



As VOICE Marks One Year of Advocacy, Founder Calls for Urgent Reform and Meaningful Engagement with Bereaved Families

VOICE, the national campaign supporting families bereaved by offenders under statutory supervision, marks its first anniversary this month. Founded by Nadine Marshall, whose son Conner was murdered eleven years ago, VOICE has grown steadily over the past year as more families come forward seeking truth, accountability and change.

Nadine Marshall began campaigning after the murder of her 18-year-old son, Conner, saying: "One knock at the door changes everything,". "Every VOICE family knows that moment - the second your world ends and a new, unfamiliar one is handed to you without warning or choice."

Over the past year, VOICE has supported a growing number of families whose loved ones were killed by individuals already known to statutory services. While each case is unique, the themes are consistent: families want clear information, honest communication and meaningful accountability from the agencies involved.

Marshall paid tribute to the families who have stood alongside VOICE throughout its first year. "The family of Michael Hoolickin has offered strength, compassion and sensitivity to others. The family of Mikey Rainsford, who recently lost Michael Snr, continue to show dignity and resilience beyond words. They must not be forgotten. Every family deserves recognition - not just for their dedication to VOICE, but for surviving the unimaginable."

In its first year, VOICE has also worked directly with agencies responsible for public protection. Marshall has provided insight to Police and Crime Commissioners, HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Prison and Probation Service to support more trauma-informed practice and improve the way families are treated.

"Some may find it unusual that I work with the Probation Service rather than against them," Marshall said. "But I do it because I want to help families. Without constructive, honest conversations, nothing will change. Procedures will not improve. Families will continue to be failed."

Marshall expressed concern that the current Victims' Code does not adequately represent families affected by Serious Further Offence cases. She welcomed the introduction of the Hillsborough Law but warned that, in its current form, VOICE families would not benefit. "The detail matters," she said. "This must change, and it must change quickly."

She also highlighted a troubling pattern emerging from recent national inquiries. "The Nottingham Inquiry, the Southport Public Inquiry and others all share a disturbing common feature: families were not listened to, not informed and not protected. The same patterns repeat, and the same systems fail."

As VOICE enters its second year, Marshall is calling for more families, more media coverage, more public support and more engagement from MPs and decision-makers. "Change does not happen quietly," she said. "It happens when people come together and refuse to be ignored."

Reflecting on her own loss, Marshall added: "Conner's absence is felt every single day. His best friend got married at the weekend. Conner should have been standing beside him as his best man. Instead, it is another reminder of all that has been taken — another bittersweet moment, another memory of what should have been. This is the reality for every VOICE family."

VOICE's mission remains clear as it moves into its second year: For families – for truth – for change.