative, impactful and accessible inputs: Although the Forum was for participants aged over 18 for child protection reasons, the Forum encouraged children to submit videos/drawings/poems to enable their voices to be heard throughout the consultation process and during the Forum. The materials are included on the survivors' voices page of ECPAT International's website.
<p>Sources</p>	<p>ECPAT website: http://www.ecpat.org/survivor-voices/</p> <p>ECPAT International (2016) <i>Global Forum for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Exploitation, Information Paper</i> https://www.ecpat.org.uk/global-survivors-forum-information-paper-1</p> <p>Survivors Bill of Rights (2016) : http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/KnowYourRight_Bey_ENG_A2size_final.pdf</p>

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) (2015–present)

Organisation	Set up by the UK Home Office
Description	<p>The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was set up following serious high profile instances of non-recent child sexual abuse, due to government concerns that some organisations were failing and were continuing to fail to protect children from sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Inquiry includes several core strands which will inform the overall conclusions and recommendations of the Chair and the Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Hearings, including investigations to examine what went wrong and why • Research and analysis programme to ensure recommendations are informed by the latest learnings • Truth Project, which engages survivors to share experiences and be respectfully heard and acknowledged • Victims and Survivors' Forum provides opportunities for Forum members to contribute to the work of the Inquiry and meet other members. Over 270 victims and survivors have joined the Forum, and join meetings, forum group discussions, and seminars. <p>Survivors can attend a private session to share their experience with a member of the Inquiry. Survivors are not questioned or challenged and the information they provide is not verified or tested. Their accounts are anonymised and will be considered when reaching conclusions.</p> <p>Survivors can also write a message to be published together with the Inquiry's annual reports – more information is available on the Truth Project microsite.</p> <p>As of April 2018 (Interim Report), 1,040 accounts of child sexual abuse have been shared with the Truth Project so far, with 787 private sessions and 253 written accounts. 53% of participants were female, 46% were male and 1% identified as 'other'. Approximately 6 in 10 said they were first abused when they were 4–11 years old (61%) and 1 in 4 when they were 12–15 years old (24%).</p>
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>The interim report provides several recommendations that are partly based on survivors' needs but does not pull out their specific priorities. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the Criminal Justice System: many survivors have prioritised the need for the Inquiry to seek ways that the police and courts could better support victims and survivors of sexual abuse. Specific suggestions include: holding the police and courts to account to make sure they treat adult survivors of abuse with sensitivity and respect and that this is consistent across the UK; making sure police do not make victims or survivors share information in a public space, such as the front desk of a police station; reviewing court processes, including sentencing. • Understanding long-term impacts and support: Need for policymakers to understand the impact that sexual abuse during childhood can have on the whole life of a survivor. • Improvements in the health sector particularly developing a national policy on the training and use of chaperones in the treatment of children in healthcare services. • Culture change within the police service so that any police officer who wants to progress to the Chief Officer cadre must first be required to: have operational policing experience in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse, and achieve accreditation in the role of the police service in preventing and responding to child



	<p>sexual abuse. Complaints about the way the police have handled child sexual abuse cases are considered regardless of when the abuse took place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that care staff working in children’s homes are professionally registered. • Ensuring that professionals who pose a risk or harm to children are barred from working with children across all sectors.
<p>Lessons learned for engaging survivors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained support workers, both male and female: Survivors can access both male and female support workers and counsellors during both the Truth Project and Forum events. 81% of Truth Project participants have taken up the emotional support and counselling offered, and of these, 93% said the support was helpful. • Accessibility for survivors who cannot easily get to London: In the early stages of the Inquiry, survivors voiced concerns about accessibility of the Inquiry, and subsequently offices were opened in Liverpool, Darlington, Cardiff and Exeter. • Ensuring that communication with survivors is not too formal or intimidating, including reports in plain English, videos, and dedicated online spaces for survivors. Early feedback was that the Inquiry communications were too institutional and presented in a “civil service” way, both of which can alienate victims and survivors and prevent them from coming forward. • Anonymity and confidentiality so that people can retain their anonymity if they wish, or speak out about their involvement. In order to ensure that the Inquiry is confidential, it has a Restriction Order to protect survivors’ anonymity. While the Inquiry keeps this information confidential, its Terms of Reference require it to refer all allegations of child abuse to the police. Other than in those circumstances, survivors’ information will not be disclosed unless ordered by a court to do so. • Whistleblower protection: Survivors expressed the need to ensure there are strong legal protections in place for whistleblowers who wish to contact the Inquiry. • Inclusiveness and making sure that processes for engaging are inclusive for people from different ethnicities, cultures and abilities, including people without computers and/or with learning difficulties. • Providing different options for survivors to choose how they want to engage, including in writing, in an audio file such as a podcast, in a video, or in person
<p>Sources</p>	<p>IICSA website: www.iicsa.org.uk</p> <p>Truth Project website: www.truthproject.org.uk</p> <p>IICSA (2016) <i>Victims and Survivors Forum Pilot Event</i> https://www.iicsa.org.uk/cy/key-documents/978/view/VictimsSurvivorsForum-PilotOutputSummary.pdf</p> <p>IICSA (2018) <i>Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse</i> https://www.iicsa.org.uk/about-us/interim-report</p>

