

NEWSLETTER OF THE SURVIVORS' NETWORK (SUSSEX)

FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN

ISSUE 8 July 1991 c copyright



**SPEAK
OUT**



SURVIVORS' SPEAK OUT DAY SUCCESS
RESPONSE TO THE ART EXHIBITION

INFORMATION.....POETRY.....
READ ON.....

THE SURVIVORS' NETWORK (Sussex)

July 1991

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVIVORS' NETWORK

The Network is a grassroots organisation set up to consider the needs of women who were sexually abused in childhood and who are trying to deal with the long-term consequences of such abuse. It is a charity dependent on the goodwill of an unpaid Management Committee and many dedicated volunteers to staff the various projects, and has only one part-time paid worker.

SERVICES PROVIDED and EVIDENCE OF NEED

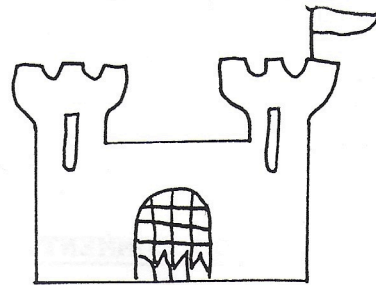
Currently the organisation supports women in the community with a telephone helpline, (nearly three hundred calls during the last year operating three sessions per week), self-help groups, -including one for male partners of abused women, open forums, a regular magazine, and so on, providing a much needed service in Sussex. Apart from this direct work with survivors, (more than 150 personal contacts), the Network offers consultancy and training for professionals working with child sexual abuse.

The Survivors' Network has a policy of actively publicising the issues raised by this taboo subject. We have held two major Awareness days and recently mounted an exhibition of art work addressing the problems associated with sexual abuse. We have spoken at various meetings and workshops arranged for colleagues in the Health Service (Health visitors and C.P.N.'s), and Social Services, as well as therapists, counsellors, and workers in the voluntary sector in the Sussex area.

We believe that the work of the Survivors' Network offers a valuable complimentary and supportive service to the Health Authority and Social Services through direct work with both users and professionals. Many referrals are made by C.P.N.'s, G.P.'s, Social Workers (e.g. from the Accident and Emergency Department of the Royal Sussex County Hospital), and many others with whom we have made strong links.

There are many projects that the Survivors' Network could undertake if we had financial support, the most ambitious being a Safe House for Survivors who need help outside of any statutory provision. We are anxious to develop, maintain and extend all the services we currently offer for which there is a clear, ongoing need. However, demand is far in excess of what we can realistically provide from present resources.

We would welcome your support.....



SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFEHOUSE

ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE NETWORK IN CONSIDERING THE NEEDS FOR A SAFE HOUSE.

At the recent forum in June we had a discussion about the safe house which raised many problems as well as examining the benefits of such a project. Everyone is enthusiastic about pursuing the idea, and the need is indisputable. However, we also need to consider difficulties that may arise.

The major problem as usual is funding, but we discussed some issues which have implications for the policy of the organisation as a whole.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Most of the women who come to the Network for help in any way- for telephone counselling, self-help groups, forum discussions, and so on, - expect and deserve a high degree of privacy, safety and anonymity. We operate as confidential a service as possible, keeping no written records of 'cases'. The only reason we would have to breach confidentiality is if we know a child is currently at risk of abuse, and have information which we would then share with the Statutory Authorities according to the guidelines in the East Sussex Child Protection Procedures. For the vast majority of women there is an understanding that their 'stories' disclosed within the Network will remain there. As we know it is extremely difficult for survivors to expose themselves - even with Network support. So that raises issues about record keeping, referral systems and follow-up care for users of a Safe House.

For many victims of sexual abuse there is a fear of authority. They have after all been abused by figures who had power in their lives. They may also have experienced difficult and painful situations as a consequence of abuse with doctors, police and social workers.

It is often the women suffering from serious long-term effects who are in fear of authority, who are asking us for a safe house. (Interestingly we do not often hear from those women who are coping well...)

So it is for women in extreme states, in time of crisis, who expect a minimum of direct involvement with "authorities", that we must provide a protective space.

WHO CAN HELP. ?

The Network has a number of dedicated volunteer workers, but a project such as this demands a great deal of skilled help. Ideally we should like at least one full-time paid worker to take responsibility for carrying the idea forward, and a committee of willing people with time and knowledge to tackle the difficulties en route. From the Network's viewpoint we are hopeful that we would have support from 'professionals' in the community - for example- Community Psychiatric Nurses, Social Services, and Hospital workers in order for us to provide a comprehensive service for the women who need it. We have already been approached by workers in the Accident and Emergency unit to provide accommodation and support for women who have been admitted after self-harming. G.P.s and Social Workers have also made referrals. It is essential that we could offer a service for women by women which would be caring, non-judgemental, therapeutic and readily available, with a minimum of formality.

WHO SHOULD THE HOUSE BE FOR?

