

The ABC of CSA

Style description & selected images alt-text

1. Style description	1
2. Selected images alt-text	2
G	2
H	2
J	3
V	3
Z	4
3. Appendix	4
Notes from chat with illustrator Imogen Harvey-Lewis	4
Notes from Artistic Director Viv Gordon	5

1. Style description

The cards are titled “The ABC of CSA (Child Sexual Abuse)”. It’s a pack of 26 double-sided cards, with one card per letter of the alphabet. Each card is about the size of two traditional playing cards placed side by side, in portrait layout. There is text on both sides. On one side the letters are integrated in an illustration, on the other they’re in plain text.

The text integrated in illustration is split in playful ways. Most letters are coloured in a powerful red, which makes them jump out of the cards. They’re sometimes dotted around in a trail, sometimes fitted into parts of the decor, sometimes elements that characters interact with.

Each card focuses on one or two characters. They are drawn in ways that show how they’re feeling inside, rather than how their bodies actually look from the outside. This is accentuated through disproportion. For example, if a character is looking around anxiously, their eyes might be bigger than expected and expand outside the boundaries of their face. Eyes are pointy-almond-shaped, and hands have very thin and long fingers, which makes them look very distinctive. The colours are soft. Every element is drawn with a black outline and filled with colour. There are no gradients, which gives the images a lot of contrast. Shadows and depth are done with fine black lines.

2. Selected images alt-text

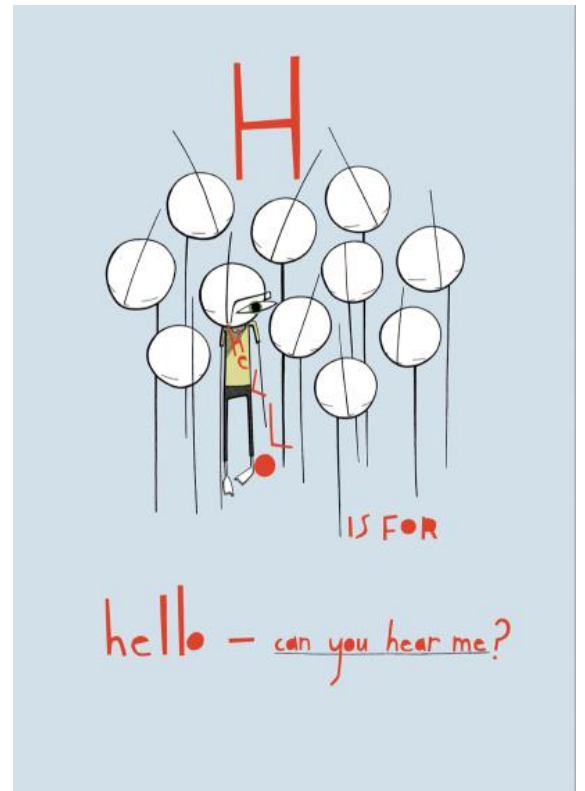
G

White background. The main colours are grey and, with brown skin tones. One character. "G is for grief is an emotion I didn't expect". This card brings up mourning and loneliness. The character is standing in a circular pool of tears, which is cradled by the curve of the letter "G" of "grief". Their head is slightly bowed down and their eyes are closed. A steady stream of tears is falling out of their right eye. Thin streaks of hair are pointing out at the back of their head.



H

Grey-blue background. The main colours are green, white and red. Eleven characters. "H is for hello - can you hear me?". This card shows us a sense of searching for community and understanding. The main character stands in the centre, wearing a green T-shirt and black trousers, one eye closed, the other looking straight forward. The word "hello" falls from their mouth over the length of their body, the "o" at their feet. The vertical line of their nose expands out of their head at the top. They're surrounded by ten characters whose bodies are single vertical lines topped with white circular bowed heads with closed eyes.



