



# LISTENING TO YOUNG CARE LEAVERS: 'DO'S AND 'DON'T'S

## YOU MUST NOT

### FUND EXPLOITATION

Donors should not fund institutions – instead they should direct their money towards programmes that keep families together.

### CAUSE HARM

Children must not be harmed or exploited in institutions, or in any care placement. There should also be no prejudice or bigotry directed towards them.

### BE UNREGULATED

Institutions and care settings should not be run without proper documentation.

### PREVENT REUNIFICATION

Children should not stay in institutions for a long period of time. Family reunification must be a priority.

### GENERALISE

Do not generalise children - each child has a different background and unique needs. Instead, address the issues of placement in an institution on a case by case basis.

### VOLUNTEER IN INSTITUTIONS

Young volunteers must not be allowed to work in institutions.



## GOOD TO KNOW

### EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The life of every child in the institution matters, regardless of their background.

### CHILD PARTICIPATION

Every child has the right to participate in decision-making processes which impact their life. Young people have an important role to play in care reform. They should be well informed and play a crucial role in the process.

### BEST INTERESTS

The best interests of the child must be the most important thing in any care system.

### TAILORED CARE

Help must be culturally and linguistically tailored.

### EDUCATION

There should be more education and outreach on care reform for professionals, families, and the general public.



## YOU MUST

### SUPPORT FAMILIES

There must be better support for poor families in order to prevent separation. For example, there must be more employment opportunities for these families.

### SUPPORT REUNITED FAMILIES

When children are reunited with their families, it's important that they are still supported in some way to prevent any further harm or abuse.

### SUPPORT CARE LEAVERS

There should be better support for care leavers and children preparing to transition out of care. Care givers should also be included in this support.

### CHECK

Donors must ensure that there are monitoring systems in place to ensure that their money is being used safely and correctly.

### EDUCATE

Information is power. We must educate children in institutions, schools, religious institutions and the community at large on child trafficking and exploitation.

### RESEARCH

Donors should do their research before donating or giving gifts to an institution or child.

### TRAIN

Every professional working within care reform should be trained and informed about the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and have a trauma-informed approach to their work.

