



Preamble

We, child advocates against Child Abuse and Neglect representing governments, non-governmental organisations, networks and institutions, including professionals from all sectors and disciplines, children and adolescents throughout New Zealand wish to publicly review and assess the challenges posed by violence, child abuse and neglect of children in our country –to identify and determine the opportunities before us to address and overcome these violations of child rights and values, do hereby register our concern that neglect and the abuse of children stand as a critical issue of development and justice across New Zealand, and believe that all our citizens must act to secure for all children a protective and caring environment.

In so doing, we ask for the commitment and leadership of our government, business and community leaders and of all those who determine or affect the status and condition of children.

2014 New Zealand Declaration for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

We believe child abuse and neglect is a serious problem in New Zealand

We believe there is inadequate recognition by the New Zealand Government of the *real causes* of family violence and neglect;

- i) The significant decline in marriage within society
- ii) The failure of society to accept that marriage is important for the protection of our children
- iii) Family relationship/structure breakdown
- iv) Welfare dependency of vulnerable families
- v) The culture of alcohol and drug abuse in NZ

We believe too much attention is devoted to dealing with the outcomes, whilst blatantly neglecting causation.

We believe there is a need for urgent action by the New Zealand Government to develop better policies that will encourage and restore the importance of family, a mother and a

father committed to each other are best able to deliver a loving, caring, stable and safe environment for our children.

We believe the New Zealand Government needs to clearly examine the negative influence of long term welfare dependency to undermining marriage and breaking up families

There should be social and economic incentives and legislation to encourage and move towards relationships and family structures to mitigate abuse and violence to our children.

Parenting Education is urgently needed for young people and first time parents to focus on understanding the importance of the form of relationships that have the best prospect of delivery for our children

The Government call – “for all policies and measures to proactively support the importance of family structure, marriage, freedom from welfare dependency and stricter monitoring of alcohol and drug supply to the public, as important measures in reducing child abuse and neglect”

Our Declaration AS ONE:

“recognising that the best environment in which to raise children is a strong and committed family where a mum and dad are married, we the following child advocate organisations (and individuals) hereby declare our commitment to fight for the rights and values of our children to be reflective in policy and legislation, with the aspiration that every child should be born into a safe loving and caring environment free from violence, free from neglect, be well nurtured and educated. We pledge to resolve to stand against neglect and abuse of children in New Zealand”.

Name of Organisation/Individual

Position

Signature

For the Sake of Our Children Trust

Mr John Sax

Founder & Chairman