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-2017)

Organisation	Australian Government
Description	<p>The Commission examined the history of abuse in educational institutions, religious groups, sporting organisations, state institutions and youth organisations in Australia, with the final report made public on 15 December 2017.</p> <p>Survivors participated in informing the recommendations of the Commission mainly through submissions in private sessions. Over 16,000 individuals contacted the Royal Commission, with more than 8,000 personal stories heard in private sessions. Over 1,000 survivors provided a written account of their experience, which were read and responded to by a Commissioner.</p> <p>Volume 5 of the Commission report provides an analysis of survivors' experiences of child sexual abuse as told during private sessions</p>
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Survivor's suggestions for change included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from survivors' knowledge and experience about how institutions and society could better protect children from sexual abuse in the future. • Need to raise awareness and challenge misconceptions about child sexual abuse, including that it is an historical issue, confined to particular institutions, or that perpetrators fit a 'stereotypical mould'. • Institutions to improve the background checks and screening of adults wishing to work or volunteer with children, to make it harder for potential perpetrators to access children. • Changes to organisational culture including developing more open, inclusive attitudes towards sex and sexuality (particularly true for the church), and training staff in understanding the risk factors for sexual abuse. • Prevention programming, including education programmes targeted at children to help them to identify abusive situations and to respond appropriately, and early intervention support for children and families at risk of being institutionalised. • Importance of effective institutional responses to child sexual abuse, particularly improving the criminal justice system (police and the courts). • Support and advocacy services for victims and survivors, both at the time of the abuse and long-term. • Redress - many survivors discussed the need for appropriate redress schemes, which were efficient and straightforward, and where the institutions and those responsible for the abuse bore the cost.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a 'Private Sessions' model whereby survivors could tell their story of abuse to a Commissioner in a protected and supportive environment. Many accounts from these sessions are included in an anonymous form in the Final Report. Survivors were provided with a booklet before the session so they knew what to expect. • Importance of providing emotional support to survivors from counsellors before, during and after their private session, to limit the potential distress caused by sharing past traumatic experiences. Every effort was made to meet survivors' needs and make them feel as safe and comfortable as possible, including accommodating requests to not



	<p>have people of a particular gender present during their private session. Referrals to local services for ongoing support were provided where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor-led discussion and content, with each survivor choosing how and to what extent they detailed their experience and impact of child sexual abuse. • Discussions include a focus on positive elements, including reflections on elements of hope, resistance and resilience, as well as sources of strength and support helped to reduce the risk of re-traumatisation from taking part in the private session. Many survivors offered suggestions for better protecting children in the future, saying this was their primary reason for coming forward and participating in a private session. • Follow-up engagement, including a personal thank you card signed by the Chair of the Royal Commission and the presiding Commissioner, reimbursements for travel expenses, and a booklet describing what they could expect in the weeks and months following a private session. • Community engagement involving public forums and private meetings with survivor groups, institutions, community organisations and service providers in many parts of Australia, and with regional and remote communities. • Focus on diverse and vulnerable survivors, which in the case of the Inquiry was: (1) children and young people aged under 25 at the time of their private session; (2) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors; (3) survivors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; (4) survivors with disability at the time of the abuse; (5) survivors in prison at the time of their private session. The sessions were adapted for each of these diverse and vulnerable groups
<p>Sources</p>	<p>Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse website: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au</p> <p>Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017) <i>Final Report: Private Sessions, Volume 5</i>. https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final_report_-_volume_5_private_sessions.pdf</p>

United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (2015-present)

Organisation	US Department of State
Description	<p>The US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking was established by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act in May 2015. The Council is a formal platform for trafficking survivors to advise and make recommendations to improve federal anti-trafficking policies. All eleven members on the Council are survivors of human trafficking.</p> <p>Beyond the Council, survivors are engaged through roundtable meetings and discussions with survivors in various regional trips. In 2016 and 2017, surveys of survivors' needs and priorities were also conducted.</p>
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>The Council has organised itself into five committees representing survivors' priority areas. The latest (2017) Council report identifies the following needs and priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule of Law, including training on all forms of human trafficking to various government departments, and engaging survivors as training. • Public Awareness, including a more diverse representation of survivors and representing all forms of trafficking in public awareness and outreach efforts, and ensuring that all public awareness efforts are trauma-informed. • Victim Services and ensuring services to trafficking survivors are comprehensive, including establishment of housing preferences for survivors. • Labour Laws, including survivor-informed training for the Department of Labour, increasing investigations in the hospitality, agriculture and construction industries to identify potential exploitation or human trafficking cases. • Grant-making, including documenting promising and innovative practices in domestic and international anti-trafficking programmes. The Council recommended funding for survivor leadership and empowerment in five government agencies (including USAID), and collaborating with these agencies to identify areas for survivor input in the grant-making process. <p>In the Council's regional trips, survivors have shared the importance of targeting services to under-served survivor populations, including tribal communities, the elderly, and adult women.</p> <p>They also recommended that federal and state government agencies support long-term services for survivors and work to address gaps in housing, employment, education, health, and mental health support.</p>
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach to minimise re-traumatisation and ensure an understanding of the impact of trauma on the individual. • Financially compensate for survivors' expertise as staff members, consultants, or trainers. Survivors, like any other employee or consultant, deserve financial compensation for their time and expertise. • Incorporate input in both the design and implementation of anti-trafficking policies, programmes, trainings, and advocacy efforts. • Protect survivors' privacy and confidentiality, including not publishing information or photographs without consent.



