

FACTsheet

You might be next !

A message to people who work with, care for and teach children

False allegations and wrongful convictions of child abuse

Many of you will be aware of the recent convictions for child sexual abuse of considerable numbers of former care staff and teachers who worked in care homes several decades ago. While some were guilty, the vast majority protest their innocence. Many of their colleagues were falsely accused; some were acquitted at trial, others had charges dropped and others were never charged.

The tragedy - described by author, Richard Webster in his book, *The Secret of Bryn Estyn*, as a modern day witch hunt - could be coming to the place where you work! There is an ever present fear among many of you of being falsely accused by a child (and/or its parent)

Politicians and the child protection lobby

You will find your understandable worries about being falsely accused of child (or adult) abuse are deeply rooted in the political atmosphere in a country where there is now an almost paranoid worry over childrens' safety.

Government and politicians seek credibility by accommodating the influential views of the child protection lobby, instead of questioning their absurd belief that there are uncountable numbers of people being abused by unimaginable numbers of abusers – mostly men.

The careers and salaries of the child protection lobby benefit by exaggerating the figures to justify the witch hunt for the imagined abusers. They manage this because they know that few politicians will risk their job by appearing to be soft on child abuse or by supporting those who have been wrongly accused of child abuse.

Trades Union Help?

You would expect trades unions to be concerned about injustice but all too often there is a marked silence across the movement about false allegations of abuse – particularly sexual abuse. With few exceptions the leaderships of the unions, like the politicians, keep away from the matter. Defending such cases takes up precious resources and risks those involved being seen to support ‘abuse’.

With the exception of some teachers’ unions there are rarely any conference debates on the subject. Disturbingly, among the ranks of union activists and members are those who sympathy with the agenda of the child protection professionals is based on unthinking illogicality.

As for workers solidarity, union leaderships, even those who have been most vociferous in protesting at false allegations against their members, have remained suspicious of accused members of other unions. Fraternal concerns are seldom expressed. Where once unions took action in defence of their members they are now more involved with compensation claims and offering counselling. Unfortunately, this is part of the same ‘victim’ culture that motivates the child protection activists and encourages the making of false allegations of child abuse.

All this means that if you are accused and charged and go to a trades union for solidarity support and legal help, you should be aware of the experience of those who have been down this road. In some instances help has been excellent but more usually it is patchy and often unhelpful.

Conclusion

Given that there is so much uncritical support for the ideology of the child protection lobby in their own ranks, it is unsurprising that politicians and unions have not been more critical of the child protection lobby – a lobby which has been complicit in the events that led to the wrongful conviction of several ‘cot death mothers’ and former carers, teachers and other professionals.

Child protection activists are constantly seeking to prompt allegations which ‘unmask’ the abuse they alone are convinced is being carried out extensively in society. Like parents, those working with, caring for and teaching children are high on their target list.

YOU might just be next!

F.A.C.T.

Campaign on behalf of Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers