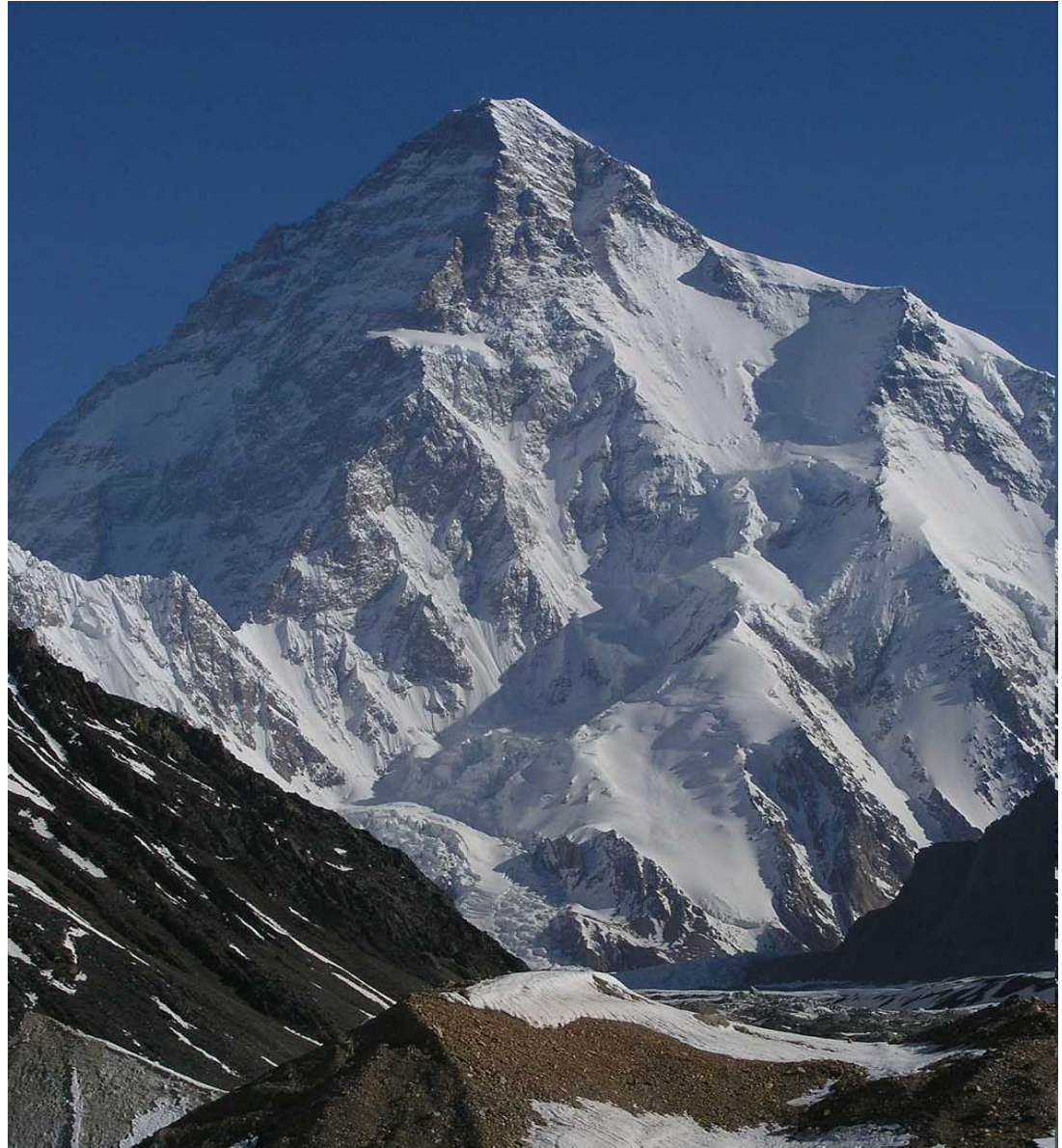


Chipping Away at the Mountain



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Supporting Specialist Services for
Survivors of Rape and Sexual Abuse

CIS'ters

- Childhood Incest Survivors
- Founded in 1995
- By Gillian Finch

- Provides support for Adult Females who were abused sexually as children by members of their immediate family



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CIS'ters

- Available for females aged 18 years up
- Girls who have been abused by their
 - Fathers and uncles
 - Brothers and sisters
 - Mothers and aunts
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003**
 - Has redefined the ground



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Patron – Why Me?

- The Lord Lieutenant system dates from the Tudors
 - The Lord Lieutenant is the monarch's representative in the county
 - Non-political role in civil society
 - A number of Deputy Lieutenants are appointed to spread the voluntary workload (42 in Hampshire)
- DLs bring valuable networks, can open doors and are Free!



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How I got involved

- First contact with CIS'ters was for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services
 - awarded to CIS'ters that year
- They asked me to be a Patron
- Already President of St John Ambulance in Hampshire and patron of other charities
- Justice of the Peace for 15 yrs
 - Sexual and domestic violence insights
- Nothing really prepared me for the reality



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My background

- I was born into a privileged family
- Loving and happy childhood
- I married a very supportive man
- Incest seemed inconceivable
- The reality is different
- No part of society is unaffected
- Our minds turn away from it



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What I found

- First Forum
 - Confidentiality code
 - Language use (e.g. victims not stories)
- Knew someone in the room
 - Somehow, you think you know people
 - It could be any one of us
- Discovering my job
 - Need to raise awareness and funding



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The Attention Economy

where "the scarcest resource for today's business leaders is no longer just land, capital, or human labour, and it certainly isn't information. Attention is what's in short supply."

