



LCF RESPONSE TO THE REVD BERNARD HOWARD JOHN SMYTH

On the 21 November 2024 the LCF issued a press release following the publication of the Keith Makin review. The LCF remains, like many, appalled by the abuse perpetrated by John Smyth that has been reported in the Keith Makin review, as well as by the failures by many to act.

For the avoidance of doubt John Smyth's activities did not take place under the auspices of the LCF.

The matters referred to in the Keith Makin review relate to a period substantially before any of our current staff team or trustees were employed by the Charity, or in a leadership role.

As the Keith Makin report notes, in 2003, when the LCF leadership at that time became aware of allegations of abuse by John Smyth, it removed him from membership, and it took steps to report and curtail his activities in South Africa, which (the current trustees understand) led to his resignation as National Director of the Christian Legal Association. Individuals on the LCF National Committee also informed the Zambezi Trust, Doctors for Life and a church it was known he was attending in South Africa.

The LCF is not able to respond on behalf of HH John Colyer, Mark Mullins or any other individual identified in your blog, but their response should be sought prior to publishing your blog. It is evidently a mistake to draw a line between what may or may not have been known by a small number of individuals in the LCF, and what was known or should have been done by the membership at large; the trustees understand that the internal memo titled "Individual and Organisations that Bring the LCF into Disrepute" was not sent to the membership.

The trustees are not in a position to comment on the type and duration of any support given by the LCF to the Zambesi Trust, nor the due diligence steps that were undertaken beforehand, but understand that all support immediately ended when the Ruston Report came to light. For many years the LCF has been committed internationally to Christian legal education, aid and research. In accordance with our financial regulations we only provide support to partner organisations with whom we have a memorandum of understanding, and after due diligence has been completed.

Following the publication of the Makin review, the current LCF trustees considered his report, seeking to identify what lessons can be learned from it. The LCF has in place a fully implemented safeguarding policy and, should any safeguarding issues arise, they would be promptly addressed in accordance with it.

*20 November 2025
Ben Fullbrook
Chair of Trustees*