

SUPPORT STATEMENT

SECTION A — SURVIVOR DETAILS *(office use only)*

Survivor Name: Zara Irvine

Date of Birth: 07/03/1990

SECTION B — Supporting Person Details

Name: __Carol Irvine_____

Relationship to Survivor: _Friend (Mother Figure) _____

Length of Relationship: __10 years_____

Purpose of This Statement

I am providing this statement in support of the above survivors Redress Scotland application. I know them personally and wish to offer information about their experiences they have shared with me, and the impact this has had on their life.

How I know the Survivor

Zara was a neighbour moved into the house next door

What the Survivor shared with me

Zara (Danielle) had been put in care at an early age she would go from home to home and put into foster care but always ran away and ending up living on the street using public toilets to wash and clean herself. But when her period was due she would always make her way back to the home so that she could get sanitary products and have a shower then again after her period she would be back on the streets, Her time as a child in care was horrendous and has tried her hardest to move on.

She described how in the homes it was communal bathroom that everyone shared and when having a shower although it was frosted glass you could still the the sillouette of the person showering there were adult mostly a man when people were in showering to supervise.

She was also in foster care and 1 incident that Zara has told me about was she was approximately 16 and the person she was living with had a son, Zara became involved with him and in that time became pregnant. The woman advised her that she would need to have an abortion as she didn't want her son or herself getting into trouble and stopping her from fostering other children Zara had the abortion as advised.

When Zara was put out of care homes and foster care due to her age she struggled sleeping on a mattress on bare floor boards with nothing to eat there just wasn't the support when you leave care your basically dumped in the street.

Impact on the Survivor I have observed

The first 4 years of knowing Zara was honestly horrible to watch, the drinking and drugs, partying and out shouting all times of the night and day, she had verbally violent outbursts Zara would go outside to her car or electricity meter with no or virtually no clothing on.

The police presence was nearly every weekend there was just no stability in her life due to her upbringing. Zara wasn't able to keep a stable relationship. Zara went to pieces she struggles to get out of bed for days at a time due to her mental health and was really unstable and had to be admitted to hospital,

she tried on numerous occasions to end her life

Zara lost custody of her daughter. And she went to pieces

4 years ago Zara had a baby boy and it has changed her life for the better she changed her name and has a adopted family that love her and we're at the birth of her son but it has not stopped her problems from the past creeping back at times and making her feel overwhelmed and struggling to cope.

Zara in the last few years has had problems domestic abuse and court cases which trigger her to remind her of her past in the care system

She is a brilliant single mum to an autistic son and would do anything for him.

it's just worrying and hard to watch she struggles at times when she's thinking back on her past and people she knew from the home that weren't so lucky and ended their life.

Zara could quite easily have been one of those statistics but thankfully as her birthday approaches, she will have adopted family with her to celebrate as her mental health can change in a heartbeat.

Closing Statement

I offer this statement to support the survivor's application. Everything I have written reflects what they shared with me and what I have personally observed during the time I have known them.

Name: ___Carol Irvine_____

Date: _1st March 2026_____

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