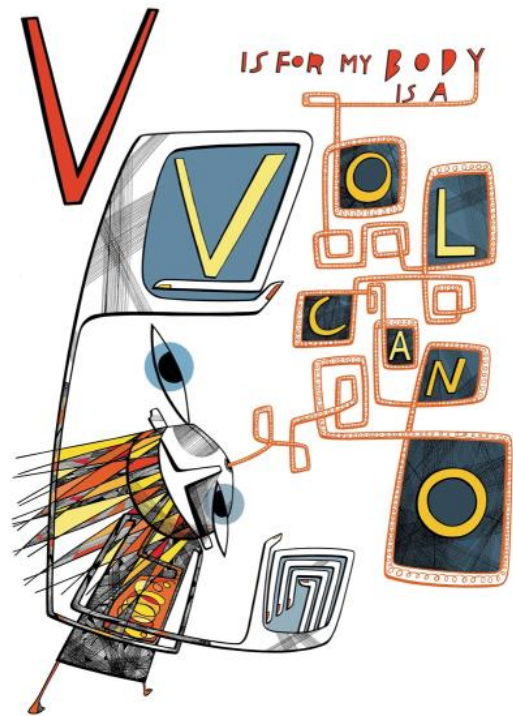
J

Patterned grey and black background. The main colours are red, green and blue, with pink skin tones. One character. "J is for there is not a whole lot of justice in this world". This card shows a wooden door with three padlocks placed around it, and might make us wonder if the character is locked out or locked in. They stand in front of the door, about to attempt getting through a keyhole in the bottom right corner, which is disproportionately large, but still too small to let them through. Below them, a sign holds the words "There is not a whole lot of justice in this world". There are many patterns in the design which creates a feeling of darkness and entrapment.



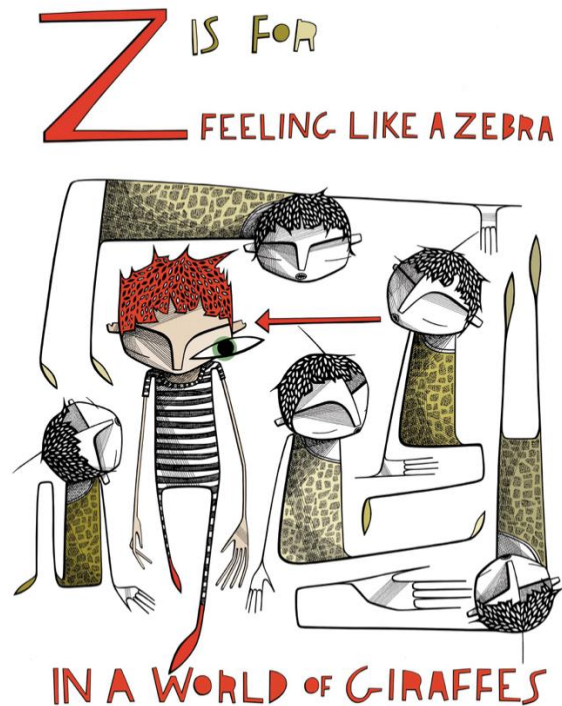
V

White background. The main colours are orange, yellow and blue. One character. "V is for my body is a volcano". This card is full of explosive rage. The character's hands are disproportionately big and balled into tangly fists. Their hair is made of knife-like points that look a little like flames. Their eyes are expanding out of their face, one is completely out, balanced on top of the cheek. A squiggly stream of orange is coming up from their belly and out of their mouth, like a fiery scream. It comes out of the character's mouth into an orange trail in which the letters of the word "volcano" fit themselves into.



Z

White background. The main colours are red and yellow, with pink skin tones. Six characters. “Z is for feeling like a zebra”. This card is about feeling different. The main character is standing and wears a one piece with zebra stripes. Five other characters surround them. They all wear a giraffe-pattern one piece. Their eyes are closed and their legs and arms are arranged in a way that fills the space around them and connects them. The main character stands out visually: they are looking forward with one eye, stepping forward and are clearly not part of the pack. Several of the giraffe characters are staring at the zebra character and an arrow that points towards their face accentuates this.



3. Appendix

Notes from chat with illustrator Imogen Harvey-Lewis

Way characters are drawn

- **Accentuates body language to empathise what it is the character is feeling.** She strikes the pose herself and notices what her body looks like and captures the gut feeling by drawing from there.
- Not sophisticated, more direct, an exaggeration of a pose. Inner feeling rather than outward expression of feeling.
- Breaks the rules of traditional drawing. **Freedom and playful exaggeration** e.g. eyes situated beyond the face or where they “should” be, to accentuate the feeling or expression. **Draws how things feel, not necessarily how they look like from the outside.**

Use of colour

- Use colour as a tool to accentuate contrast. **Red as a dominant colour for the letters.** Powerful and impactful colour that jumps from the card.
- **Flat and matte.** The drawn patterns are what give the depth. **Clean, clear and defined.**

Composition

- Very **few objects** in drawings, focused on person and how they're feeling. The **focus is on the characters**.
- **Clean and uncluttered**. Every single card is different in the way it includes text. Feeling where things should go.
- **Text is integrated into the drawing**. The letters are sometimes placed like trails, sometimes as elements that characters interact with.

Notes from Artistic Director Viv Gordon

- H - search for community and understanding.
- V - anger and rage as a community and the power of that.
- G - need to be able to mourn lost childhoods and innocence and the people we might've been without abuse.
- J - what justice means in terms of not only the justice system but also access.
- Z - feeling alone and isolated because of systemic reasons rather than absence of community, as there are 11 million CSA survivors.