We believe that a safe house would greatly benefit large numbers of women who need short term emergency care, and women who have a desire to remain in the community rather than be admitted to acute psychiatric wards, or be exposed to the (predominantly male) psychotherapy or psychiatry services. Young women living alone, suicidal women, those who self-harm, the women who are depressed, without support and so on, all have a need for such a service. Many women have said they need short spells away from their families who often do not understand (or care?) and cannot support them during 'down' times. Older women who may have additional problems for example ill-health, addictions, isolation, are also envisaged as using such a facility for respite. We believe that most survivors have at one time or another felt the need for a change of environment, for a nurturing home where they will be accepted and understood, without being judged or criticised.

It is not envisaged that the Safe House would provide alternative long-term accommodation. Perhaps it could be seen as a half-way measure offering (limited) support to a few women in times of crisis, who will then move on.

We are seeing an increasing demand for this service and we would be grateful for help in establishing this resource as soon as possible.

SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION.

We know of various places nationally which provide the type of accommodation we have in mind - for example Choices in Cambridge. Locally Stopover makes provision for a small number of homeless young women, and many organisations offer emotional and practical support. However, there is no 'Refuge' type safe House for women who were sexually abused in childhood and are learning to cope with the longterm effects.

St. Anne's Convent has for a number of years accommodated young women in need of emergency support (for a variety of reasons), but this facility has recently been reduced from eight short term places and may cease altogether. Over seventy women were given bed and breakfast there during 1990-1991, some staying for one night, others for several days or weeks. Women are referred by the Police, Samaritans, Brighton Housing Trust, the YMCA, Women's Aid, and so on. It appears that most of the women are between 30 and 50 years old, and have 'psychiatric' problems - that is they have been users of the Mental Health Services for some time. They are often in a state of 'convalescence' and need a supportive, warm environment. The comment from the workers at St. Anne's that strikes us most is that there is "not half enough accommodation".

If you have information that would support our project, - particularly with a view to seeking funding, - then we should very much welcome your comments. It would be very helpful to us if you could fill in the questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. Thank you.

Carole.



SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE SAFE HOUSE

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you think the Survivors' Network should have a Safe House?

Who do you think it should be available for? (tick one or more)

- women in crisis (self defined)
- women leaving a hospital
- homeless women
- women who are at risk of further abuse
- women who have no other support
- women whose support systems are not meeting their needs
- other (please describe)

Do you think you have had occasion to use such a provision (were it available) during the past two years?

Do you see yourself needing this service at the moment?

Do you think you would use a Safe House in the future?

For what reason do you think it would be appropriate?

Would you consider it important to have 'back-up' from the statutory agencies such as mental health teams or doctors?

How long do you think it would be reasonable for a woman to stay?

Do you have any thoughts on how the Safe house should be staffed?

Do you have any thoughts on how the Safe House should be funded?

Are you willing and able to be part of a group responsible for researching the need, establishing funding, finding premises, negotiating with the 'Authorities' and so on?,,, ,

If so please could you give your name and contact number. Otherwise this questionnaire can be anonymous if you wish. THANK YOU.

ARE YOU FIGHTING FIT???? DO YOU WANT A CHALLENGE????? COME AND HAVE FUN....

The Survivors' Network is organising a rounders tournament....
(Think what you could do with a baseball bat).

Saturday 31st August 4p.m. (weather permitting)
Preston Park Brighton. Meet by the Rotunda Cafe.
Let us know if you are coming to play. (and if not, why not....)



£1

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Mondays and Thursdays 2-3.30pm.
St. Luke's Pool St. Luke's Terrace



Learner's Welcome!

TAKING LIBERTIES

During the Taking Liberties festivities from the 1st to the 10th of November the Survivors' Network is having a stall at the Corn exchange and also planning a day of workshops to highlight the problems associated with childhood abuse, the after effects, coping mechanisms and so on. If you would like to contribute in any way, particularly on the 2nd and 9th of November please let us know as soon as possible. It may be possible to hold some fun events too, but we need help. Come and discuss it at the September Forum.

REVIEW

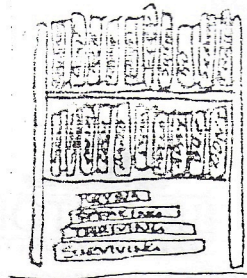
Cunningham Jean, Pearce Thomas & Pearce Patti.

"Childhood Sexual Abuse & Medical Complaints in Adult Women"

J of Interpersonal Violence v3 n2 131-144 June 1988

"The previously noted association between a history of childhood sexual abuse and an unusual number of medical complaints in adult women was examined in this study. In total, 60 women, 27 of whom had and 33 of whom had not been sexually abused as children, completed questionnaire measures of their medical complaints. Results revealed that the women with a history of sexual abuse had significantly more frequent complaints of a variety of medical problems, some of which, such as pelvic pain, have been noted in previous literature, and some of which, such as asthma, represent new findings"

[Jrnl Abstract]"