Sources

US Department of State (2017) Engaging Survivors of Human Trafficking
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/272324.pdf>

United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2017
<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/276836.htm>



PSVI Stigma programme (2016-2017)

<p>Organisation</p>	<p>UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>In 2016, PSVI held a series of workshops in conflict affected countries to engage survivors of sexual violence in conflict (SVC) in order to inform their policy and work to tackle the stigma associated with SVC.</p> <p>Workshops were held in Myanmar, Colombia, Iraq, Kosovo, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda which brought together survivors, experts, local governments, civil society, media and faith groups to identify and understand some of the issues associated with and challenges to tackling stigma. The workshops were also informed by prior NGO and PSVI Champion working group meetings.</p> <p>The UK Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PMSR), Baroness Anelay, then took these findings to a UK-hosted conference at Wilton Park in November 2016 which brought together the findings and continued discussions on how to tackle stigma.</p> <p>Survivor groups participated in this conference, which was set up to be a ‘safe and neutral environment whereby all participants contribute on an equal footing’.²</p> <p>Survivors continued to be instrumental in shaping policy (through a second round of in-country workshops), including developing Principles for Global Action which was launched at the United Nations in September 2017 with the aim of mobilising and generating increased political will and resources to prevent and tackle the stigmas associated with SVC. The Principles for Global Action are co-authored with the Global Network of Victims/Survivors.</p>
<p>Needs and priorities of survivors</p>	<p>Survivors voiced their needs and priorities in the ‘Principles for Global Action’ of which a key principle is ‘Put Victims/Survivors at the Centre’, including treating all victims/survivors as equals and as individuals, and mitigate stigma by adopting a victim/survivor-centred approach. Recurring themes and needs expressed by survivors as priority issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global network of survivors/victims: Create and sustain an international platform for survivors/victims, which provides a safe space to have a voice, share stories and be empowered. • Resourcing and sustainability: Sustained long-term support to and resourcing of grassroots organisations that work to tackle stigma related to SVC, providing a continuum of care across humanitarian and development responses. • Meaningful engagement of survivors/victims: Ensure the meaningful engagement of survivors at all stages of policy, programme design and decision-making processes that affect them and their wider communities. • Training and education of responsible stakeholders: Ensure training, education and awareness raising of stakeholders and duty-bearers (parents, teachers, peers, community leaders, faith leaders, media etc.) integrates knowledge of stigma in a way that is fit-for-purpose and long-term. • Protection and security: Ensure that survivors (inclusive of women, men, girls and boys) can access the services created for them safely and in a timely way, and that they are

² PSVI Conference: shaping principles for global action to tackle stigma: <https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/event/wp1508/>



	<p>protected throughout the journey of recovery, reintegration, rehabilitation, and follow-ups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domesticate international policies and laws: Ensure domestic, local law and policies comply with international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts need be made to ensure that survivors are included on an equal footing and beyond a mere testimony space. This means bringing them in at the beginning of the process, developing the agenda and format with them, being aware of power imbalances and ensuring that survivors have a vocal space that is mainstreamed throughout the event. • Principles of informed consent, confidentiality and data protection must be at the forefront of any activities aimed at engaging survivors – the process should ‘do no harm’. • Care should be taken to create ‘safe space environment’ in workshops. Physically this might include creating a quiet space where people who are affected by what they are discussing can go and have a glass of water on their own. This is especially important for survivor participation but also may help staff if the issues being discussed are difficult.
Sources	<p>FCO (2016) <i>Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative: Shaping Principles for Global Action to Prevent and Tackle Stigma</i> Monday 28 – Wednesday 30 November 2016 https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WP1508-Report.pdf</p> <p>FCO (2016) <i>Stigma Workshop Guidance Paper</i> (Unpublished).</p>

Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (2014)

