

# Statement from Wolston Park survivor, Sandra Robinson

*15 June 2017*

First of all, I challenge each and every one of you to go home and lock yourself in solitary for seven days and give the key to a male member of your family that you trust for those seven days. Easy, right, no problem.

Well let's just change the scenario. Let's change the room to have nothing in it and let's have you disorientated in a strange environment and give the key to a person who you don't know and you hope they haven't lost their humanity by working there and being spat on and bashed and bitten and faeces thrown at them and loads of other stuff that you probably couldn't even imagine.

Can you trust them to feed you every day, as sometimes we weren't?

Can you trust them to give you fluid, as these rooms had no tap or sink, and sometimes it would be days before we actually got water? We were dehydrated and some girls have had a battle with renal problems.

Can you trust them to take you to the bathroom and not watch you go to the toilet?

Can you trust them to take you to the showers and not ogle you and make rude and crude remarks, and can you trust them not to think that they have the right to just come over and touch you and do whatever they feel pleased to do to you, and shower you personally where all your private parts get washed extremely well?

Can you trust them to not dope you up on extreme psychotic drugs that are for the sole use of the criminally insane?

Can you trust them not to do unknown sexual abuse and you find out by waking up with him on top of you?

Can you trust them not to bring a friend to that solitary room and do unspeakable things to you that to this day cannot be spoken about and nearly sends you into the depths of depression when it comes to mind?

If this happened to me then I am 100% sure that it happened to others.

Can you trust him not to torture you and you are left with scars for life such as cigarette burns?

Can you trust him to allow you to brush your teeth or comb your hair, as this was not allowed and to this day some of us can look in the mirror and still see ourselves with green teeth, as stated in one girl's file by a doctor, and see also the wire and string our hair had become and tufts of hair missing from falling out from malnutrition?

Can you trust him not to give you multiple shock treatments and to not put foreign objects in your private parts when you come out from said treatment?

I challenge each and every one of you to survive this as an adult, let alone as State ward children, who did not have criminal behaviour and were not mentally ill, who survived this treatment for weeks, months and even years, whose pleas for help fell on deaf ears.

The sadness of this is doctors knew and allowed this, and even ordered the drugs and shock treatment and sterilisations to be given.

Do you know, or even realise, or even care that State ward children died there from this barbaric, horrific, inexcusable and many more words I can't even think of treatment?

You have inherited righting the wrongs of the past that both sides of Government knew about and were complicit in.

It is cruel what happened to us but it is also cruel what is being done to us now by making us fight for so long—some as long as 20 years and others for 10+ years.

It is time to finish it.