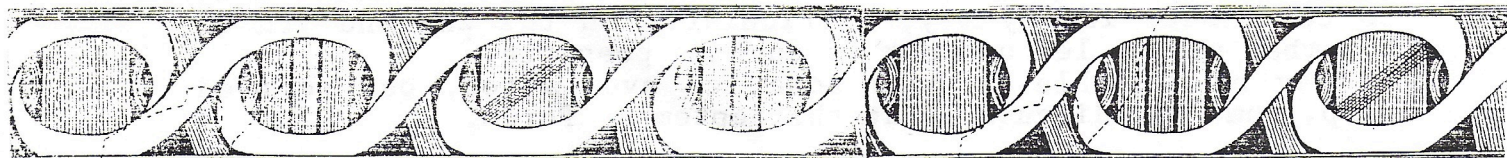


Bateson Michael, Oliver JPJ & Goldberg DP

"A Comparative Study of the Management of Cases of Deliberate Self Harm in a District General Hospital"

British J of Social Work v19 n6 461-477 1989

"A controlled study was undertaken of two services assessing and managing cases of deliberate self-harm admitted to a casualty department. The first service featured psychiatrists only and the second included psychiatric social workers as well as psychiatrists. A combination of standardized instruments, a structured questionnaire, a twelve month diary and medical and social work files were used to collect information. Demographic factors, repetition rates, types of help offered, client satisfaction, social circumstances and general health were investigated. Few significant differences were found to have existed between the client populations of the two services at initial assessment. ... However, the analysis of outcome measures indicates that clients benefited substantially from the addition of a psychiatric social worker in the following areas: help offered, client satisfaction, social circumstances and general health. These results are discussed" [Jrnl Abstract]. Not on sexual abuse specifically, but self-inflicted injury is a recurrent feature in responses to sexual abuse."



SECTION



HMM! BUT IS IT
WORTH READING?



Calam Rachel M & Slade Peter D
"Sexual Experience and Eating Problems in Female Undergraduates"

Internat J of Eating Disorders v8 n4 391-97 1989

"Interrelationships between problems associated with eating and sexual experience were examined in a nonclinical population. The Eating Attitudes Test and a Sexual Events Questionnaire were used with a sample of 130 female undergraduates. The data confirmed the hypothesis that there is a significant association between unwanted sexual experience and eating problems. It is suggested that sexual abuse may act as one of a number of setting conditions for the development of eating problems and that intrafamilial and extrafamilial experiences may differentially affect the type of symptomatology exhibited." [Jrnl Abstract]

Greenwold Evan & Leitenberg Harold

"Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in a Nonclinical and Nonstudent Sample of Adult Women Sexually Abused as Children"

