

Bishop David on the recent IICSA report

02/10/20

I am fully supportive of IICSA's scrutiny and approach to ensure our Church is a safe place for all, as reflected in their Report published on October 6th. In addition, I acknowledge the difficult reading this report may be for victims and survivors, and those close to them. I am grateful for the courage shown, that ensured these truths are exposed.

'In the context of child sexual abuse, the Church's neglect of the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of children and young people in favour of protecting its reputation was in conflict with its mission of love and care for the innocent and the vulnerable' – IICSA report 6th October 2020

As one, with colleagues across the Church of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury, I express sincere apologies and acknowledge deeply the truth of this statement.

Acknowledging the Church has failed to respond well to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, I welcome the continuing independent enquiry PCR2 and offer full support to continual outworking of the General Synod motion committing to a victim and survivor centred approach and support, including arrangements for redress.

I renew my, and the Church of England Birmingham's, commitment to robust and new safeguarding practices in all of the Church's settings.

If you, or anyone you are in contact with, are affected by the publication of this report and want to talk to someone independently please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk.

Alternatively, you may contact the Church of England Birmingham [Diocesan Safeguarding Team](#) or visit our '[Caring for Survivors of Abuse](#)' pages on our website.

There are also other [support services available](#).

The response to the IICSA report for the Church of England can be found on the national [CofE website](#)