



Psychiatry, politics and policy: House of Lords and Vatican

Professor Baroness Sheila Hollins

Objectives

1. The role of policy makers with respect to public mental health
2. Political advocacy in clinical practice
3. The roles and responsibilities of the two chambers in the UK parliament
4. How Vatican policy about the protection of children and vulnerable adults is being implemented internationally

Houses of Parliament and Big Ben



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House of Lords

- Members come from different walks of life
- Many remain active in their career and are experts
- Many are not party political
- Many represent issues that concern them, not geographical constituencies

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My policy areas

- Child protection
- People with intellectual disabilities and autism
- The tobacco endgame
- Parity for mental and physical health
- Over prescription of drugs of addiction
- Disability discrimination in health services
- Press regulation

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Health and Social Care Act 2012

- **Secretary of State's Duty to provide comprehensive health service**
- Included parity of esteem amendment
- How were amendments proposed, discussed, agreed by government, then government held to account?

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Parity of esteem amendment to Health and Social Care Bill: 2 November 2011

Amendment 11 Moved by Baroness Hollins:
Clause 2, page 2, line 15, after "of" insert
"physical and mental"

"I hope noble Lords will support me in inviting the Minister to agree to these small but significant additions to the Bill about which I feel so strongly. I beg to move."

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Parity of esteem amendment to Health and Social Care Bill: 2 November 2011

- Speakers included:
- 3 psychiatrists- members of House of Lords
- 2 Chairs of Mental Health Trusts
- Former health Minister
- Former senior nurse
- Former Presidents of Royal Colleges of Surgery and of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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Health and Social Care Bill

- 16 November 2011, Howe E. Ministerial agreement to discuss parity of esteem amendment. See Hansard
- 8 February 2012, Vote at Report stage: 244 content; 240 Not content. Amendment accepted
- <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2012-02-08/debates/12020840000846/HealthAndSocialCareBill?highlight=mental%20health#contribution-12020840000083>

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How Lord Patel moved the amendment

Clause 1, page 2, line 6, after “of” insert “physical and mental”

Lord Patel:

My Lords, it is a dubious privilege to speak to this **amendment. I say “dubious” because the noble** and learned Lord, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is on a well-deserved rest and recreation leave and the noble Baroness, Lady Hollins, who is better qualified than me in this area, is unfortunately also detained on a lecturing commitment in Rome.

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Lord Layard’s debate on Mental and Physical Health October 2013

That this House takes note of the implications of parity of esteem for mental and physical health, as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2013-10-10/debates/13101062000646/MentalAndPhysicalHealthParityOfEsteem#207>

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Pontifical Commission

Pope Francis established a permanent Commission attached to the Holy See... ***to promote the protection and dignity of minors and vulnerable adults.***

22 March 2014



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Pope Francis asked the Commission:

- To propose initiatives for protecting the dignity of minors and vulnerable adults
- To promote local responsibility in churches
- "... that we may do everything possible to ensure that crimes such as those which have occurred are no longer repeated in the Church"



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What has the Commission done 2014 - 2017?

- Participated in specialist events around the world
- Consulted experts from all over the world: teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, jurists, theologians, social workers and others
- Held several training sessions for Church leaders

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Gave evidence to the Australian Royal Commission

More than 4000 individual institutions have been reported as places where abuse took place. More than 2500 allegations had been reported by the royal commission to the police; many of them from private sessions. So far 230 prosecutions have been commenced.

Justice McClellan said:

"The failure to protect children has not been limited to institutions providing services to children. Some of our most important state instrumentalities have failed. Police often refused to believe children....child protection agencies did not listen to children"

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The Commission: a One Church Approach

- The same set of guidelines have been recommended to all dioceses, religious orders and Catholic organisations

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_commission/tutela-minori/index.htm

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Safe environments recognise the humanity of each person

- Each person has a right to expect the highest level of care and protection, love, encouragement and respect that can be given
- We need a more inclusive Church - a Church that *notices* everyone

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Commitment by the Church to safeguard all children, young people and vulnerable adults