J of Interpersonal Violence v5 n2 217-29 1990

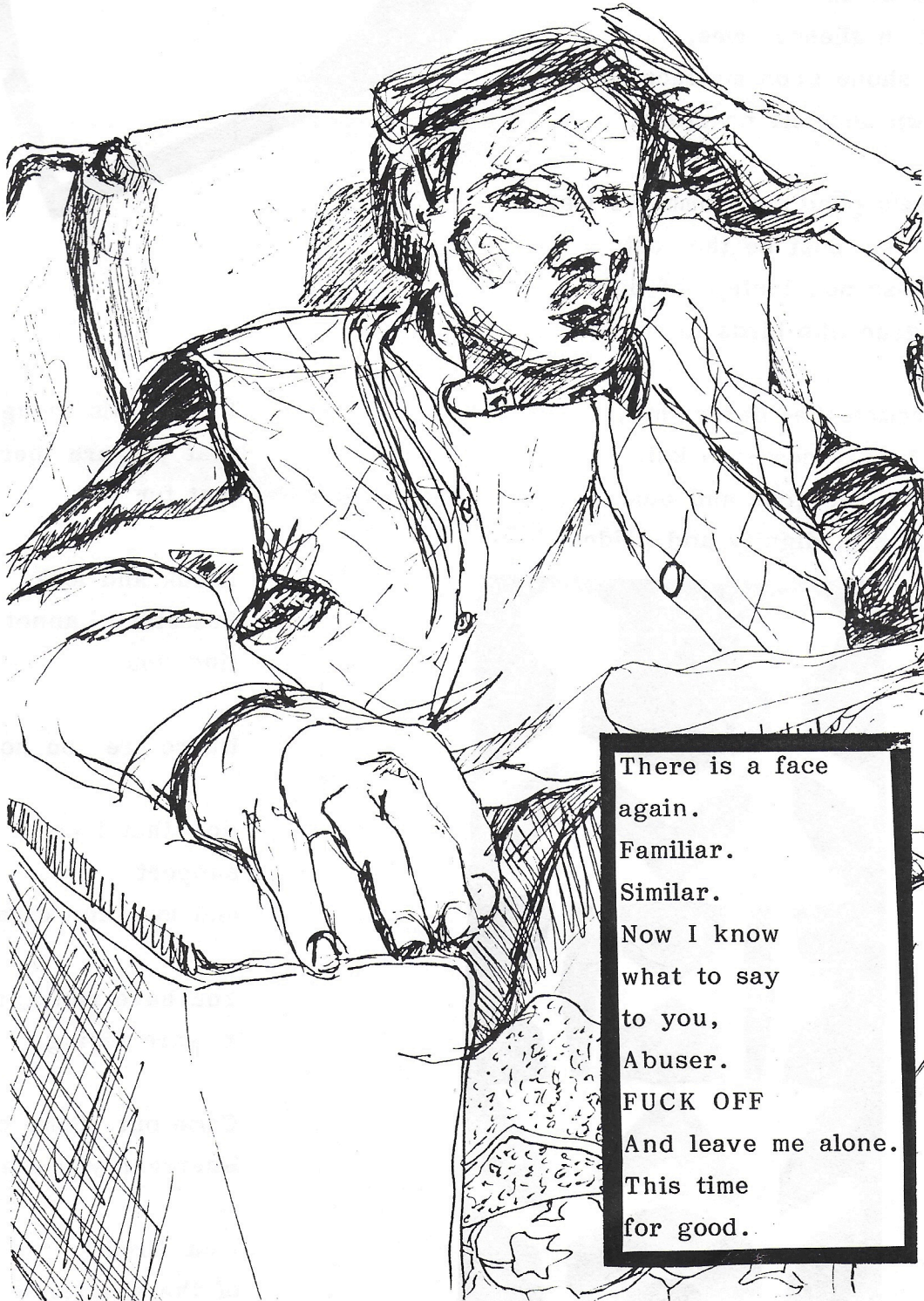
"Questionnaires were distributed to 1,500 female nurses to estimate the prevalence and severity of posttraumatic stress disorder in a nonclinical and nonstudent sample of women who had been sexually abused as children (aged 15 or below). Response to the questionnaire, completed anonymously, yielded a sample of 54 women. Using a cut-off score of 2 on 0-4 scale, it was estimated that only 4% of these formerly sexually abused women might currently meet DSM-111-R diagnostic criteria for PTSD while 17% might have met these criteria in the past. When using a cut-off of 1 - symptoms experienced 'a little bit' - the respective percentages were higher, 20% and 41%; when using a cut-off of 3 - symptoms experienced 'quite a bit' - the respective percentages were lower, 2% and 7%. The severity of PTSD symptomatology was greatest in cases of father-daughter incest, and if sexual intercourse had taken place or had been attempted. These findings were contrasted with higher estimates of PTSD reported in clinical samples of formerly sexually abused women, and the methodological limitations of the present study were discussed [Jrnl Abstract]"



REVIEWS

- BASS, Ellen,
& THORNTON,
Louise, (eds.) I never told anyone: Writings by women survivors of child sexual abuse, 1983, Harper & Row, USA.
pp139-141 by Desi, who was sexually abused by her grandmother.
- CHILD ABUSE
STUDIES
UNIT A feminist understanding of women as abusers, notes from a discussion held at CASU, Polytechnic of North London, April, 1989.
Available 50p from I.S.I.C.S.A.
- EVERT, Kathy,
& BIJERK, Inie, When you're ready: A woman's healing from physical and sexual abuse by her mother, 1988, Launch Press, 1988.
- FINKELHOR,
David Nursery crimes: Sexual abuse in day care, 1989, Sage Publications. In ritual sexual abuse of children, women are often actively involved.
- GIL, Eliana, Treatment of adult survivors of childhood abuse, 1988, Launch Press, USA. Several of the extracts from case histories are of women abused by women.
- HANKS, Helga,
WYNNE, Jane,
& HOBBS, Chris Why do women do it? "In Leeds we are now seeing more and more women who sexually abuse children. These include mothers, cousins, grandmothers and teenage girl baby-sitters." Letter in Observer, 13.8.1989, p30.
- LAKE, Carol, Up and doing, in New Statesman & Society, 14.9.1990, pp10 & 11. About a baby girl who at 9 months old was murdered by her foster-mother. The foster-mother was sentenced to life-imprisonment. At 6 months old the baby could not pass urine and had to have a urine bag. Afterwards it came out that the foster-mother had been sexually abusing the baby for several months. This foster-mother had previously been suspected of sexually abusing a 3-year-old boy.
- McCARTY,
Loretta Mother-child incest: Characteristics of the offender, in Child Welfare (USA) vol. LXV, no. 5, Sep.-Oct. 1986, pp447-458.
- McNARON,
Toni, &
MORGAN, Yarrow, (eds.) Voices in the night, 1982, Cleis Press, USA. pp75-84 by a woman abused by her mother.
- PETERSON,
Mary, Past imperfect, in Guardian, 31.10.1989, p36. By a mother about how her son changed at age 9 from being bright, loving and lovable, to being out of control, a cheat, manipulating, going into rages, sniffing glue, bunking off school. As the years went by, he stole, vandalized things, and joined the National Front. Professionals were no help. When he was 23, he told his mother that at the age of 8 he had been sexually abused over a period of 6 months by a woman who had been living with them. He had thought all along that his mother knew about it.
- SCHREIBER,
Flora F. Sybil, Regnery, USA, 1973. Sybil was regularly sexually abused and tortured by her mother and developed multiple personalities which helped her to survive.

