

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

31st October 1998

Dear Hillary,

I have been thinking of you &
praying for you over the last few months.
I am lost for words about your
resilience & determination. I am sure
the progress in the Middle East could not
have happened without your support
for your husband.

I spoke to you when we met
at Ireland about the trust is doing a

conference together. I am putting
together with the help of a number
children's charities including so called
'Childline' a conference entitled
"Hearing Children's Voices" which we
would hope to stage in late May 1999.
Its aim is to share US/European
experience in supporting child victims.
Too often child victims receive ~~no~~^{punished}
more than once through the original
experience and a second time because of
the way they are dealt with by the legal system.
I enclose a draft outline of the sort of
issues we would be discussing. I would

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love it if you could participate as I
know how passionately you feel
about children's rights.

If you were to come I would
hope we could arrange to converse
on a Friday + then you could join
us at Cheques for either overnight or even
for the weekend. It would be a great
opportunity for you to plant a ~~tree~~ Tree
in Cheques.

If you are interested in this at
all let's get Flora + Melaine to discuss

to delay. Tony send her love ~~and~~

Love to you both

Chris x.

Hearing Children's Voices

Proposed

A one-day conference to be held in London in the last two weeks of May 1999 (date and venue to be decided).

Chair: Cherie Booth QC
Keynote Speaker: Hillary Clinton

ChildLine, the free national helpline for children in trouble or danger, hears every day from children who are living with abuse, family violence, are in care, homeless or on the streets and unable to make their voices heard.

This conference aims to highlight the gaps in the justice for children, covering the criminal, civil and family law, to describe good practice and to explore alternatives to present practice.

This conference will be attended by members of the judiciary, lawyers, police, politicians and relevant child care and child protection professionals.

MORNING SESSION: Chair: Cherie Booth QC

Children and the criminal law:

- Other jurisdictions - best practice
- High profile cases - lessons to be learned
- Views from the bench
- Views from the bar
- Views from survivors

Question time: Speakers panel
Answering questions from a distinguished audience

AFTERNOON SESSION: Advocacy for the child

A series of workshops on particular groups of children who need representation:

- Children in care
- Children in hospitals
- Children in disputed contact and residence (custody and access)
- Children intimidated in abusive families
- Children in secure units, young offender institutions and prisons
- Children suffering discrimination (because of homelessness, disability or race)

FINAL SESSION: Chairs of each workshop give 5 minute summaries of the salient points arising from their discussions

CLOSING ADDRESS: Hillary Clinton: The rights of children in the new millennium
(this could be an opening speech)

Summary of the day's proceedings: Cherie Booth QC

Reception/Dinner

* The day's proceedings will be minuted and reports sent to legal and child protection journals for publication.



From the Ambassador
Sir Christopher Meyer KCMG

British Embassy
Washington

3100 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-3600

Telephone: (202) 588-6512
Facsimile: (202) 588-7870
www.britain-info.org

13 November 1998

The Honorable Melanne Vermeer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Room 2/WW
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

I enclose a letter from Cherie Blair to Mrs Clinton, which I should be very grateful if you would pass on. It contains an invitation to the First Lady to be keynote speaker at a conference in London next May on "Hearing Children's Voices".

*We need to have a word in due course
about 23 April.*

Sincerely,

Christopher

Christopher Meyer



ChildLine
Royal Mail Building
Studd Street
London N1 0QW
Tel: 0171-239 1000
Fax: 0171-239 1001

The Honourable Melanne Verveer,
Chief of Staff,
Office of the First Lady,
White House,
Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington DC.

25th January 1999

Dear Melane Verveer,

I write to express our delight in being able to welcome the First Lady to the ChildLine Conference in London on 13th May. This is a crucial conference for us. British law, at the moment, fails in many areas to provide vulnerable and abused children with justice. We hope at our conference to be able to illuminate the areas that most urgently need reform, as well as discussing changes which have recently been proposed. But, in order to influence practice, we need to provide the most eminent judges and lawyers in the country with an incentive to attend, and the First Lady is exactly that incentive. We are extremely grateful, as, of course, we are to Cherie Booth QC, for her enthusiastic support and participation in the conference.

ChildLine is the only free national helpline for children in trouble or danger in Britain. Founded in 1986, it has been copied round the world. We now take more than a million calls from children a year, the most common problems being physical and sexual abuse, bullying, emotional problems in the family, drug and alcohol abuse, bereavement and many others. We have 1,000 volunteer counsellors who take the children's phone calls, which are free to the child, but are paid for by the charity. We hope our conference will also be a means of fundraising for us, since we urgently need to expand. At the moment we can only answer approximately one in three of the children who ring us.

We will certainly supply a detailed programme of the conference, together with a suggested brief for the First Lady's speech.

May we make public the wonderful news that the First Lady is participating in our conference? It would, of course, mean that we could attract the most distinguished speakers, and much needed sponsorship for the charity.