- By making sure that every parish or school or lay organisation is safe.
- By being more careful in the selection and training of priests, staff and volunteers.
- By making sure that offenders are prevented from hurting a child or disabled person again
- By being willing to listen

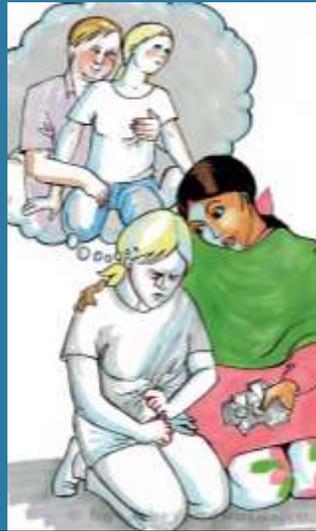
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Intellectually disabled children and adults are at greater risk of neglect, harm and abuse but less likely to be believed

Most abuse is committed by someone well known to the child or vulnerable adult such as:

- A family member or family friend
- A teacher, carer or priest.



2011

'No-one will believe you'

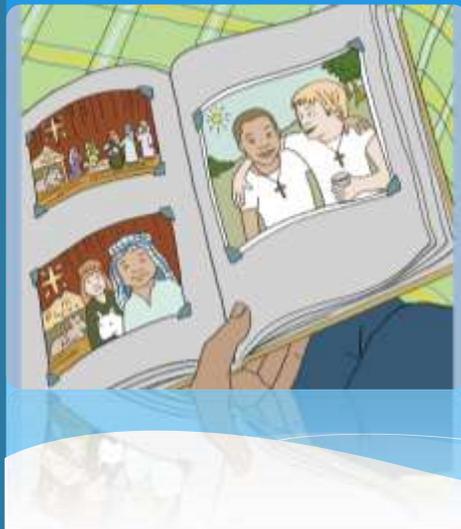


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What is it that puts a disabled child at greater risk?

- Dehumanising attitudes
- Exclusion from normal social learning
- Poor learning opportunities including in relationships and sex education
- Personal/ intimate care extends beyond early childhood
- Continuing dependence on parents in adolescence
- Communication difficulties

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Disabled people may be out of sight

The **first** step is to welcome them and get to know them

Then they may share other concerns too

What to do if you suspect a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of suffering harm or abuse

- You must take action – to ignore is not an option
- Get advice immediately
- If you think a child or vulnerable adult is in danger - **contact the police**
- Do not alert the alleged abuser in any way
- Recognise their need for psychological help

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Listening carefully to people who have been hurt helps them to recover



Creating a Safe Environment

- Training for all employees and volunteers who work with children, young people and adults at risk
- Agreeing standards of behaviour including appropriate boundaries in pastoral relationships
- Knowing when to report unsafe behaviour



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Child safety in the Digital World

- October 2017 World Congress in Rome
- Attended by 150 experts from international organisations, governments, research, policing
- Declaration of Rome endorsed by Pope Francis
- 7 streams of work coordinated by We Protect, the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

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Child safety in the Digital World

- Children and adolescents make up over a quarter of the 3.2 billion internet users worldwide
- 800 million young users at risk of becoming victims of extortion, sexting, cyberbullying and harassment

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Child safety in the Digital World

In accepting the Declaration Pope Francis said:

“...you have pointed out a variety of different ways to promote concrete cooperation among all concerned parties working to combat the great challenge of defending the dignity of minors in the digital world. I firmly and enthusiastically support the commitments you have undertaken.”

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A digital world where children and vulnerable adults are respected and free to exercise their digital rights and are safe from exploitation and abuse

The Mission:

To grow a global coalition of representatives from religions, governments, international organisations, academia and the research community and civil society, working together toward the above common objective

The Strategy:

To achieve 13 goals recognising the urgent need for an inter-sectoral strategic collaboration which calls upon technology, political and religious leaders, health and social care professionals and others to share responsibility for achieving them

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Thank you for listening

The pictures in the presentation are from
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- Some people find pictures easier to understand than words
- Pictures and feelings are universal