Poetry...Poetry...Poetry



There is a face
again.
Familiar.
Similar.
Now I know
what to say
to you,
Abuser.
FUCK OFF
And leave me alone.
This time
for good.

LIFE'S AUTUMN

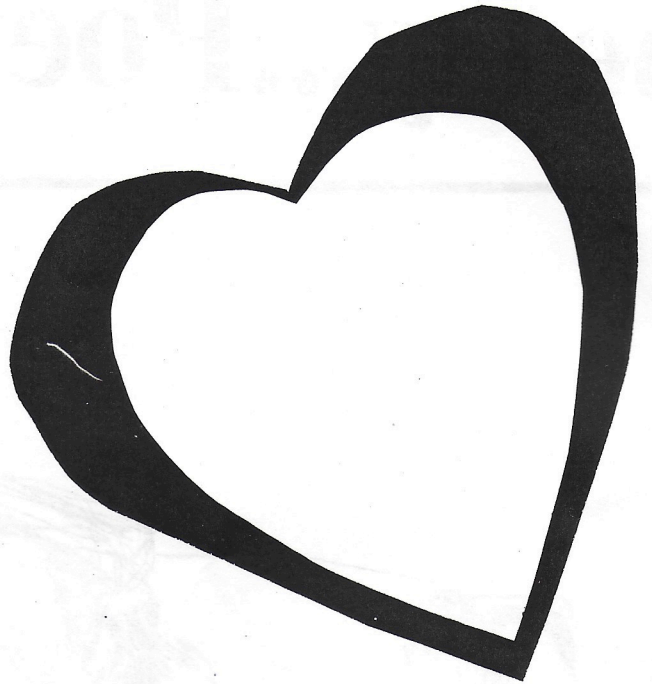
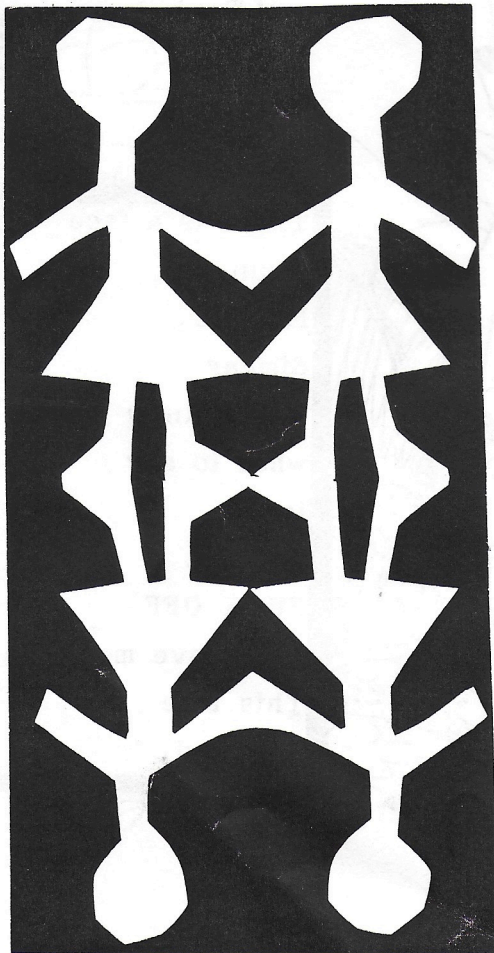
When the leaves begin to fall,
And the start of autumn calls,
It takes away the summer nights,
And the cold wind starts to bite.

In autumn life begins to die,
And my heart in silence cries,
The sun that shone upon my face,
Has fallen down and left no grace.

The springtime's gone and summer's lost,
And autumn's fall must be the cost,
There's darkness now instead of light,
And life has gone like birds in flight.

With autumn comes the winter chill,
And frost in beauty comes to kill,
All life that was has gone and died,
Yet still it fell with dignity and pride.

JULIA



I have this thought
that you are there
just for me.

I look and look
but still I cannot
find you.

Where are you now?

Now that I need
support
and love and care?

You have run away...
You are hiding.

Come out Come out
Wherever you are...

I am tired
of the shackles
that bind
me.

THE PLAYGROUND

Summer times coming,
Hot day's, summer showers,
Children's playgrounds,
Buzy active places,
UNDER 14 ONLY,
IGNORE THE SIGN,
Swing high and free on the swings,
Why shouldn't we?
We never could when we were kids.
Standing in the rain,
Stamping in puddles,
People stare,
We can't,
They think we're mad,
IGNORE THEM,
Why can't we?
We never could when we were kids.
Slide down the slide,
Whee.....
Hey - for children only - can't you read?
IGNORE THEM,
Experiment that life we never knew,
So what if i'm 24, 35, 45, 50, 60,
We never could when we wer e kids.
Hey act your age - your not a child,
I never have been is my reply,
I want for a while to do as kids do -
to explore, to play, to yell, to be free,
I may be an adult but I can play as a child can't I?
Don't hold back,
There's a world out there we've never known,
For a while forget the rules,
Release the inhibitions, don't watch join in,
It could be fun - you know that thing we never had,
The thrill,
The excitment,
The sheer joy of just being,
Don't be afraid,
Go on,
BURST THE BUBBLE -
ENJOY THE PLAYGROUND.....