Organisation	UK FCO / DFID
Description	<p>The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict on 10-13 June 2014 sought to give particular prominence to the voices of survivors and to bring them into the policy-making process. It was the largest gathering on the subject, bringing together over 1,700 delegates and 123 country delegations including 79 ministers. Survivors and survivor groups participated in the main Summit discussions, as well as over 175 public events in London and an 84-hour global relay of events around the world.</p> <p>Survivors were also a key part of the Fringe event, with discussions and public meetings, performance and theatre pieces, photography and art exhibitions and films and documentaries, as well as a market place featuring hand-made jewellery, clothing and other items from countries such as Somalia, the DRC, Colombia and Afghanistan, many of which were part of economic empowerment schemes set up by survivors of sexual violence. Over 19,000 members of the general public, government delegates, and Ministers visited and participated in these events throughout the three days of the Fringe.</p>
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Key themes and recommendations during this week-long event focused on accountability, support for survivors, security and justice sector reform and international cooperation. With regard to support for survivors, the Summit highlighted the following trends (although not explicitly from survivors themselves):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors must be at the centre of the response to sexual violence in conflict to ensure re-empowerment and avoid further victimisation. • Acknowledge that there will be many survivors who are less visible and less able to receive assistance, including children born of conflict-related rape, girl child soldiers who are 'married' to combatants, and men and boys in detention who are raped as a form of punishment or torture. • Need for a flexible and responsive approach as stigma is not the same for everyone and it requires different policy responses. • Survivors should receive holistic and integrated services that include full sexual reproductive health rights, psycho-social support, livelihoods support and shelter. • Improved funding to grassroots organisations and women's groups who are frequently the first responders in a crisis. Ensure sufficient long-term funding so that these groups have capacity and training to respond to sexual violence. • Survivors often noted that reparations are the most survivor-centric way of supporting their recovery, but noted these are often underused as a means of justice. Reparations were agreed to be more than solely about financial compensation, but the restoration of dignity, status and health. Reparations should be accessible and prompt; should not necessarily depend on evidence and documentation; should treat sexual violence survivors in the same way as other survivors; be confidential; and, above all, be transformative. Survivors should participate in determining the form they take.³
Lessons learned for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Summit Youth Group provided a space for young survivors to inform policy. 26 youth delegates, aged 17-26 years, from around the world participated in the Summit,

³ UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the Guidance Note of the UN Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, a blueprint for promoting gender-sensitive approaches to the design and delivery of reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

<p>engaging survivors</p>	<p>including from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Rwanda. The Summit Youth Group participated throughout the full Summit, attending expert and Ministerial discussions as well as engaging in events in the Fringe. Two representatives from the group delivered a summary of their policy recommendations in the Summit plenary session on the final day. After the Summit the group released their own Summit Report and Toolkit and developed their own webpage to raise awareness of the issue: www.youth2esv.org. They continue to campaign for an end to sexual violence against children and young people both in their respective countries and globally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of high-level policymakers hearing directly from survivors, although some concerns about their possible re-traumatisation in re-telling their stories. A journal article on the Summit notes that one of the most powerful sessions were the closed sessions on Ministerial Day when ministers from country delegations heard directly from survivors of sexual assault: “It was heart-rending and shocking to hear of the brutality of her ordeal, the impact of which was demonstrated as she broke down even in this formal environment ... It saddened me, however, to think that this woman had to re-tell her story to an audience such as this to perhaps finally be taken seriously” (Myrttine and Swaine, 2015: 498-9).
<p>Sources</p>	<p>FCO (2014) <i>Summit Report The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, London 2014</i> https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390742/PSVI_post_summit_report_Online2.pdf</p> <p>Myrttine, H and Swaine, A (2015) ‘Monster Myths, Selfies and Grand Declarations’, <i>International Feminist Journal of Politics</i>, 2015 Vol. 17, No. 3, 496– 502</p>

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (ongoing)	
Organisation	Global
Description	<p>The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Survivors have played a role in various CSWs. Every year, CSW meets in New York with representatives of UN Member States, civil society organisations, and UN entities.</p> <p>Over the last few years, survivors have engaged in CSW in a number of ways on several themes relating to violence, exploitation and abuse, most notably around the 2013 CSW57 which had a focus on violence against women (VAW).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors were involved in preparing for the 2013 CSW, including a Survivors Forum in December 2012 to discuss how to promote legislative and policy reforms to end VAW. • In 2013, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) organised the first panel of solely survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution at CSW, titled 'Survivors Speak: Prostitution and Sex Trafficking'.⁴ • In 2016, survivors of harmful traditional practices including Female Genital Mutilation shared their experiences at the UN's General Assembly Hall and at various events. • Survivors have also spoken at various side events over the years, including most recently in 2018 when survivors of trafficking spoke at a panel event '#MeToo Say Survivors: Human Rights, Gender and Trafficking in Human Beings' coordinated by various donor, UN and civil society organisations.⁵
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Over the years, survivors have highlighted various priorities at CSW including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to survivors and survivors' groups to hear their experiences, share challenges and good practices. • Importance of prevention to address the risk factors for violence, abuse and exploitation. • Provision of support services to survivors of violence, including multi-sectoral services and programmes for survivors and health, psychological support and counselling, social support in the short and long-term. • Effective measures of accountability and redress. • Improving legislation and criminal justice system to ensure effective implementation and protection of survivors. • Continue providing funds to survivors' groups working to address violence.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information publicly available
Sources	Commission on the Status of Women http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw

⁴ Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLqz2jC0QgE>

⁵ Organised by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Women, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, and Equality Now.

