

Caldey Island Survivors campaign



Whilst Caldey Island may look like heaven to many, it was nothing but hell for the victims of historic child sexual abuse. Caldey Island seemed like a child's dream holiday destination, but it has a dark history of sexual abuse for over 50 years against children as young as three. The children that visited the island were trapped, with no means of escape from these atrocious events.

The Catholic Church continue to cover up claims of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children perpetrated by the Cistercian order, who to this day still reside on the Island.

The 'Caldey Island Survivors campaign' was set up by Kevin O'Connell, who was raped on Caldey Island by a paedophile monk when he was only ten years old. As of October 2024, over 80 other victims have come forward. The campaign was started with the aim to raise awareness for the need to hold a public inquiry into the ongoing cover up by the Catholic Church and other institutions, as well as the institutional failures in safeguarding children on Caldey Island, and the failure of the police to fully investigate and prosecute the Paedophiles on the Island.

On the 17th of July 2020, The Senedd Petitions Committee heard the request for a public inquiry. The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write back to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services to share the correspondence received, asking her to provide a further response.

In April 2024, the superior at Caldey Island Abbey commissioned an independent review into alleged historical child sexual abuse, which is to be led by Jan Pickles, former assistant Police and Crime commissioner for South Wales Police. However, the fight still continues until every innocent sexually abused child receives justice. We can no longer allow the Catholic Church to turn a blind eye to such atrocities.

"The more they try to silence us, the louder we become, The more they try to bury the truth, the deeper we will dig, The more they try to bully us, the stronger we will be, The more you try to blind us, the more of the truth we will see."

Kevin O'Connell, Caldey Island survivor

For more information, please visit:



CaldeyIslandSurvivors.org



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