



All
Survivors
Day
#ASD21



All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence

When, Why, What, Who and How

Preparatory Information and Resources

When

All Survivor's Day was an idea began by Survivor Activists in the United States. Activists wanted a designated day to celebrate the courage of fellow Survivors, to bring child sexual abuse into the public consciousness and to provide an opportunity for many people of all faiths and none to show their support for survivors and to encourage other to speak out about abuse. **3rd November** has been internationally adopted as All Survivors Day by Survivors and Activists from the following Countries:

ECA (Ending Clergy Abuse) 32000 activists globally – International Network
SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) – USA
Bishop Accountability - USA
La Parole Liberee – France
Eckiger Tisch – Germany
Totya Women – Uganda, Africa
Para La Confianza – Chile, South America
Caribbean Inspiration Centre – Jamaica
La Voz A Ti Debida – Peru, South America
Fundacja Nie Lękajcie Się (Have No Fear Foundation) – Poland
L'Association du Groupe SAPEC, soutien aux personnes abusées dans une relation d'autorité religieuse – Switzerland
CRIN (Child Rights International Network) - Australia
La Caramella Buona - Italy
(This list is not exhaustive).

Why

Clergy Child Sexual Abuse is an international, multi-denominational problem. Where there are large religious organisations whose moral authority is perceived, by a powerful few, to be under threat by the emergence of child sexual abuse testimonies, there will be enablers who are prepared to silence victims or simply do nothing to intervene in order to prioritise the institutional church's reputation at the expense of victims of abuse. The irony of this deeply flawed and inhumane strategy is that it has the opposite effect. Church leaders who attempt to conceal abuse cause even greater scandal, which in many cases has led to millions of people globally, no longer observing their faith in a way which brings them into contact with institutional churches. Religious organisations which respond in this manner are engaging in a self-defeating exercise.





All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence

LOUDfence gives survivors, parishioners, churchless Christians and so many others a voice and opportunity to actively participate in changing the culture of the institutional church. A church which actively celebrates the bravery of survivors in coming out and values them as a critically important assets is far less likely to foster a default instinct to protect abusers or abuse enablers. It will foster a pro-active safeguarding attitude amongst everyone in the church instead of safeguarding being the province of a select few. It will empower parishioners and enable them to be part of the solution by giving them an avenue to express their feelings on what was a previously forbidden subject.

The same reasons are true for spiritual, adult and other types of abuse in the church; and other child abuse contexts. LOUDfence can be adapted to institutional abuse in schools, community groups, residential homes and other settings; and a community response to child abuse in families.

What

LOUDfence is a community activity of solidarity and support with abuse survivors. It can happen at a church, school, civic centre or any community space where community leaders and members of the public can gather to demonstrate their feelings and views about abuse and their concern and support for survivors. On or around All Survivors Day, or a suitable local date, all are invited to tie ribbons to a fence (or similar structure) as a sign of solidarity, protest and hope. Some may also wish to tie labels or messages of support. Organisers may laminate and add their own messages, explanations and facts about abuse. Survivors should be supported to join if they wish, or just to come and witness the strength of support for their experiences and suffering.

Communities may wish to organise other activities to coincide with LOUDfence; for example, highlighting sources of support, an act of repentance, a public information campaign, workshops on prevention and support for victims, an act of worship or a trauma-informed recovery activity for survivors (like yoga).





All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence

How

Practical suggestions and tips from the experience of running the first UK LOUDfence in Cumbria. (See also our step-by-step guide at the end of this pack).

Lead Up to All Survivor's Day

The key ingredient for a successful LOUDfence is publicity. A LOUDfence is only as effective as the amount of people who see it, know what it is for and feel empowered to participate in All Survivor's Day.

Contact local newspapers, radio and television stations. LOUDfence is an incredibly news worthy subject – they will be interested.

Post articles on your parish website and social media pages with an email address. Place notices in parish magazines and on notice boards with an email address. Make announcements after services and involve all members of the parish, who wish to participate. Be curious about those who don't want to be involved; treat it as an opportunity to ask why they feel this way. Changing the culture of the church will be done one heart at a time.

On All Survivor's Day

There are certain practical suggestions which we found helpful.

- 1) Basket of spare ribbons for "spur of the moment" supporters
- 2) Paper tags and pens for those who wish to write messages.
- 3) Box of tissues. LOUDfence has prompted people to talk about their own pain and past experiences.
- 4) Perhaps most importantly of all, a sympathetic ear and a compassionate heart.

