



Monday, 23 June 2014

Dear friends,

Many within The Salvation Army have been deeply shocked by allegations of abuse shared during the Royal Commission and the trauma this abuse inflicted on our most innocent. This trauma must never be allowed to happen again.

I am deeply ashamed of the actions some people who worked for The Salvation Army committed against the most innocent and vulnerable in our care. I feel deep remorse for every instance of sexual abuse, cruelty, verbal abuse, physical violence, and deprivation inflicted on children in our care. This abuse must never be allowed to happen again.

Our child protection processes in the past have failed those in our care, shattering lives and destroying the souls of the very people we were meant to protect. This failure of process must also never be allowed to happen again.

As Commissioner of The Salvation Army, I have a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse perpetrated within The Salvation Army. For any instance of harm, no matter how long ago, we must say sorry. Our responsibilities to survivors lie not only now but also into the future. We must support them in our prayers and in actions.

These actions include specific steps to ensure ongoing accountability to improve our processes. The Salvation Army have recently dismissed three officers following internal investigations with another investigation currently ongoing into a fourth officer. In addition to the Professional Standards Office and the work of independent investigators, The Salvation Army is committed to reviewing and strengthening its entire child protection policies and procedures.

The Salvation Army must continually review, revise and strengthen these processes, remaining vigilant; in order to ensure the protection of children remains our highest priority. We are committed to working with survivors in order for their healing process to begin. We are committed to asking survivors "What needs to happen to start making this right?" We are committed to restorative justice and the willingness to engage personally with those we have neglected.

I ask you to continue to pray for wisdom for myself and your leaders so that we are able to work with survivors to move forward together on the path to restorative justice. As we do this you have my assurance that we will continue to work transparently with the Royal Commission into the future. The Salvation Army continues to encourage anyone who was abused in any way to contact our Professional Standards Office via Salvo Care Line on 1300 36 36 22 or at ps@ae.salvationarmy.org

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Commissioner James Condon
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