Forced Marriage	
Organisation	Forced Marriage Unit (joint FCO / Home Office unit)
Description	<p>The Forced Marriage Unit was set up in 2005 to lead on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. As well as operating a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage and professionals dealing with their cases, it has engaged survivors in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karma Nirvana (a British charity supporting survivors of honour-based abuse and forced marriage) have 'Survivor Ambassador Regional Panels' that provide survivor insights into forced marriage and feed into UK government thinking and policy formulation • Development of 'Forced Marriage: A Survivor's Handbook', which provides practical information for survivors, including support agencies • Involving survivors in media and awareness-raising campaigns, including workshops overseas.
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Survivors of forced marriage, and organisations working with survivors,⁶ have expressed several priorities for government policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation and effective implementation of legislation – many survivors groups lobbied hard for legislation to ban forced marriage. In 2014, the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act made it a criminal offence to force someone to marry, including taking someone overseas to marry, but to date there have been few prosecutions. • More recognition of forced marriage as a form of modern-day slavery rather than as a cultural practice. Survivors' organisations and survivors have called on the UK government policy to recognise forced marriage as a form of modern slavery.⁷ • Properly fund organisations which provide support to survivors and potential victims. • Run effective public awareness campaigns to improve understanding of forced marriage, the law, and where to find help. • Prevention programming, such as including compulsory education about Forced Marriage in the national curriculum. • Improving the response from professions, including providing effective training about forced marriage to police, teachers, health professionals, social workers and lawyers, both at the outset of their careers and refresher training.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information publicly available
Sources	Forced Marriage Unit: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage

⁶ For example, <http://ikwro.org.uk/forced-marriage-campaign/>

⁷ Summers, H (2018) 'Beatings, rape, and non-stop work: UK women enslaved in forced marriages', The Guardian, 28 May 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/may/28/beatings-rape-non-stop-work-uk-women-enslaved-forced-marriages>



SEAH in the international aid sector: A DFID-led listening exercise (2018)

Organisation	Department for International Development (DFID)
Description	In 2018, DFID conducted a targeted listening exercise with both Southern and International organisations representing survivors of SEAH in the international aid sector. It included grassroots organisations representing women, children, people with disabilities, international NGOs, think tanks, research institutions, academics and independent experts. The listening exercise focused on barriers to reporting SEAH, reporting mechanisms and systems, and victim and survivor support.
Needs and priorities of survivors	Survivors identified several needs and priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic package of victim and survivor support, including health, counselling and psychosocial support, as well as compassion, recognition, financial support and access to justice • Shifts in organisational culture with strong leadership and a zero-tolerance approach to SEAH, particularly in humanitarian situations • Need for inclusive reporting mechanisms that do not further marginalise people through their inability to speak out, including children, young people, people with low literacy levels, and people with disabilities (including mental health, psychosocial and intellectual disabilities).
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging groups that represent survivors rather than survivors themselves can help minimise the risk of doing further harm as survivors are not re-traumatised when reliving their experiences. • Engage a diverse range of survivors, including groups representing people with disabilities, children, and young people. • Be aware of political climate and organisational sensitivities. The DFID-led listening exercise was conducted during a time of intense media scrutiny on safeguarding responses of NGOs and other aid organisations, so some people who participated in the exercise might have been reluctant to fully share concerns for fear of the consequences. • Involve survivors (or their representatives) in developing recommendations. The DFID-led listening exercise involved participants in the development of findings and recommendations for the final report.
Sources	DFID (2018) SEAH in the international aid sector: Victim and survivor voices, A DFID-led listening exercise, London: DFID. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment-in-the-aid-sector-victim-and-survivor-voices-listening-exercise/sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment-in-the-aid-sector-victim-and-survivor-listening-exercise



Stand Speak Rise Up! To End Sexual Violence in Fragile Environments (2019-ongoing)	
Organisation	Stand Speak Rise Up! (SSRU), in partnership with the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society, and non-profit organisations: Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation and WeAreNOTWeaponsofWar (WWoW)
Description	In September 2019, the first <u>International Forum</u> was held in Luxembourg on ending sexual violence in fragile environments. The organisation was created by the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. It aims to act as a 'megaphone' for survivors of sexual violence by organising regular meetings on specific themes for both survivors and international experts. A follow-up Forum will be held in 2021, with the aim of putting survivors at the heart of the system and providing solutions.
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>The 2019 Forum with survivors focused on the following needs and priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healing the mind and body • ending the stigma for survivors • uniting systems for justice • repairing the harm • developing finance and technology for survivors • improving the inclusion of children born of rape <p>Survivors led a call addressed at representatives of national and international organisations and civil society to rally behind survivors, support their cause and empower them. The agreed priority was to end impunity for perpetrators and commanders of crimes of sexual violence in fragile environments.</p>
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a voice and a platform for survivors to be heard: Over 50 survivor testimonies were heard during the forum in order to allow time to listen to survivors and involve them in the process of designing solutions. • Include workshop space for healing: The forum included hour-long interactive workshops for survivors involving dance therapy and sports therapy to experience new techniques for healing the body, mind and soul. It also included sessions for 'healing the body' and 'healing the mind'. • Involve the private sector where appropriate to encourage innovative financing mechanisms: The 2019 forum involved the financial and digital sectors to explore how financial innovation and new technologies can help empower survivors and address their needs and priorities.
Sources	https://standspeakriseup.lu/about

