

Cruse Bereavement Care

Information for Journalists



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WHAT IS CRUSE?

- Cruse Bereavement Care exists to promote the well-being of bereaved people and to enable anyone suffering bereavement caused by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss
- Cruse is the UK's leading organisation providing free support to anyone bereaved by death
- Cruse was founded in 1959
- Cruse has some 135 Areas/Branches across England, Northern Ireland & Wales with about 5,500 specially trained volunteers giving over half a million hours a year to support bereaved people
- Nearly 90,000 people contacted Cruse in 2006/7 and almost 23,000 clients were given support; almost 9000 support emails were sent and the annual rate of calls to the helpline was almost 17,000

WHAT DOES CRUSE OFFER?

- **A National Helpline**
Bereaved people, their friends and family members, and concerned professionals call the line with a variety of requests ranging from immediate to long term support.
- **Email support**
Bereaved people increasingly find this convenient as a way of seeking help, advice and support
- **Face to Face Support**
Cruse volunteers offer emotional and practical support to bereaved people to enable them to understand their experiences and to help them cope with their loss. In 2006/7 almost 23,000 people received locally provided one-to-one support
- **Support Groups for Bereaved People**
In recent years there has been a growing recognition that for some bereaved people a group may often be the best means of support as it is a way for them to share their experiences with people who have suffered similar losses
- **Welfare Advice and Information**
It's a difficult time and advice given can range from information on benefits to arranging funerals and dealing with an estate
- **Training for Those Working with Bereaved People**
There is a range of courses, including a one day introduction course on Loss and Bereavement for Professionals as well as a variety of courses designed for specific roles/needs. Volunteers have opportunities for continuous professional development and national accreditation.
- **Helpful Literature and Publications**
Cruse provides a wide range of literature and publications for bereaved people or those working with them
- **Bereavement Support for Children and Young People**
As with adults, feelings of grief in children can include acute sadness, fear, guilt, loneliness and desperation. Children have very particular support appropriate to their age provided by our trained volunteers. In 2006/7 there were 25 new young clients every week and almost 2000 messages posted by young people on their special website at RD4U.org.uk.

CRUSE'S INFLUENCE

Cruse is a campaigning organisation that actively seeks to influence government policy on issues concerning bereavement in order to make life easier for bereaved people and for them to be better understood

BEREAVEMENT ISSUES IN MODERN SOCIETY

Bereavement as the Last Taboo: sadly it is still an uncomfortable topic for many people, and yet it is a universal experience.

Effects of different types of bereavement: for example, following disaster, suicide or the death of a child

Bereavement as a health issue: Cruse aims to raise awareness of its effects on a person's physical and emotional health

Topical issues with burials and graveyards: including reuse of graves, costs of funerals, regulation of the funeral industry and crematoria

Bereavement in the workplace: how do employers and employees cope at this difficult time and the impacts of grief?

Is the way society grieves changing? Many say it is as society becomes more secular and more diverse

Grief in a multicultural society: different communities and cultures cope with bereavement differently

Role of the volunteer within the community: volunteers may bring their own experiences to their work, for the benefit of others

Do men and women grieve differently?

CRUSE AND THE MEDIA

- Cruse is frequently called on to provide information and evidence on issues of bereavement and welcomes approaches from journalists
- Where possible we will try to assist journalists by finding case studies as well as providing background material for articles
- At Cruse we enjoy working with journalists, researchers, broadcasters and film makers to our mutual benefit and to raise awareness of bereavement
- Our Chief Executive Debbie Kerlake is available for interviews and comments

SOME TELLING FACTS ABOUT CRUSE

- The majority of people who come to Cruse have lost someone through illness, but in 2006/7 one in eight of longer term clients had been bereaved following a sudden and traumatic death - accident, suicide, homicide
- Cruse's highly trained and committed volunteers donate over half a million hours of service - a significant contribution to the economy worth something like £2.5m

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.cruse.org.uk

www.RD4U.co.uk (our website for young people)

Cruse Bereavement Care's Helpline 0844 477 9400

Administration: 020 8939 9530

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