



The Times Magazine 24 August

Sir,

I can only hope that victims of serious injuries who have pursued redress do not feel too much maligned by Melanie Reid's column (*The Times Magazine*, 24 August).

That Ms Reid chose not to seek compensation for her injuries is her own choice. But to take away credibility from those who do, by suggesting that they should be in some way ashamed of themselves, could be very damaging.

Someone who has been injured through the negligent actions of another has every right to compensation, and those with the severest of injuries could easily find themselves insolvent, unable to work, and relying on the state. Negligence shatters lives and it is the wrongdoer, not the state, who should be held responsible for providing the means of support to help put the injured person's life back on track, as far as possible.

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