Survivors Consultation Listening to Women and Girls affected by Gender Based Violence (2018)	
Organisation	Mayor of London
Description	A survivors' consultation was held in 2017 as part of the Mayor of London's London-wide strategy to ensure that survivors' views were front and centre when developing London's VAWG Strategy. As part of the consultation, 15 focus groups and 19 one-to-one interviews were held with 133 survivors of violence and abuse. In addition, 87 survivors took part in an online survey. A final survivors' roundtable was held with the Victims' Commissioner and survivors to ensure the feedback and recommendations had been captured appropriately.
Needs and priorities of survivors	Survivors identified the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission sustainable accessible local services for VAWG survivors which are inclusive, responsive, independently regulated and provide dedicated and specialist services. • Provide timely and effective counselling and therapeutic support for survivors. • Support independent, women's groups and peer support that reduce isolation and increase confidence, esteem and empowerment. • Ensure there is commitment from all commissioned services on improvement and ongoing training on all aspects of VAWG which are informed by survivors' experiences. • Improve awareness of VAWG and access to information for survivors through a London-wide media and publicity campaign. • Cultural change – put a greater emphasis on preventing VAWG from happening in the first place, through work in schools and the community and by increasing awareness. • Improve criminal justice, civil court and statutory partners processes. • Stop perpetrators' repeat behaviour by working with the police, criminal justice system and other partners
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage a diverse range of survivors voices: Consultation was led by Imkaan, a local, women's BME charity and included BME women and girls, and those who have experienced forced marriage, honour-based violence and/or female genital mutilation. The consultation also looked at specific groups of survivors including older women, disabled women, Black and ethnic minority women, women involved in prostitution, trafficked women, LGBT persons, and women with multiple, intersecting needs. • Involve survivor organisations who can provide a safe and welcoming space for engaging survivors as well as helping to contact past and recent survivors to participate. • Survivors' roundtables can be a useful way of ensuring recommendations are appropriate: The final roundtable was important to ensure that survivors agreed with the proposed recommendations and that their voices had been included.
Sources	Mayor of London (2018) Survivors Consultation: Listening to Women and Girls Affected by GBV https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_survivors_consultation.pdf

Consultation with Survivors of Institutional Abuse (UK and Ireland) (2019)	
Organisation	Department of Education and Skills
Description	In 2019, the Department of Education and Skills commissioned a Survivor Led Consultation Group to scope, plan and design consultation events for survivors of abuse in children’s residential institutions in UK and Ireland. Methods for engaging survivors included telephone conversations, individual and group meetings, and consultation by email. In total, over 100 survivors were engaged in the process. The consultation also took a ‘restorative’ approach involving ‘Restorative Circles’ to encourage storytelling in a safe space.
Needs and priorities of survivors	For survivors in both the UK and Ireland consultation process the key needs and priorities were health, end of life care, housing, social support and finance . Survivors expressed a fear of hospitals and being forced back into an institution at the end of their life. Examples of some of the priorities expressed by survivors included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated drop-in centre or confidential space for survivors to meet, staffed by personnel who understand survivors’ needs. • Free unlimited counselling service for survivors for as long as they want it. • Acknowledgement and memorials to remember survivors and acknowledgement of the extra burden of racism faced by mixed-race survivors. • Access to survivors’ records and files.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare survivors for engaging in the process by providing sufficient background information and asking for consent: The consultation process involved first emailing and/or telephoning survivors who had contacted the department to express their interest and to give permission to get in touch. The Survivor Led Consultation Group had long telephone calls with survivors to be sure they wanted to participate – only 2% of those who initially expressed interest did not want to be part of the consultation. • Value of ‘restorative approaches’ which focus on the importance of voice, building relationships, identifying the harm, the impact of the harm, the needs arising from the harm, and looking at ways to attempt to repair the harm. • Restorative circles can help survivors share their voices in a safe space, with agreed ground rules and the use of a Talking Piece which is passed around the circle. The person holding the Talking Piece is the speaker and responds to any questions, but there is no obligation to speak and anyone can pass it on or offer silence. • Survivors should be central to any process which should be done WITH survivors rather than FOR survivors – Survivors used the quote of ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’.
Sources	Walshe, B and O’Connell (2019) Consultations with Survivors of Institutional Abuse on Themes and Issues to be addressed by a Survivor Led Consultation Group. https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/consultations-with-survivors-of-institutional-abuse-on-themes-and-issues-to-be-addressed-by-a-survivor-led-consultation-group.pdf