Willow



LETTER

Dear Brother,

I have been thinking of you alot lately. I miss you, though I hate to admit it. I have been through so much of our childhood together over and over again and it has been incredibly painful. How confused I feel about it. I am hurt by those memories and yet I don't ever want to forget them. I don't want to erase you out of my childhood; you were such a bit part of it.

I met someone recently who reminded me of you. It was more the way he looked than what he said. He looked at me so directly, the way you used to, with a challenge in his eye. Why did we always end up fighting when all we really wanted was to love each other and ourselves? Was it because of the pathetic example we were given by our elders? Did they pass on all their unresolved problems to us? Those problems they just refused to deal with in an adult way? Were you imitating the sadism and cruelty you saw our father meter out to our mother every day?

Is that why you beat me up all the time? Is that why you hit me till I screamed my lungs out in pain? Is that why you choked me till I fainted? Is that why you smothered me with a pillow and nearly suffocated me or beat me over the head with a pool cue because I was winning the game?

Where did all your rage come from? And why was I always chosen as the one to blame? And what did Mum and Dad do? Just pretend it wasn't happening. Either that or tell us off for squabbling and denounce us as 'unable to love each other the way normal people do'!

Sometimes I really would love to speak to you again but feel unable to lift the receiver. What would we end up saying to each other? You always side with them. They don't deserve your loyalty you know. They deserve to listen to our pain and experience, not just push their stuff on us.

There was a time when I considered you my best friend. You were tough and strong and popular and knew so many people and you protected me at parties. You introduced me to a world of sex and drugs and drink and parties. My rites of passage from childhood to adulthood, only I had already learnt far too much about adult things already. Teachers accused me of tartish behaviour and quizzed me about my menstrual cycle when I had no idea what messages my body was giving out. My mind just responded in complete horror to such questions. Why didn't they see that I was being sexually abused? Instead they blamed me once again for my 'bad behaviour'.

And were you there brother? You tried to protect me from your sexually active friends but refused to see what was happening within our own four walls. Why didn't you protect me there? Why did you beat me up instead and allow the hurt to be etched deeper and deeper.

I cannot forgive you for it. I cannot forget it. But I know now that it wasn't my fault. Ever. I was a child. A small, innocent child. Vulnerable and desperate for love. You were my elder. A model, a hoped for protector and my best friend (how I wished it had been). But it didn't make any difference. You still hurt me while saying that you really did care. Just like the others.

What I really care about now is me. I have to protect me. I have to protect me, always. I have to love and cherish me. I have to be my own best friend.

I may ring you sometime, or send a letter. It all depends on how honest you want to be with me. If it is totally honest then maybe we can communicate.

Until then, take care.

Love C.



Roll up, Roll up...

