



MEDIA RELEASE : FOR IMMEDIATE USE

SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTS MARIPOSA TRUST CEO ZOE CLARK-COATES TO CO-CHAIR THE REVIEW INTO BABY LOSS REFORM

Following the announcement in February by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, that he was launching **a review into baby loss and certification**, he has appointed the Founder and CEO of the Mariposa Trust, **Zoe Clark-Coates BCAh** to co-chair the review.

The review will get to work immediately, with its first Panel Advisory Meeting on the 12th April. It is expected to present its initial report to Parliament in the Summer, and it is expected that the final report of the review will be presented to the Secretary of State & Parliament in the Autumn.



Baby loss continues to affect an estimated 1 in 4 pregnancies, leading to around 250,000 losses each year across the UK. These losses have a deep and traumatic affect on parents, families and friends, however for losses prior to 24-weeks gestation, no formal recognition option exists in the way of official certification. The announcement by Mr Hunt paves the way for possible changes to make certification options available to parents and improvements to the care and support given to bereaved parents. In short, this may represent a breakthrough in how society acknowledges baby loss and its devastating impact.

Since the launch of the Mariposa Trust in 2012, Zoe and her husband Andy Clark-Coates have developed the charity into one of the UK's leading support organisations, providing support that reaches over 50,000 people each week. In addition, they have campaigned for changes to bereavement support, gaining the charity a position as a major stakeholder with the Department of Health.

The appointment of Zoe Clark-Coates alongside co-chair Sam Collinge, Maternity Bereavement Service Manager and specialist Midwife at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, marks a significant move by the Government to: reduce baby loss; acknowledge the importance of each baby; and to work towards ensuring that parents across Britain have access to top quality bereavement support. The commissioning of the review by the Health Secretary is a central part of the Government's policy development based around the 'Compassionate Care' concept.

Following the Friday 23rd March announcement, Zoe Clark-Coates said:

"I am delighted to have been appointed to co-lead this review. My hope is that we will see a national standard of care, regardless of where you live in the UK, which will ensure each parent receives the care and support they need, and that every parent will have the right to have their baby formally registered if they wish to. So many parents have told us that in such a way, their baby's short precious life will not be forgotten; we want to see if this can become a reality."

Zoe continued "I would like to commend the ongoing work of MP's and Peers such as Tim Loughton MP, Will Quince MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Baroness Benjamin and many others, who have used their position of influence to speak about the issues surrounding baby loss, which has helped pave the way for change to happen."

Jeremy Hunt tweeted on Friday evening:



NOTES FOR EDITORS:

ABOUT ZOE CLARK-COATES:

Zoe Clark-Coates is a highly respected public expert in the field of baby loss and grief, who together with her husband Andy Clark-Coates also has had heartbreaking personal experience of losing five babies. They also are the parents of two young daughters, and have dedicated the past 6-years to raising awareness of the issue of baby loss through the Mariposa Trust, drawing together people who have both experienced loss and those who haven't, to support and bring about change for hundreds of thousands of grieving parents.

ABOUT BABY LOSS:

When parents go through the devastating loss of a baby, whether during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, they often feel isolated and unable to process the overwhelming grief and trauma that miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal and early years loss brings. What Zoe and Andy discovered is that what most parents do not realise, is that they are not alone and sadly around 700 other parents will go through the same loss each day in the UK.

BABY LOSS IN THE UK:

Statistics for baby loss show that around one in four pregnancies end in loss, with around 250,000 miscarriages, and round 7,000 stillbirths, neonatal and early years losses each year in the UK. Globally figures stand at an estimated 30,000,000 miscarriages and around 8,000,000 stillbirths, neonatal and early years losses. For each child lost, parents, extended family and friends are left traumatised and often with no formal acknowledgement that their child ever existed.

ABOUT THE MARIPOSA TRUST:

The Mariposa Trust, often known by the name of it's leading division 'Saying Goodbye', provides support globally reaching over 50,000 people each week who have experienced or been affected by baby loss; some recently and some decades ago. The charity provides a range of support options via six support divisions, from: online support via social media and forums; to befrienders and therapy.

THE MARIPOSA TRUST'S DIVISIONS COVER EVERY ANGLE OF BABY LOSS:

- **Saying Goodbye:** provides support for anyone who has suffered baby loss.
See: : www.sayinggoodbye.org
- **GrowingYou:** provides support for people who are going through pregnancy, following baby loss

- **Holding Hope:** provides advice and support for those going through fertility treatment
- **Waiting for You:** walks alongside people who are going through the adoption process
- **So Cherished:** supports people who have received a terminal or life altering diagnosis of their baby.
- **Love in Every Tear:** supports people who are supporting others through loss.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MARIPOSA TRUST:

www.mariposatrust.org

www.sayinggoodbye.org.

SayingGoodbye on social media:

www.facebook.com/sayinggoodbyeuk

@SayingGoodbyeUK.

Contact us:

office@sayinggoodbye.org.

Our dedicated Support Team are here to help you. Contact them at:

support@sayinggoodbye.org.

Press enquiries should be sent to:

press@sayinggoodbye.org

Hi-res images available.