Voices for Truth and Dignity – Combatting Sexual Violence in European Sport (2016-2018)	
Organisation	Funded by the European Union and coordinated by the German Sport University Cologne
Description	The VOICES project collected survivors' testimonies on child SEA in sports settings with the aim of informing policy and initiatives by the sports community. It included a research study with 72 survivors who have experienced sexual violence in sport in eight European Countries (UK, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Austria, Slovenia and Ireland). Survivors were interviewed on the 'life history' with a particular focus on experiences of SEA within a sport or school-sport setting. After the research was conducted, 'Acknowledgement Forums' were held with survivors and key stakeholders in the sports communities, followed by multi-national workshop to share good practice and develop networks.
Needs and priorities of survivors	<p>Examples of some of the needs and priorities expressed by survivors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports contexts should be open and transparent spaces so that survivors can easily report SEA and adults are aware of warning signs. • Clear standards and codes of behaviour to prevent SEA in sports. • Mainstreaming of children's rights in sports so that sports communities value children for who they are rather than who they may become.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to specialist support services: the project included access to support from the National Working Group (NWG) Exploitation Response Unit as well as a network of specialist organisations. • Acknowledgement Forums can be a useful way to acknowledge and reconcile SEA within a sector: Seven national Acknowledgement Forums were held with survivors and key stakeholders from the sports community. • Include opportunities for survivors to network: In many countries, survivors who participated in the Acknowledgement Forum formed a communication group to inform and support each other. • Survivors developed educational resources based on their experiences and recommendations for the sports community. • Allow space for survivors to lead, with some survivors becoming Survivor Ambassadors to promote the project, speak out at conferences, produce educational movies.
Sources	Voices for Truth and Dignity EU: http://voicesfortruthanddignity.eu/

Survivors Empowering and Educating Services (SEEdS)

Organisation	Welsh Women's Aid
Description	Survivors Empowering and Educating Services (SEEdS) is a survivor participation project coordinated by Welsh Women's Aid which provides opportunities for women with lived experience of all forms of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence to share their experiences to influence and inform a wide range of stakeholders. The project brought together women from across South Wales and provided training, support and resources as well as a safe space where survivors could meet, share knowledge and experiences and learn from one another. Working in partnership with agencies across the public and voluntary sector, the project provided platforms where survivors were able to meaningfully inform the planning, development and delivery of violence against women services, including domestic abuse and sexual violence. In collaboration with survivors who have participated in the project, Welsh Women's Aid has developed a survivor engagement good practice toolkit which can be downloaded here: SEEdS Toolkit
Needs and priorities of survivors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A VAWG Bill for England and Wales to transform responses to women and girls, within an equalities and human rights framework. 2. Reform of the family justice system so it supports and protects children and non-abusive parents to live free from violence and abuse. 3. Challenge victim-blaming attitudes and judgements regarding consent and sexual history within the criminal justice system. 4. A new offence on strangulation be included in proposed legislation that recognises it as a serious assault, a tool of control and a threat to life. 5. A framework for support and protection that addresses all the intersectional barriers that lead to abuse, homelessness, destitution, and exploitation amongst all migrant women. 6. Investment in secure and sustainable funding for domestic and sexual abuse specialist services and women's centres, ensuring equivalent additional funding being allocated to support specialist organisations in Wales. 7. Ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organisation Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment at Work. 8. A welfare system that supports survivors to be financially independent and to live free from abuse. This must include an immediate reversal of the two-child tax credit limit and implementation of split payments as default for Universal Credit. 9. The protection of women's rights within Brexit planning and post Brexit arrangements, particularly ensuring recognition that women living with domestic abuse as a 'vulnerable' group in terms of accessing the EU Settled Status. 10. Equal protection under legislation for disabled survivors experiencing coercive control which is effectively implemented by the justice system. 11. Ensuring online companies take action to prevent and hold accountable perpetrators of sexual harassment, abuse and violence that disproportionately affects girls and women, and ensuring online space is safe and supportive for all women and girls. 12. Addressing of commercial sexual exploitation by targeting demand and decriminalising women and providing support or financial independence for women to exit the sex industry.



	13. To strengthen legal protection and support for survivors of violence against women who commit an offence, and action to prevent women affected by abuse, trauma, mental ill health, poverty, homelessness and addiction, from entering the criminal justice system.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<p>Recommendations from survivors on how to engage in a way which is survivor -centred⁸</p> <p>Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of and set aside your own biases (conscious and unconscious) and prejudices • If an individual survivor confides in you be prepared with information of help they can access, make it clear that you are not able to offer counselling and would advise the individual to access professional help from the specialist support. • Make it clear to survivors that if they don't want to access help now, they can still access help in the future. • Respect privacy and keep the person's story confidential, if this is appropriate. • Behave appropriately by considering the person's culture, age and gender. • Do obtain informed consent • Only use quotes from survivors or refer to survivors' stories with their consent. Consent should be given in writing <p>Don't</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not make decisions for survivors. Ensure that survivors are fully informed of the process in which you are asking them to engage, for example, media appearances. However, respect the agency of individual survivors to make decisions about their participation. • Don't make false promises or give false information • Don't exaggerate your skills. • Don't force help on people and don't be intrusive or pushy. • Don't pressure people to tell you their stories. Don't share the person's story with others. • Don't judge people on their actions or feelings.
Sources	Welsh Women's Aid https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/survivor-engagement/