Once again, may I say how thrilled and grateful we are that Mrs Clinton has agreed to attend our conference.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely
Esther Rantzen

Esther Rantzen
Chairman



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With every good wish,

Yours sincerely
Esther Rantzen

Esther Rantzen
Chairman

Your Ref:

Our Ref: MISC/13/1

Date: 22 February 1999

Being dealt with by:

Omagh
DISTRICT COUNCIL**For the Attention of: Melanne Verveer**

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building
Room 1000
Washington
DC2500 USA

Dear First Lady

We are writing to you as representatives of the Omagh Fund and Omagh Renewal and Beyond. The Fund was formed to help with the dispersal of monies received for victims and Omagh Renewal and Beyond to pull together all our energies to carry the town forward.

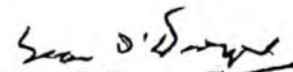
The Presidential Visit to Omagh in the wake of the awful events of the Fifteenth August last year when our town was so cruelly devastated by a bomb brought enormous comfort to the bereaved and injured and we believe it gave many the incentive to move on to create a new beginning which could mirror the progress in the rest of Northern Ireland. We trust it will be the last such event to occur and that this is due in no small measure to the strong interest shown by the USA led by the President and yourself.

Against this background we propose to celebrate the future of Omagh and by our example show our fellow citizens that, despite awful adversities, a community can not only survive but also carry our optimism into the new Millennium. Part of our plan is to hold a lunch/dinner sometime in May and use it to let people know how far we have come since that terrible day and that Omagh is looking to the future without forgetting the past.

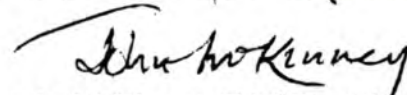
We would be honoured if you could attend this event as our Guest of Honour and allow our community to once again show you how much we appreciated your visit at the very worse time for the town.

Incidentally, we would expect that many of the bereaved and injured you met would be there to express to you their gratitude for helping to point the way forward towards challenging the future.

Yours respectfully


Sean O'Dwyer, Chairman, Omagh Fund


Duke of Abercorn, Omagh Fund


John McKinney, Chief Executive, Omagh District Council
Chairman, Omagh Renewal and Beyond



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Office of Cherie Booth QC

15 January 1999

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House

BY FAX

Dear Melanne,

It was good to hear from you on Wednesday and we are all thrilled that Hillary will be able to come in May.

Just some more background information on the "Hearing Children's Voices" conference. The aim is to highlight the gaps in the criminal and civil justice system for children.

The delegates and speakers will comprise academics, lawyers, police officers and politicians from the UK and other jurisdictions. We are hoping that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, or Jack Straw, the Home Secretary will be able to speak.

There will be workshops looking at:

- the issues that child witnesses face
- the issues of advocacy for children in care and hospital etc
- International comparisons with countries such as Norway and Austria, where there are Ombudsmen for Children.

Cherie will open the conference with a keynote speech about the situation in the UK. As you may know she has been campaigning for several years for the NSPCC Justice for Children Campaign.

- 2 -

We are hoping that Hillary will close the conference with a more general 30-minute speech about children's rights in an international context. I hope she will feel free to range as freely as she wants over this area, drawing from her enormous experience in the US and the developing world.

There will be a chance to meet the other speakers and some delegates at a reception after the conference. I will be happy to put your office in touch with the conference organisers nearer the time if you want more information about the content of the other speeches.

I still have a few questions for you though!

- Will Hillary want to attend the conference for the latter part of the afternoon or the whole day?
- Will you have other plans for the Friday night in London or would Hillary prefer to go straight to Chequers?
- Tony and Cherie's preference is for a low-key weekend and a quiet dinner for the three of them. Are you happy with that or would Hillary prefer a more social event?
- Cherie very much hopes that Hillary will be able to plant a tree in the grounds of Chequers. I presume she is still happy to do that?

I do hope we will get a chance to have a drink together at some point, either in London or Washington in April. You are all doing an amazing job over there. I just hope that by the time we meet again, all this madness will be behind you.

FIONA MILLAR

13 May 1999 | A CHILDLINE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

Chaired by Cherie Booth QC

Hearing Children's Voices



The Honourable Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC
USA

18 March 1999

Dear Melanne Verveer

I have pleasure in enclosing a brochure for the Children and the law conference on Thursday 13 May at which Hillary Clinton has very kindly agreed to be the guest speaker. We are very grateful to the First Lady for her support for this important conference.

I will be in contact again nearer the time but should you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to ring me at ChildLine on 00 44 171-239 1064.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mary MacLeod
Director of Policy, Research and Development

○ CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

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Chairman Esther Rantzen OBE | Chief Executive Valerie Howarth

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Hearing Children's Voices



Sponsored by **THE EXPRESS**

A ChildLine conference on children and the law

LONDON • 13 MAY 1999

Topics covered will include:

- The problem of very young witnesses.
- Children in care.
- 'Tug of love' children in divorce cases.
- Interviewing and therapy for child witnesses.
- Prosecuting abusers: is there an alternative?
- Children who cannot ask for help.
- The role of the police.
- What happens in other jurisdictions?



Cherie Booth QC
Conference Chair



Hillary Rodham Clinton
Guest Speaker

Keynote Speaker:
The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP
Home Secretary

A high level panel of experts will be chaired by
Esther Rantzen OBE



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ChildLine

1998 annual review