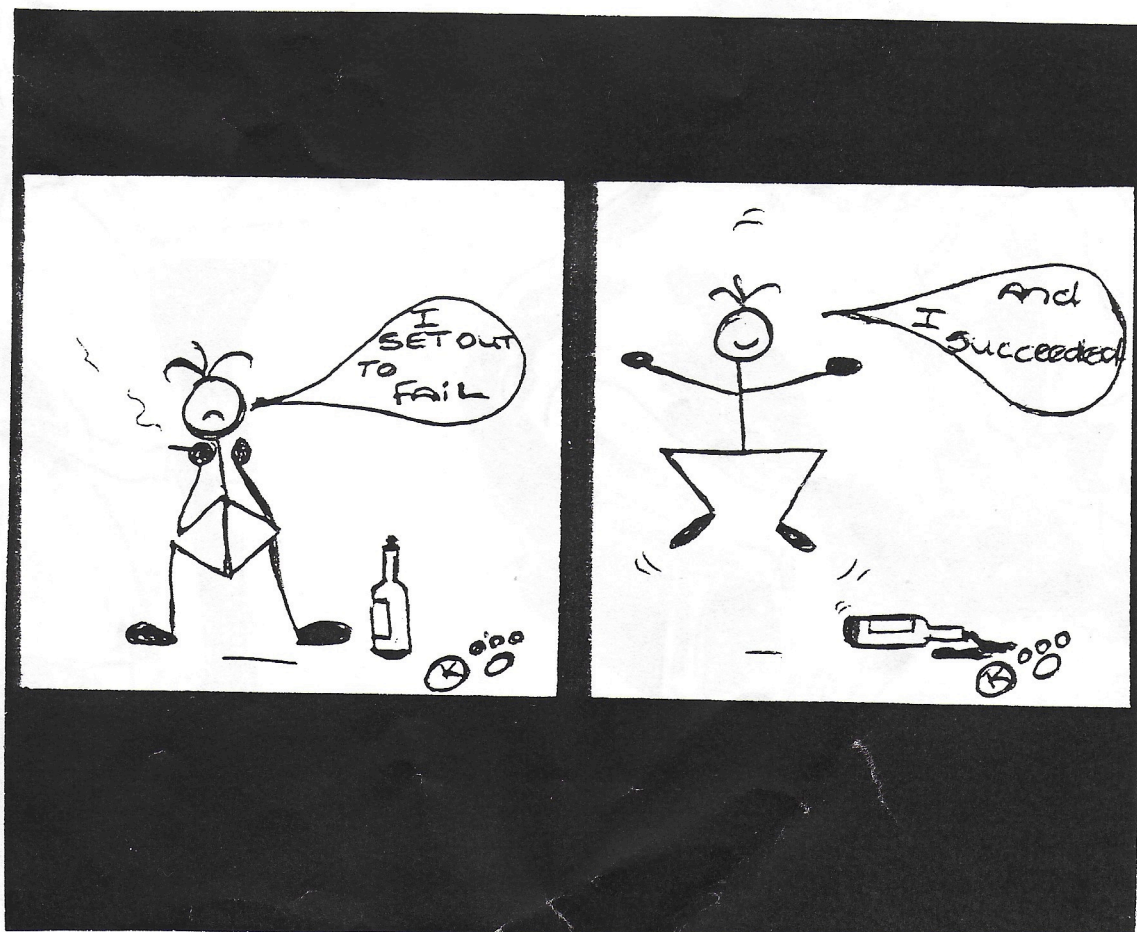
(Fanfare music, trumpets blaring etc.) At last the one and only RESOURCES is open and available at each FORUM if you want to borrow any of our books or tapes for survivors. There is also a collection of cuttings from newspapers and magazines on different topics such as child sexual abuse, first hand accounts, recent cases of children being taken into care, women's health issues especially those relevant to survivors and their partners, therapy issues etc.

Copies of some of the more interesting articles will be available at each forum, so there's another reason to come along.

Loan periods are four weeks (very generous!) and a donation is requested for any overdue books (entirely at your discretion). So come along and see our superb selection thrill at our wide range of topics, expand your knowledge, share an experience, gain new awareness, or just simply have a good read.

Blimey, its amazing what a few books can do....

Roll up, Roll up...



Surely a woman couldn't be guilty of such an act?

Sexual abuse is still a taboo in our society, one which people would rather ignore and sweep under the carpet, just as long as it's not discussed. Therefore, when you approach the subject of WOMEN ABUSERS for many, especially women,- this issue is too hard to handle, particularly for some women's groups, including hard left feminist groups and a lot of lesbians groups. It has been denied outright that women are capable of being abusers. On the other hand there are some women who accept the truth that women do abuse and are quite capable of stepping into this power role.

In this newsletter we are beginning to look at this issue of women abusers and hopefully in the September edition we will be focusing on this subject.

For a number of women in the Network as well as myself the issue of women abusers is one which we will NOT sweep under the carpet however uncomfortable it makes some people feel. If we as a Network are trying to break taboos around sexual abuse then this is a subject that we have to start talking about, and put embarrassment and denial aside. I believe this is the right forum to begin such a discussion.

If you would like to add your opinions, views and personal accounts to this discussion then write to the Survivors' Network PO Box 188 Brighton BN1 7JW.

Willow



A FEMINIST UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN AS ABUSERS

On 2nd March 1989 at the Child Abuse Studies Unit of the Polytechnic of North London there was a discussion on **Women as abusers**. Mary MacLeod introduced the discussion: The fact that women also abuse is sometimes used as an argument against the feminist analysis of child sexual abuse. What the literature has to offer is extremely threadbare. There is none by survivors. There is some by clinicians, but we have learnt that we have to be very careful of these. Also, we should put aside the desire for certainty.

Points which came up in discussion: It is easier for us as women to talk about men as abusers. It is likely that as (or if) more people come to talk about their experience of abuse by women we will find that the currently accepted statistics are too low. Another reason we found it difficult to discuss, is that we have talked very little about our own sexuality as women, and it is hard to identify aspects of our sexuality that are destructive to ourselves and others. The model of female sexuality as passive and nurturing is inadequate. Not only mothers abuse, but also aunts, baby sitters, grandmothers, head-mistresses of infants' schools, nuns, nursery workers, strangers, sisters, close friend of mother, woman lodger.

A boy who is abused by his mother, used as a substitute husband/father to younger children, finds it difficult to talk about it. He loves his mother, but hates that a female has made him powerless. He has difficulties in working with the woman social worker.

Is sexual abuse sometimes a way of securing/possessing a child?

In many parts of the world, female circumcision is carried out by midwives, but it is the men who want it done. In a recent survey carried out in U.K., 95% of young Somali men brought up in U.K. said they would not marry an uncircumcised woman.

In Burma, small children are masturbated to put them to sleep. It is done in a matter-of-fact, open and non-sexual way. [When do they stop?]