⁸ <https://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SEEdS-Toolkit.pdf>

Survivors Speak Out

Organisation	Freedom from Torture (FFT)
Description	<p>Survivors Speak OUT are a national network of torture survivors who are former clients of Freedom from Torture and who speak with authority on issues of torture, and life in the UK as asylum seekers and refugees who have survived trauma. Survivors expert voices influence others and call for evidence-based policies. Survivors talk to youth audiences at colleges and universities around the country, brief governments and shadow ministers, and provide evidence to parliamentary inquiries and other independent scrutiny bodies.</p> <p>Influencing has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking at Inside Governments Interactive Panel Discussion: Successfully Building Communities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Fleeing Discrimination. • International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Land, Property and Reparations Division workshops on Advancing Reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. <p>Campaign Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41,000 signatures supporting a petition to the Home Office calling for a fair asylum system, and proper protections for torture survivors. • Westminster Hall debate on the serious issues raised by 'Proving Torture' with a number of MPs on all sides joining the call for torture survivors to get the help they need. • Public commitment from the previous immigration minister that the Home Office will work with FFT to help survivors. • Helped the Home Office design training on how to use medical evidence of torture in asylum claims. All Home Office caseworkers who decide these types of cases now have FFT training and their decisions have to be reviewed.
Needs and priorities of survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom to Learn – access to and funding for education • Decent accommodation –housing where survivors won't be further traumatised • Adequate healthcare support –better support for physical and mental well-being • The Home Office to treat us like humans – fair decision making and a better process for conducting interviews from the Home Office.
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of a collective voice – survivors often gain confidence when they engage with other survivors to speak collectively. The 2014 PSVI conference gave a platform for Survivors Speak Out, which then led to more survivors joining. • Creative writing and performance can help support survivors to help stories as well as find new audiences of both policymakers and other survivors. The group has fortnightly workshops as well as private one-to-one mentoring with professional writers. It has exhibited survivors' work at London galleries and museums. The Youth Activism group for young survivors aged 16-25 combines creative activism with campaigning to challenge torture and the hostile environment to policymakers.
Sources	Freedom from Torture: https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/what-we-do/survivor-activism



ECPAT UK youth group

Organisation	ECPAT UK
Description	<p>ECPAT UK's direct work with young victims of child trafficking provides a space for peer support, skills-building and rights-based education. The youth programme includes separate youth groups for male and female members. It involves the ethical and meaningful participation of young survivors of trafficking in ECPAT UK's research, campaigns, policy and training work. Youth group members have influenced policy in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in consultations leading the Modern Slavery Act 2015. • Participating in research and campaign for a system of guardianship for children, which assisted in the decision to appoint a system of child trafficking guardians. • Participating as experts with experience on the University of Bedfordshire project 'Marginal Gains' which aimed to improve the police response to children and young people affected by sexual exploitation. • Feeding into a consultation with the Home office for an improved National Referral Mechanism for children. Recommendations were adopted in 2018.
Needs and priorities of survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist support for victims of trafficking • Child victims of trafficking to have a durable solution • Safe accommodation for victims of trafficking • A system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking
Lessons learned for engaging survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a safe and secure space. It is important that child and young victims of trafficking feel safe and are able to discuss challenging issues in a non-judgmental environment. • Be trauma-informed. Child victims of trafficking are one of the most vulnerable in society who have often suffered severe trauma. It is important that any work is trauma informed and can be flexible to the needs of individuals. Child victims of trafficking have also been lied to an exploited by people they trust. It is important to follow through on what was agreed. • Informed consent. It is important, especially when working with young people from different countries and backgrounds that they fully understand what is asked of them and what the consequences will be. For instance if their quote or image was to be shared on the internet it would result in loss of control in how that is used and consideration is needed for how it may impact them in the future. For children under 18 consent will need to be obtained from parent/guardian of the child and this would need to be explained to the child. • Ensure the young person has a support network. At any point when working with victims of trafficking there may be something which triggers a response or they may be going through a difficult time. It is important that for any participation that a young person is emotionally able to be involved and that there is signposting for further support if needed.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance youth participation. It is vital that any involvement of young victims of trafficking in consultancy or training is financed. This includes food, travel, accommodation, childcare and compensation for time given. • Be inclusive and adaptable. Child victims of trafficking are likely to have missed out on education and other essential needs. It is important that engagement is inclusive and adaptable taking into consideration education levels, languages, trauma, lived experience, gender and disability. It can be beneficial to use a lot of creative engagement which does not rely on language. Young victims of trafficking also have very stressful and hectic lives, so any engagement needs to be flexible about timing and level of involvement. • Support for young mothers. Many female child and young victims of trafficking are pregnant or have children, often from their experiences. There needs to be extra support such as childcare and other parental support.
Sources	https://www.ecpat.org.uk/Pages/Category/Supporting-young-people

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