

# **PE1933/II: Allow the Fornethy Survivors to access Scotland's Redress Scheme**

## **Petitioner written submission, 17 November 2025**

Fornethy Survivors ongoing Petition for Redress – equality and choice for all

We would, once again, wish to sincerely thank members of the Committee for your ongoing support of the Fornethy ladies in seeking Redress. It really is greatly appreciated.

Now that the trial of one of the perpetrators is over and found guilty of no less than 18 charges, this is a key time for us in progressing with our cause. Some of our survivors will be just happy that the perpetrator has been found guilty (and have said so); some will seek compensation through the Civil Courts and then there are those, who without any record of their existence at Fornethy, will seek the avenue of Redress which is a far kinder approach. It is about the choice and the equality of choice.

We are keen to know when the promised Parliamentary debate will take place? We understand that there will be an upcoming election and therefore MSPs will be focussed and busy with that. However, we do not want this going into the long grass. With the departure of the Kate Forbes when her term of office comes to an end, I am concerned that we would be in a position of starting again. We want a resolution to this.

The Deputy First Minister met with some of the Fornethy Survivors at the end of November. However, this is just one group of Survivors and didn't include those who are researching and doing the submissions. We feel it is only fair for all survivors to get representation. We are proposing, therefore, that when the hoped Parliamentary Debate does happen, that a second meeting with the DFM can be held either before or after to hear the Petitioners views.

We also hope that the proposed meeting with Councillor Aitken, Glasgow City Council, be progressed as per their February 2025 submission which stated they couldn't meet until the live criminal proceedings were over. This meeting was at the request of the DFM.

This petition was started on 24th May 2022. This is three and a half years now where we have continuously sent in submissions and will continue to. It is frustrating and arduous mentally and emotionally.

May we remind you of a quotation by Billhar Singh Uppal, a lead claimant lawyer in North Wales litigation, which we quoted in our very first submission which says:

“the civil litigation process is not really fit for this particular purpose – there are too many hurdles; too many ways that claims can be defeated on technicalities that victims and survivors do not understand”

We know that the civil route will not be suitable for all and some may not be able to tolerate such an ordeal. His experience with redress schemes, however is:

“they have a better experience ... victims have emerged from the process less bruised; wholler; their trust in society restored – not totally restored, but you’ve got to start somewhere”.

Court processes can be contentious, drawn out and vicariously harming which is really hard for victims – the redress scheme has been designed to be a timelier and kinder process that we no longer want to be denied. We are now believed in the eyes of the law and that the Scottish Government also believe us, that we as, once more, that this damaging legacy of 30 years of abuse is taken forward and brought to a timely conclusion which brings justice and peace! The moral duty is the equal delivery of justice.

Mutuality and trust are sacred in moving forward. No justice, no peace.