

BRIEFING

INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE

Key Message: The Northern Ireland Executive should establish a public inquiry into historic institutional child abuse

WHY IS THIS NECESSARY AND HOW CAN IT BE ACHIEVED?

- Hundreds of children suffered physical, sexual, mental and emotional abuse in institutions in Northern Ireland over a period of decades.
- There is a clear international obligation on the State to investigate serious violations of human rights. The Northern Ireland Executive has such a responsibility in respect of the child victims of institutional abuse
- The Northern Ireland Executive has an obligation to conduct a thorough investigation of child abuse both inside institutions within this jurisdiction, whether those institutions were operated by public bodies, church groups or other agencies.
- The Executive should establish a public inquiry which meets the needs of victims and the government's human rights responsibilities.
- An appropriate process of redress should also be established for the victims of institutional child abuse.
- The First and Deputy First Ministers have pledged their commitment to deliver justice for these victims and this should be supported by MLAs of all parties.

QUESTION TO ASK CANDIDATES:

As an Amnesty International member I am aware that many hundreds of children suffered a violation of their human rights while in orphanages and other institutions in Northern Ireland. These victims should have a proper public inquiry to establish the truth of the harm done to them, to ensure that they receive redress from the State and that all necessary lessons are learned for today's children

If elected, will you undertake to ensure that Northern Ireland Executive delivers a thorough, independent, impartial and effective inquiry for the victims of historic institutional child abuse?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.amnesty.org.uk/ni