

Statement by GD

These are my memories of some of the emotional, physical and sexual abuse I suffered under the management of the Salvation Army establishments assigned to my care, during my younger years from six to nine:-

I spent nights in a dormitory with other young males, who were also sexually abused by the night manager(s). The abuse was in the forms of sexual (touching sexual organs, and masturbating in front of me.

If a client failed to become involved in the various abuse activities, physical punishment was dealt out in the forms of being punched in bed, being made to stand with arms outstretched (and kicked in the anus if arms were lowered), or arms bent painfully upwards behind back. These abuses were carried out in the night air outside, even during cold winters.

I believe that my right arm was broken during such a procedure and was left in a sling to repair. I suffered great pain during the recovery, which has left my right arm visibly deformed and damaged as a result of this abuse.

Several of us boys deliberately would urinate in our beds to make ourselves unattractive to the sexual favours required, preferring to rather take the punishment which would follow.

The punishment was frequently cold showers, and being forced to stand for long periods with the wet sheets wrapped around ourselves.

Some boys were routinely taken to the night manager's room to be sexually molested, or suffered buggery there.

We would visit the toilet block only in pairs, in some effort to stave off the attention of our abusers.

I suffered once with an ingrown toenail – the method of "treatment" was to have the offending nail removed using some tool without any anaesthetic aid, whilst under restraint by larger clients. I suffered intense pain for some time after that event.

That abuse was dealt to me by Captain McKyver, of the Salvation Army.

I believe that as a result of the above abuse and torment I was forced to endure as a child, I have been left with severe negative emotional, psychological and health issues:-

I find it difficult to restrain my feelings of intense anger.

I find it difficult to have a good night's sleep.

I frequently experience nightmares, bad dreams and recalls of my past traumas.

I often experience stomach discomfort, and frequently cannot eat normal amounts of food, with responding weight loss.

I have difficulty in maintaining caring relationships, even though I desire to care for my children and want to protect them from similar traumas of my past experiences.

I experience great difficulty in dealing with those in authority.

I react adversely to hearing about paedophiles and their activities, as this restores past agonies deep within me.

My sexual responses to intimate relationship is impaired.

Signed,