

# THE Poverty Truth Commission

*We are deeply dismayed by the statutory support provided for children being looked after by kinship carers. We call upon all levels of government - and all political parties - to work together to **give these children the support and resources** that they deserve.*

My name is Jessie and I am a kinship carer aged 59 years. I became part of this group 6 years ago through the 20 year addiction of my youngest son. My grandson was born a Methadone baby and I was totally unaware of what lay ahead. I had very little input from Social Services and felt very isolated. I began to meet other women in the same position and we now have one of the biggest groups in Glasgow; 38 carers and 68 kids in the group.

We campaign tirelessly for these children and the carers. We became part of the Poverty Truth Commission last March 2009, and with very influential Commissioners it has certainly raised the media attention on kinship care. We are working together to get the relevant parties to implement our most basic needs, instead of passing the buck and totally ignoring these kids.

We feel discrimination comes into kinship kids lives in terms of the services and support that we can access, as a large percentage of these kids are very damaged.

We lost a generation to drugs in the 1980's and we are not letting this happen again. Early intervention is crucial and we are very much aware in 2010 that this is our future.

Jessie Harvey