Thomas H. Davenport and John C. Beck
Harvard Business Review



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Funding

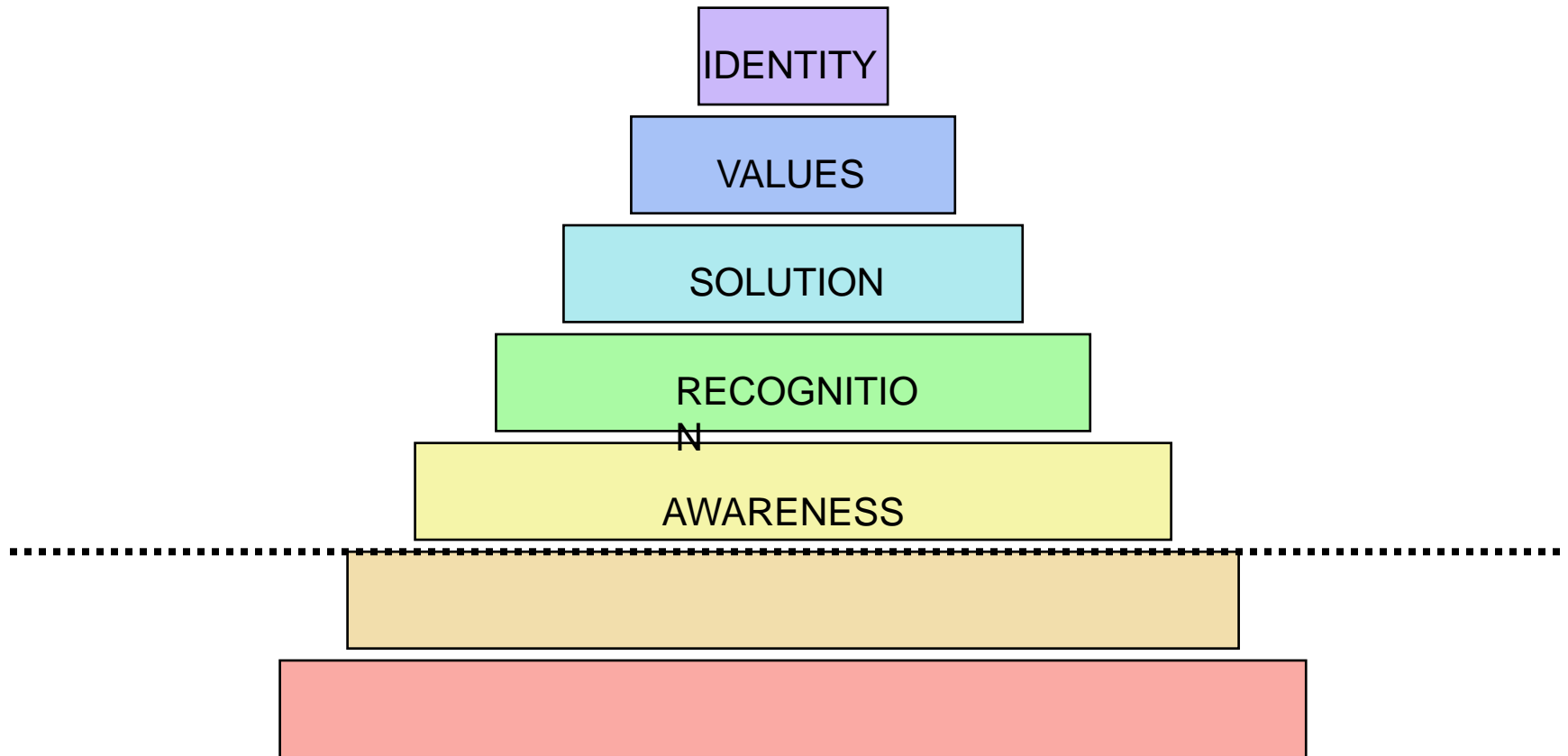
- Funding follows awareness
- But there are many competing good causes
- Awareness must be raised psychologically to produce commitment and adequate response
- It is a process recognised in competitive business and we can learn from it



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Psychological Engagement



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Source: Kevin Kingsland, Wealth and Happiness 2004

Issues and Small Steps

- Awareness
 - How difficult it is to talk about it
 - The subject must be openly addressed
- Recognition
 - How it touches and affects us all
 - Funding prioritisation
 - Animal charities can appeal to affections
 - Children's charities pull at heart strings
- Solution
 - Get legal system on board
 - Social awareness – victims can get help



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Can't turn a blind eye

- Values
 - A clear and expressed value system
- Identity
 - This is our problem – not someone else's
 - Do not leave it all to others
- Don't walk away – why?
 - It could happen to someone you care about
 - The effects cost us all



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Human duty to help

- The work of CIS'ters is vital
- The issue will not go away
- Pass on the message

People's lives are and can be changed



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