



Statement on Stuart Hall sentencing

June 18th, 2013

Donald Findlater, Director of Research and Development with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Director of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland said:

"Media concern about the length of sentence for Stuart Hall must not distract us away from learning the lessons that can help prevent such abuse in the future. While we are busy looking for monsters, we will not see the friend, relative or popular celebrity in our midst who is more likely than a stranger to actually be abusing children; and we will not recognise the signs of concerning behaviour that could help us protect a child. The reason many victims don't tell about their abuse is partly the fear of not being believed; but it is also a fear of upsetting the adults they love and who love them. Public anger, then, can serve to silence victims rather than help them speak out.

"The real outrage should be the scale of the problem - one in six children in the UK experiences sexual abuse. This is not a problem we can arrest and imprison our way out of. There are actions each and every one of us can take to prevent the sexual abuse of children - that is where we can really make a difference; where our energies can really count. By knowing the facts, knowing who are most likely to abuse, knowing the warning signs of abuse. Visit www.parentsprotect.co.uk. We must all learn a bit more so we can better protect the children in our life."

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

For more information and/or interview opportunities please contact Deborah Denis on ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk | 01372 847160 | 07540 690 315

1. About the Lucy Faithfull Foundation

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation celebrated 20 years of protecting children from sexual harm in 2012. Named after its founder, Baroness Lucy Faithfull of Wolvercote, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation is the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused. It works with entire families that have been affected by abuse including: adult male and female sexual abusers; young people with inappropriate sexual behaviours; victims of abuse and other family members. Drawing on expert knowledge about child sexual abuse the charity offers a broad range of services for professionals and members of the public. These include: assessments, intervention and treatment of known offenders, case specific advice and support, training and development courses and workshops, educational programmes for internet offenders and their families, circles of support and accountability, internet safety seminars for schools (teachers, parents and children) and Parents Protect! training for professionals, parents, carers and other adults.

www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk. It also runs the Stop it Now! Campaign and Helpline (0808 1000 900) www.stopitnow.org.uk and www.parentsprotect.co.uk

2. About Stop it Now!

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is a national campaign and Freephone confidential Helpline. It aims to prevent child sexual abuse by increasing public awareness and empowering people to act responsibly to protect children. Stop it Now! believes that it is the responsibility of all adults to take positive action to prevent the sexual abuse of children. Stop it Now! is an alliance of leading children's charities including the NSPCC, Action for Children, Children England and The National Association of People Abused in Childhood, working with the government and child protection agencies, to promote public education and prevent child sexual abuse. The Stop it Now! helpline has been operating since 2002 and aims to prevent child abuse by encouraging abusers and potential abusers to seek help and by giving adults the information they need to protect children safely. The helpline is funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

www.stopitnow.org.uk