For most parents, our children are everything to us: our hopes, our ambitions, our future. Our children are cherished and loved.

But sadly, some children are not so fortunate. Some children’s lives are different. Dreadfully different. Instead of the joy, warmth and security of normal family life, these children’s lives are filled with risk, fear, and danger: and from what most of us would regard as the worst possible source – from the people closest to them.

Victoria Climbié was one of those children. At the hands of those entrusted with her care she suffered appallingly and eventually died. Her case was a shocking example from a list of children terribly mistreated and abused. The names of the children involved, echoing down the years, are a standing shame to us all.

Every inquiry has brought forward proposals for change and improvement to the child protection system. There have been reforms. Things have got better for many. But the fact that a child like Victoria Climbié can still suffer almost unimaginable cruelty to the point of eventually losing her young life shows that things are still very far from right.

Tony Blair [2003 Prime Minister]
Editor's comments - [Every Child Matters is published alongside a detailed response to Lord Laming’s Report into the death of Victoria Climbié, and a report produced by the Social Exclusion Unit on raising the educational attainment of children in care.

The effect of this publication has been felt throughout government at both a national and local level; in effect providing a charter for the rights of children and the responsibilities of UK authorities toward children in UK society, including the social structure that is sport.

See the [Every Child Matters website] and Cryer, J. (Year). *This page title in italics*.

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