CHLDREN
FIRST Protecting
Scotland's
Children

THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

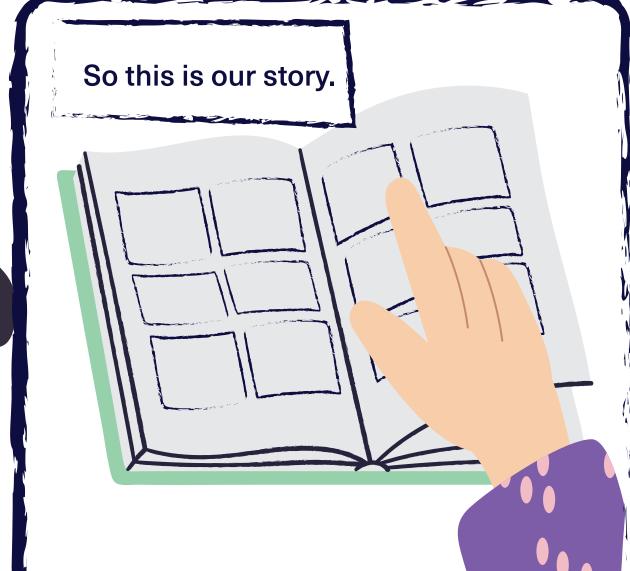
Those were the words uttered from a Sheriff in court and they've stuck.

"Children have no right to an opinion".



It's wrong and things have to...

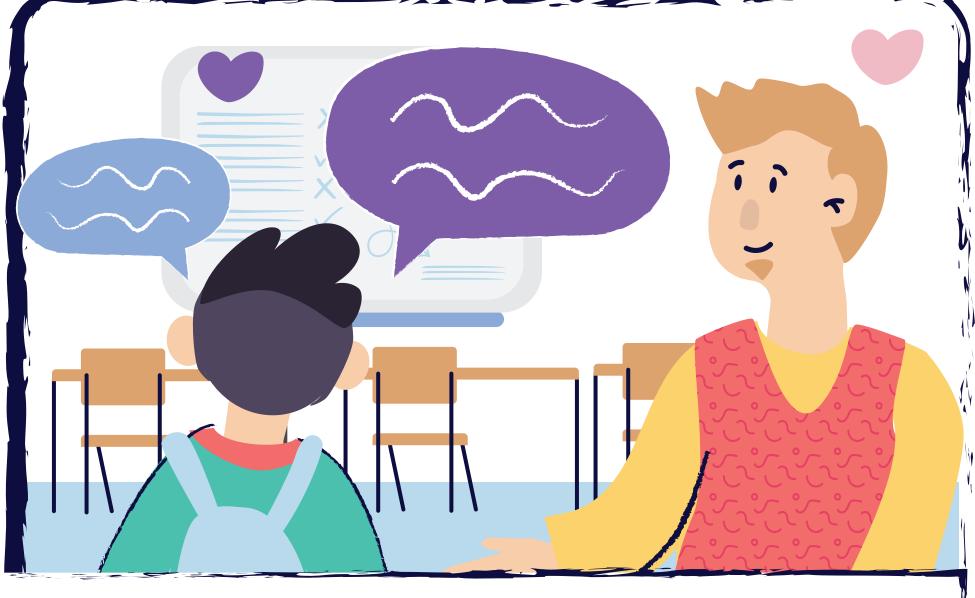




My children found the courage to speak up about bad things their Dad did, things I didn't even know about. When asked why they hadn't told me, they said it was to keep Mummy safe.



It is one of the bravest things they will ever do, I think of them as my



In that immediate moment at school their voice was heard and they were protected, follow up interviews were handled with kindness and care and we felt safe.



Heartbreakingly they were forgotten when the case went to court, which was disappointing and distressing.





If only everyone thought this way.



Telling my children they have to go to their Dad, after the court granted unsupervised access, despite them saying they didn't want to, is something that will haunt me for the rest of my life.



Imagine being expected to wear different masks, go against your natural parental instincts and turn your back on your children's wishes and safety, whilst they cling harder to you for protection.



That's why Bairns Hoose is so

important, for every child that needs it.



I felt broken and threatened, I could no longer keep them safe. It shouldn't be this way.



The bottom line is, every child has a right to have their voice heard.

The court failed to protect my children and uphold their rights and so they suffered further pain and trauma.



The court also destroyed my son's trust, to the point where he wouldn't speak to anyone.

But at last, the darkest clouds are lifting and my children are getting the help

But at last, the darkest clouds are lifting and my children are getting the help they need through

Bairns Hoose.

It's so refreshing to know someone else is there to protect them and put their voice first, working for the child and making sure their voice is heard, and importantly listening.

My children are no longer forgotten. No child should ever be.

childrenfirst.org.uk/bairnshoose