Contributions by women present who identified as survivors of abuse by women:

A. is very wary of talking about it, because in a mixed audience it will arouse woman hatred, and that hatred will come back to her. In a society that has male values, we cannot expect that all women will escape identifying with these values. It is men who set up these values and some women replicate them.

B. The power and oppression issue is the only way B. has been able to understand her abuse by her mother. Her mother hated being a woman, and took it out on her daughters, not on her sons.

Of the small group of women survivors present, all said their mothers had been professionals, women who worked outside the home, they were not housewives. So perhaps as part of their success in taking on the male models, they had learned the male way of oppressing, and the confusion of sex and violence and the abuse of power. Of course this cannot be taken as an exoneration of women who abuse, but is an attempt at explanation.

Similarly some women abuse under the influence of a male abuser, and that is also no excuse, simply an observation.

Reprinted from INCEST & CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT NO. 9.

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Please feel free to photocopy and distribute with discretion.



WANTED!



The Survivors Network is a registered charity based in Brighton, providing support for women coping with the long term consequences of childhood sexual abuse.

Currently a telephone helpline service operates for three sessions each week to provide information and counselling. We are now looking to recruit and train more volunteers to maintain and develop this vital service.

DO YOU HAVE:

- experience, training or skills in counselling?
- understanding of, or interest in, the issues around sexual abuse?
- a thorough understanding of confidentiality?
- time to contribute?
- any experience of telephone counselling?

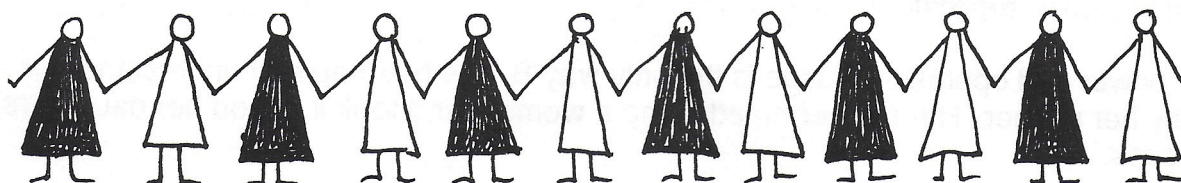
ARE YOU:

- willing to undergo training and selection?
- able to make a regular commitment?
- in need of experience within the context of a professional training course?

If you are interested in becoming a telephone counsellor, would like to discuss it further or would like to know more about the Survivors Network please contact :

Sal Norris
P.O Box 188, Brighton BN1 7JW
(0273) 203380

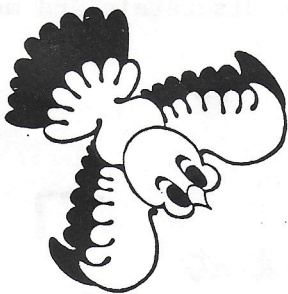
This is not a helpline number and should not be given out as such.



Survivors Speak Out is putting on a conference looking at **Eating distress** on Saturday 28th September 10.30am - 5.30pm (registration from 9.30am) at the Hampden Community Centre, 150 Ossulston St., London NW1 1EE. Speakers and workshop leaders include: Susie Orbach (author of 'Fat is a feminist issue'), Lorraine Bell (clinical psychologist), Dave Sheppard (MIND legal department) Workshops open to all delegates: Legal/ethical issues; Eating distress arising from taking major tranquillizers; Self help. Workshops open only to people with direct experience of eating distress: Starting a campaign for changes in attitudes and treatments; Sharing experiences. Fee: Employed/professional £20; Low waged/unwaged £2. Applications to: Louise Pembroke, (Secretary SSO), 1 Brierfield, Arlington Rd., Camden Town, London NW1 7LG, tel. 071-387 8124.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Tertia is leaving! Boo hoo!
We would all like to say
huge thank yous for all
her efforts particularly
in putting together the
recent newsletters.
Good luck and lots of hugs



* Thanks also to... *
Matthew, Bruce &
all at Red Herring.
An extra hug for
Monica for the loan
of the projector!
*

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

A room in women only house, preferable in Preston Park, London Road, Lewes Road area. Needed for August by part time student who is in receipt of housing benefit. preferable one year let. If you know of anywhere or know of a cheap flat or studio then call me on 0273 697959 and ask for Mitch. Thanks

SURVIVORS NETWORK (SUSSEX)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

TELEPHONE.....

OCCUPATION.....

I should like to apply for membership of the Survivors' Network, and receive information about meetings and projects. I enclose a cheque for £15 (payable to the Survivors' Network).

concessions only £5!

signed.....

STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN STOLEN

Did you know that a piece of artwork from the exhibition Thou Shalt Not Be Aware, was stolen after the first week? It is a small clay figure (easily portable) which obviously has huge value for the woman who made it. It had been an important exhibit arousing many comments and caused a lot of distress when it was removed. We do not want to condemn the person who took it, but it was a devastating thing to do. If you know anything about this piece please let us know. Any information will be dealt with discretely and much appreciated. Thank You.

