Media reporting on child homicide victims Consultation

Criminal Justice Reform

Scottish Government

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For the attention of Scottish government officials responsible for Media Reporting of Child Homicide consultation

**Re:** [**Media reporting on child homicide victims**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/media-reporting-child-homicide-victims-consultation-issues/)

I wish to confirm support for proposals to ensure anonymity for children who die as a result of crime, as outlined in the Media Reporting of Child Homicide consultation.

I support the call for legislation to moderate media coverage of child homicide cases.

Every family member bereaved by crime deserves to be free from exposure to explicit details about their loved one’s death. In particular, we emphasise the traumatic impact graphic news coverage can have on surviving siblings, who become victims in their own right. It is increasingly challenging for all family members to avoid media coverage and online content, and to shield children from harmful content as the internet is a daily essential for schoolwork and entertainment. Family members live in fear of accidently being exposed to age-inappropriate and violent coverage about their family member’s case. Imposing anonymity provisions would be a major step towards safeguarding family members and surviving siblings.

Specifically, I am in favour of:

1. Automatic right to anonymity for children who die as a result of crime
2. The family having the right to waive anonymity
3. Introduction of a victim-centred and trauma-informed media Code of Conduct

Scotland is a progressive nation and strives to implement new legislation and policies to support all children. Every citizen of this nation has a right to be treated with kindness, dignity, and respect. Therefore, we strongly believe we can and must extend this right of anonymity to children who die as a result of crime.