



The Lisa Maria Foundation

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG

Press Release 30th October 2024 – Reaction to Man granted bail

The Lisa Maria Foundation would like to express complete shock and disappointment in a court decision which grants bail to a man who is accused of attempting to murder two young girls. With one of the girls sustaining 16 stab wounds and losing 40% of her blood, surely this is a violent enough attack against a child to show that the system must do everything in its power to protect these children and others! It is a sad day when the attempted murder of children does not even merit having one's freedom restricted.

This is a prime example of how the safeguarding of children and youth is not treated with the urgency and importance that it deserves. For years, the Foundation has been advocating for changes in laws which protect our children and which should send a strong message that the harm and abuse of children and youth is regarded as a serious crime and will not be taken lightly. This decision to grant bail, echos the exact opposite, that is that safeguarding is still not a national priority and that the victims' rights to feel protected and safe are once again compromised. The Foundation pleads that the authorities ensure that these children and others like them are given the protection they deserve and that the victims of crimes are given more consideration when these decisions are taken.

We cannot expect to have a society which minimises the harm and abuse of children, if at a judicial level we are not showing that these are crimes that are not tolerated. We must be mindful of what message this sends to victims of abuse and to abusers alike.

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