

# A third of young Manchester Arena survivors haven't had support

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

Nearly a third of the children who survived the Manchester Arena bombing have had no professional support, according to a report published on the sixth anniversary of the attack.

Twenty-two people were killed and hundreds injured when Salman Abedi detonated a suicide bomb in the foyer of the venue at the end of an Ariana Grande concert on May 22, 2017.

Three quarters of children and young

people who were at the venue that night were psychologically damaged, according to a report by researchers at Lancaster University and the National Emergencies Trust.

Twenty-nine per cent have never received professional support in the six years since. Of those, four in ten said it was never offered to them.

The government is expected to finalise within a few weeks a draft of a "survivor's charter" to guarantee rights for survivors of terrorist attacks. It is

expected to include a guaranteed timeline for mental health support.

The Prince of Wales, patron of the National Emergencies Trust, said the report showed that young people who had been victims of terrorism had needs "unique to their age". "These are minds that need the space to have their voices heard and feelings acknowledged. We must listen to their stories now in order to learn for the future," William said.

The report, titled *Bee the Difference*, found that 93 per cent of young survivors

felt they needed support after the attack, but 70 per cent received no professional help within a month and 31 per cent received none within a year. More than 200 young survivors took part in the research. All were under 18 at the time, and some were injured.

While some of the professional help offered by teachers, counsellors and GPs was helpful, some made matters worse, the report said.

One survivor said: "The tutor told me that I should take the attack as a posi-

tive experience — that this 'hardship' would make me a stronger person. He said not many young people experience hardships nowadays. This felt totally insensitive."

Mhairi Sharp, head of the National Emergencies Trust, said: "There has been a glaring gap in knowledge about how UK disasters affect children and young people. Six years after the attack almost one in four young Manchester survivors continue to receive psychological support today."

## Grandmother found dead on Greek island

Peter Chappell

A grandmother who vanished on a Greek island during a family holiday three weeks ago has been found dead.

Susan Hart, 74, from Bath, was in Telendos with her husband, Ed, when she disappeared on April 30.

She had been showing signs of dementia but had not been given a diagnosis and went missing when her husband went climbing.

She had stayed behind to read because of her health problems. When the family returned to where they had left her she was gone.

Her daughter, Ruth Landale, said the family was devastated. Her stepfather had identified her mother's body, she said. It will be repatriated to Switzerland where Hart was a resident. A post-mortem examination is expected to be carried out in Greece.

Hart leaves three daughters who grew up in Bath but now live in Canada, Australia and London with their young families.

Landale said her mother had been showing symptoms of dementia over the past few years. She had put out a plea for information about her whereabouts four days ago. "It's been a stressful and distressing time for the whole family," she said.

Telendos is a small island about half a mile off the coast of Kalymnos in the Aegean.

The tiny island is shaped like a semi-circle. There is a single, steep, flat-top mountain the sides of which drop directly down to the sea. The only settlement is at the southern tip of the island, where the land is flat.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that staff were providing consular assistance to the family and were in contact with the local authorities.



RODRIGO OROPEZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## The spirit of Kahlo blossoms in the rain at Dior's new show

It's seven years since Maria Grazia Chiuri became creative director at Dior, and seven years too that she has dreamt of presenting a collection in Mexico. On Saturday she finally pulled it off (Anna Murphy writes). "It

was the first country I thought of," she said backstage before the show. "But I was told it was too complicated." Why Mexico City? "Because the Frida Kahlo exhibition I saw in Rome when I was growing up was the first I ever saw by a female artist and it

made a huge impression. She was talking about so many things that we talk about now. Identity, gender, the body. And she set out creating herself and recreating herself through clothes."

The locus for this latest Cruise presentation was the multi-colonnaded square at the centre of the Jesuit-founded college where Kahlo studied and met her future partner Diego Rivera. The



unplanned aspect of proceedings was the torrential rain.

As for the clothes, that signature Kahlo switcheroo between the feminine and masculine was centre stage. For every lace frock or full skirt there was a mannish suit, or plain shirting that evoked a painter's smock. The models had Kahlo-esque plaits and wore butterfly necklaces. A framed

Dior's creative director was inspired by Frida Kahlo, the Mexican artist, and the models had Kahlo-esque plaits and wore butterfly necklaces

collection of butterflies still sits above the late artist's bed in Casa Azul, her home in the city, now a museum. It was originally put there so that she had something to look at during her many illnesses.

One striking pink gown was inspired by an example worn by Kahlo in one of her self-portraits. Twenty white dresses had been embroidered with red hearts to evoke another of her works.

The diverse artisanship of the country also played a leading role. One of the brand's signature bar jackets in white was given a new dimension by way of multicoloured needlework at the waist. Square-cut garments referenced the simple lines of the handwoven and embroidered tunic known as the *huipil*.

Part of the motivation for Chiuri, she explained, was to showcase "how traditional craftsmanship can be modernised for a new customer. It's important for the survival of these precious skills."

# Methodist Church 'unsafe for women'

Kaya Burgess Religious Affairs Correspondent

There is a "misogynistic and toxic" attitude towards women in the Methodist Church and many have reported inappropriate touching, lewd remarks and bullying, according to an internal review seen by The Times.

A report said that the Methodist Church was "not seen as a safe place" and criticised senior leaders' "failure to respond" to allegations of abusive or discriminatory behaviour, contributing to a "difficult environment" for women.

There are 164,000 active members in 4,004 Methodist churches in Britain.

The report was compiled by Meg Munn, a former Labour MP who works

with churches on safeguarding policies. It said: "Some victims and survivors told me that there is a culture of sexism within the Methodist Church. In the words of one woman, the culture is 'misogynistic and toxic'."

"This included commenting on clothing, inappropriate touching, lewd remarks and demeaning asides, sometimes of an explicit nature. Women spoke of being belittled by men."

Church leaders must "seek to understand why the church continues to be unsafe", the report added. It noted that "most of the leaders in the church are male", adding: "Some men are comfortable with having that privilege and are content to benefit from it."

The report was commissioned as "an

internal inquiry ... not intended to be published", though Munn was told that it "may lead to changes in church procedures". A copy was shared with The Times by a source concerned that lessons would not be learnt if its conclusions were not made public.

The report said the church should review why its training programmes "have not led to [a] better response, particularly from some senior leaders". It cited an internal review of "past cases", which noted: "The culture is made unsafe not only by the actions of the perpetrators, but also by the actions of those in authority ... who have failed to respond in a way that recognises the reality of the abuse."

The report was commissioned after

Rev Steven Wild, who was president of the Methodist Conference from 2015 to 2016, faced complaints. He was suspended as chairman of a regional Methodist district in September 2021. The church said the complaints "did not relate to children" but that no further details could be discussed.

Wild said in a statement last year: "I categorically deny that I have ever — or would ever — intentionally behave in a way that would bring the church that I have loved and faithfully served for over 40 years into disrepute."

A church insider said the report should be presented to the meeting of the Methodist Conference next month "like a fire engine with its sirens blaring", but that "the failings and actions

of senior ministers will not be shared".

A spokeswoman for the church said: "We recognise that there are reported incidents of sexism and misogyny within our church, and properly listening and responding to those who have been abused still needs to improve."

She said the church had introduced a service for victims of abuse and developed an anti-bullying policy as part of a review of its safeguarding strategy, adding: "As part of this report we spoke to many survivors, and we are grateful that they were willing to describe their experiences ... We will study the recommendations of this report carefully and use them as we continue our work to improve our response to survivors of abuse."