



Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act 2022 Summary

The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 introduced and updated laws about and in connection with sexual offences relating to cases of trafficking or exploitation and the amendments of law and procedure to improve support and protect people from harm. Changes to the law include capture the specific and highly intrusive behaviours commonly known as “up-skirting” and “down-blousing”, the sending of an unwanted sexual image, offences relating to grooming and extending the scope of the abuse of position of trust.

The Act extends anonymity protections for victim-survivors of sexual offences so that they remain anonymous for their lifetime and for 25 years after their death. It also includes new measures to improve support for people who have been exploited, and to regulate positions of trust such as carers and religious instructors.

How does this relate to Older Victim-Survivors?

Older victim-survivors often rely on others for care or support, and this can create relationships of trust that may be abused. The Act strengthens the law around positions of trust, helping to safeguard people who might be vulnerable because of their dependence on others.