It is important to remember LOUDfence is a celebration of Survivors Courage and the empowerment and inclusion of the entire parish. It is not just an opportunity for those who wish to register their opposition to CSA (as therapeutic as this is), it is also an opportunity for healing and understanding. It is a visible signal of support to those who have been injured, marginalised and excluded.

Digital Ribbons/Pre-Delivered Ribbons

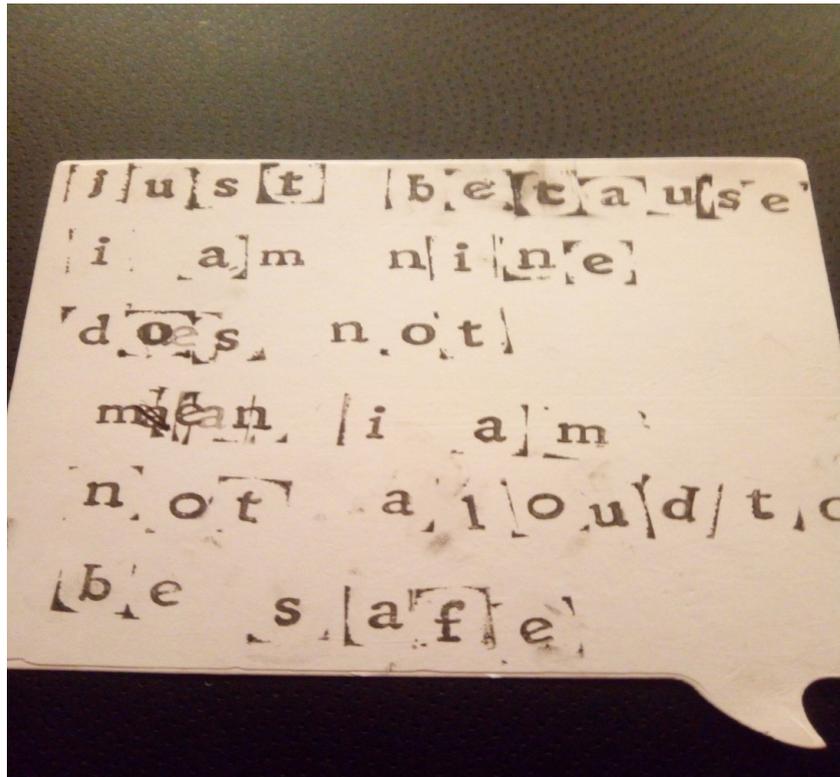
This wasn't an idea I had thought of, it just evolved with the process of setting up LOUDfence due to the pandemic. People emailed me requesting I tie a ribbon on the LOUDfence on their behalf because of travel restrictions. I got emails from all over the world, California, Washington, Spain, Canada, Poland, Germany and of course from other parishes in the UK as well as many from our local parish.



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For many people with work/school commitments which meant they weren't available to tie on their own ribbon, they delivered tags and ribbons to me or left them at the church beforehand and asked if I would tie them on.

One little boy called Danny, knocked on my door to tell me he would be back late as he had a music lesson after school, so could I tie his message tag onto the LOUDfence for him. A photo of his tag is below.



It reads "Just because I am nine does not mean I am not allowed to be safe."

This tag is a message to us from the future of the church. It tells us he has considered the fact that he cannot take for granted he is safe in church. Our mission is to ensure Danny and every other child is safe and they all feel empowered to speak without hesitation or fear they will not be believed from this moment forward. We do this in the measure of our responses to the suffering of victims now. The time for prioritising survivors of CSA is now. And so to work.....

Have an All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence which is filled with hope, healing, relief and dialogue.



