



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 2 May 2019 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated a core participant in the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 13 June 2019.
2. On 13 June 2019 an application was made by **Nahamu** for core participant status in this investigation.
3. I made a provisional ruling declining Nahamu's application on 5 July 2019. Nahamu was provided with an opportunity to renew the application. Nahamu did not renew the application. Accordingly, this notice sets out my final determination of the application.
4. The Inquiry has published a [definition of scope](#) of investigation and an [update note](#) which provides further information about the themes that will be examined and structure of the investigation. This investigation will be thematic in nature and examine the nature and adequacy of current child protection policies, practices and procedures within religious organisations and settings within England and Wales.
5. Applications for core participant status are considered under Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 which provides:

(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.

(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether –

a. The person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;

b. The person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

c. The person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.

(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on –

a. the date specified by the chairman in writing; or

b. the end of the inquiry.

6. In determining the application, the matters listed in Rule 5(2) must be considered, but the list is not exhaustive and I may also take into account other relevant matters.
7. The application describes Nahamu as a think tank with a focus on a broad range of issues relating to extremism in the Jewish community. It has gathered, analysed and presented data relating to patterns of extremist behaviour and the harm caused in the Jewish Orthodox community. As part of its work, Nahamu has conducted focus groups and runs a WhatsApp private chat group. Through this work, Nahamu has identified several themes: lack of sexual knowledge and context for healthy sexual relationships; religiously mandated attitudes around sexuality and gender; problematic positions on democracy, civil liberties and the rule of law, under-reporting, under-engagement and misleading engagement with Local Authorities, police and CPS; support for abusers and the failure to address recent or current sexual abuse; covering up of historic abuse; disparity between policies and actual practice; and parallel patterns of extremist behaviours and attitudes with other ethnic/faith communities.
8. The application is put on the basis that Nahamu has played a direct and significant role and has a significant interest in the matters to which the Inquiry relates because it has experience of compiling data on issues and behaviours within ultra-orthodox Jewish communities, and it has gathered evidence of harmful community practices including fraud and other forms of corruption, the promulgation of hate speech, poor practice in education, gender-based violence and safeguarding concerns. The application also states that Nahamu has amassed evidence and analysis relating to the role played in maintaining this structure by some Charedi synagogues, Batei Din, community pastoral organisations, summer camps, religious unions, religious



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

professionals acting as special advisors or liaisons between community groups, and local and central government and religious charities.

9. I consider that Nahamu's application does not meet the criteria set out in Rule 5(2)(a) or (b) for designation as a core participant in this investigation. As set out in the update note, this investigation will focus upon organisational structures and child protection practices within England and Wales. It will look at whether there are common issues across religious organisations and settings and how they can be met and overcome. Whilst I appreciate that Nahamu has an interest in child protection within Jewish religious organisations and settings, I understand that it has a focus on a broad range of issues relating to extremism in the Orthodox Jewish community and it is not clear on the application that it has a particular focus on children or child sexual abuse. Therefore, I am not satisfied that Nahamu's interest is "significant".

10. I should make clear that it is not necessary for an individual or organisation to be a core participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry. Nahamu may have relevant information to give in relation to the themes being considered in this investigation and the Inquiry will consider in due course whether it wishes to make a formal request for witness evidence from Nahamu.

11. I will keep the scope of the investigation and the designation of core participants under review as the Inquiry progresses and further invitations to apply for core participant status may be made as the investigation proceeds. My decision not to designate Nahamu as a core participant in this particular investigation does not preclude it from making a future application in respect of any investigation. I will consider any future application which Nahamu wishes to make on its merits.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE
Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

7 August 2019