

Time for Action - "Sexual abuse, the Churches and a new dawn for survivors"

A report by the General Committee to the Methodist Conference 2004

The committee has met on two occasions looking at the recommendations of the Time for Action report produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. There are 37 recommendations to be looked at by the member churches and they are divided into a number of areas, the main ones being:

1. Implementation of the report
2. Ministerial / Lay Training
3. Theology and Liturgy

There was a consensus that some kind of Code of Practice for the many different areas of child protection, dealing with disclosure, offenders re-entering church/society needed to be put in place. Investigations are ongoing as to whether there are already other policies in place that could be used.

Details of local agencies who look after abuse survivors, support groups, agencies and any other resources are being collated for use by ministers and others involved in pastoral care. This will be made available through the website.

The recommendations made in relation to training will be referred to Edgehill College and those in relation to theology and liturgy to the Faith and Order Committee.

C18. The Conference adopts the report.