All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence

Step-by-step guide to running a LOUDfence

1. **Find a team:** LOUDfence can be as large or as small as you like, but running it on your own would be hard work. Ask a few friends to help, no experience needed, just a passion to see this happen.
2. **Be survivor-sensitive:** if you are not a survivor yourself, see if you can team up with a local survivor group to support your event. They can help you to get the word to survivors, source support and safeguarding information and ensure that you are survivor-sensitive in your public communications. Find groups through us, the [Survivors Trust](#) and [NAPAC](#).
3. **Pick a date:** Many activists campaigning against clergy child abuse support November 3rd All Survivors Day by running their LOUDfence then, but it's not compulsory. We are suggesting a Safeguarding Season from October to 10th December, including [World Mental Health Day](#) and [Safeguarding Sunday](#) on October 10th, [World Children's Day](#) on November 20th, [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) on November 25th (& the start of [16 days of activism](#) against gender-based violence), [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#) on December 2nd and ending with [#PurpleWinter](#) on [International Human Rights Day](#) December 10th. You might like to celebrate one of the international day's at the start or end of your LOUDfence; or there may be a local anniversary that is connected.
4. **Choose a site:** please ask permission from whoever owns the venue before you advertise your LOUDfence. Our campaign is designed to be a sign of solidarity more than protest, so it's important that everyone involved supports the event. Don't forget to think about public access to the site and maybe a backup plan if the weather is bad!
5. **Register your event:** Please register your event on our website [here](#) and we will add you to our interactive map of Loudfences. We'll also add you to our LOUDfence mailing list to send updates about other LOUDfence resources and events; and feature you LOUDfence in mailings to our members and supporters, which reaches over 1,000 people.
6. **Spread the word:** use local media, community networks, social media and internet forums, word of mouth at the school gate or the corner shop, local radio to spread the word far and wide. Good publicity is key to a successful LOUDfence.
7. **Be prepared:** make your practical arrangements: a supply of ribbons (maybe donated by a local haberdashers?), a rota of people to be ready with a sympathetic ear, details of survivor support organisations. Contact us for help with sourcing resources and information.
8. **Celebrate:** don't forget to celebrate your achievements and [tell us](#) too!
9. **Repurpose:** can a local dressmaker make the ribbons into a permanent display?
9. **Be passionate!** LOUDfence is all about our passion to support survivors and end all kinds of child abuse. Thank you for your passion and for getting involved in LOUDfence.





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RESOURCES FOR LOUDfence

LOUDfence materials

As LOUDfence takes off across the UK, we'll be adding further resources to support LOUDfence organisers, from logos to model press releases, from ribbon suppliers to articles and quotes. Our LOUDfence web page includes an interactive map, where we will add the locations of LOUDfences around the UK, as we hear about them. So please don't forget to tell us about yours!

Please help us by sending us your contributions or uploading them to our website. Also join our mailing list to get regular news and updates about LOUDfence and other information and resources for survivors and allies (form on the website) <https://survivorsvoices.org/activism/loudfence/>

Survivors Voices

We are a survivor-led organisation, turning our pain into power through peer support, education and activism. Survivor can join our activist network, Changemakers, attend our peer support groups or get involved in lots of other ways. Communities, practitioners and researchers can work with us for training, campaigns, research and survivor involvement. See our information sheet below and our website for more details www.survivorsvoices.org

Support for Survivors

You may meet survivors at a LOUDfence who would welcome details of where to get further support. There are details of other organisations on our website www.survivorsvoices.org/support including websites to help you find local support services.

Help Us

You can help us to get LOUDfence spreading all over the UK in lots of ways!

- organising or joining a LOUDfence near you - see our interactive map below as we add LOUDfence venues
- helping us to spread the word through local news, social media, amongst your friends, family and colleagues
- donating your time, money or practical resources like ribbons
- sending us messages of support to add to our LOUDfences
- helping us to create works of art with the ribbons after a LOUDfence event
- getting involved with support such as updating this website and creating other LOUDfence resources
- donating to support our work - there's a Paypal button on our website, or contact us for bank details connect@survivorsvoices.org





All Survivor's Day and LOUDfence

Who we are

Survivors Voices is a survivor-led organisation that harnesses the expertise of people affected by abuse in order to change society's response to trauma.

We work with survivors of all types of abuse, whether experienced as a child or as an adult.

We are part of Reshapers CIC, a non-profit organisation. Our work is undertaken by an experienced network of volunteers and freelancers from a variety of backgrounds. We are all 'experts by experience'.

What we do

We run **peer support** groups for survivors.

We have **peer networks** for survivor researchers, writers, therapists and other survivor activists. We are always open to survivor activists who wish to join us.

We have a survivor and allies network for survivors of abuse in **faith communities**. Currently we are concentrating on survivor engagement with the Church of England and other Christian settings.

We **educate** about abuse and trauma-informed practice. We can speak at your event or run training or workshops.

We **research** survivor experience of abuse, safeguarding, help-seeking and recovery. We can help you to engage well with survivors in your research project.

We **publish** research and resources for survivors and those who work with them.

We work anywhere to engage and amplify the **voice of survivors**. If you are a survivor who needs support or wants to be heard, a professional or service who wants to listen, or an ally who wants to support us, we want to hear from you.

connect@survivorsvoices.org

Connect with us

More about us and our work on our website www.survivorsvoices.org

Sign up to our newsletter here <https://survivorsvoices.org/contact-us/>

Connect with us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/survivorsvoicesuk/>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/voiceofsurvivor>

Support Us

We depend on donations, commissions and small grants to continue our work, and any donations will enable us to support more survivors and change practice. You can find the links to our Paypal donations and Crowdfunder on our website.

