

**FACT
abhors child abuse
and abuse against adults,
whether sexual,
violent or psychological.**

We have no doubt that children and vulnerable adults are sometimes abused, including sometimes by their carers and by their teachers, but equally we have no doubt that some allegations are untrue, whether deliberately so or in error.. We have many members whose lives and families' lives have been devastated by completely unjust claims. It is obviously worse for those who are prosecuted and convicted, but there are many more who are wrongly accused with dire, lasting results.

“Innocent until proven guilty”

The Savile-effect has led to steep rise in allegations of abuse both historical and recent. Also, there has been a drive by the Government, CPS, Victim Support and other bodies to increase convictions for sexual offences. While this gives true victims the courage to come forward, it widens opportunities for false claims to be made and heightens the need for balances and checks within safeguarding policies, civil and criminal law investigation processes, and by the media.

We need your help

All our work is undertaken by volunteers with no statutory funding. We would appreciate any financial help or time you might be able to offer.

What FACT does

- provides a telephone support helpline
- has a website offering advice and relevant articles
- represents the falsely accused to government inquiries and relevant organisations
- provides guidance through court cases
- provides support for those in prison through emails (including international), correspondence, Christmas cards, the distribution of ‘FACTION’ magazine and visiting
- provides support for the families of those falsely accused
- holds two conferences a year which includes a significant time for socialising and offering mutual support
- holds an annual church service for support, encouragement and to pray for the falsely accused
- produces a regular magazine called ‘FACTION’ (FACT Information, Opinion & News)
- responds to media inquiries
- liaises between other falsely accused support groups

Information, News and Support

Website: www.factuk.org

Twitter page: @FACTukorg

Helpline: 0333 335 5827

Our helpline offers support,
non-legal advice and information.

We are unable to provide legal advice.



FACT
FALSELY ACCUSED
CARERS & TEACHERS
and other professionals

Founded in the 1990s,
FACT is a nationwide,
voluntary, unfunded organisation.

Run by a national committee,
it offers support, raises awareness and
advises on the issues of false accusations
and wrongful convictions. These mainly
relate to alleged abuse (often historical) by
people whose job brings them into close
contact with children or vulnerable adults.

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Case Study 1

"I had worked for 20 years as a Teacher and youth club leader. In May 2007 one of my students made false allegations and my life has been devastated. I have been humiliated and nearly lost everything.

While surfing the net for help, I found out about FACT. They provided me with information, advice and support, I would recommend them to anyone who is suffering. You are not alone."

Case Study 2

"I worked as a carer in a hostel, allegations were made, an investigation took place. I was found innocent but I lost my job anyway. Now I can't find a job and I have been cut off by people I thought were friends.

I attended last year's FACT AGM and was very moved by the support and respect that everyone receives in this group. Most have been through so much. Only if it has happened to you can you appreciate the damage that is done."

Case Study 3

"I recently served over two years in prison for a 'crime' that never took place. The allegation was over 25 years old and made by a former pupil whose serious criminal record was withheld from the jury. In the present climate, anyone whose job brings them into contact with other people is potentially at risk from false or malicious allegations, often motivated by the prospect of compensation.

I joined FACT while I was on bail and the regular newsletters and cards were a great help while I was behind bars. Now I've been released, I'm supporting FACT so I can help others who have been falsely accused or wrongfully convicted as a result of their professional work."

Just one false accusation of abuse will change your life



WARNING

IF SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU
WORKS AS A TEACHER, CARER,
SOCIAL WORKER, SPORTS COACH
DOCTOR, NURSE, MIDWIFE,
YOUTH WORKER, CLERIC, MP...

you could see them
unjustly dragged through the courts,
vilified as a monster, and
taken away from their family
to serve a long prison sentence.

If the charge is sexual, there is no need for corroboration. A person can be convicted on the allegation of a single complainant with not a shred of supporting evidence; or by contaminated "similar fact" / cross-admissibility evidence. **The accuser gets sympathy, support and maybe compensation. You get jail... or lose your job, the trust of others, your good reputation. You and your family face bankruptcy and the public lynch mob that automatically treats an allegation as evidence of guilt.**

We have every sympathy with those who have genuinely been abused and would support them in wishing to see justice done. Unfortunately some individuals are making untrue allegations, for reasons ranging from psychological reasons, and false memory to the pursuit of compensation payments which run into tens of thousands of pounds.

The frightening fact is that once accused, the professionals have little hope of defending themselves. The "evidence" is verbal. Often decades later, there is no forensic evidence, witnesses have died, and records which could have exonerated them have been lost or destroyed. Faced with simply deciding who is telling the truth, juries can only make an emotional decision. They commonly choose to believe the accuser, in fear of potentially releasing a paedophile.

The devastating result is that people who have dedicated their working lives to helping others are rewarded with a prison sentence, accused of the most heinous of crimes, while their families are left to face the pointing fingers and to cope alone.