

## Women and children among 50 sex victims of 'pervert pilot' suing British Airways



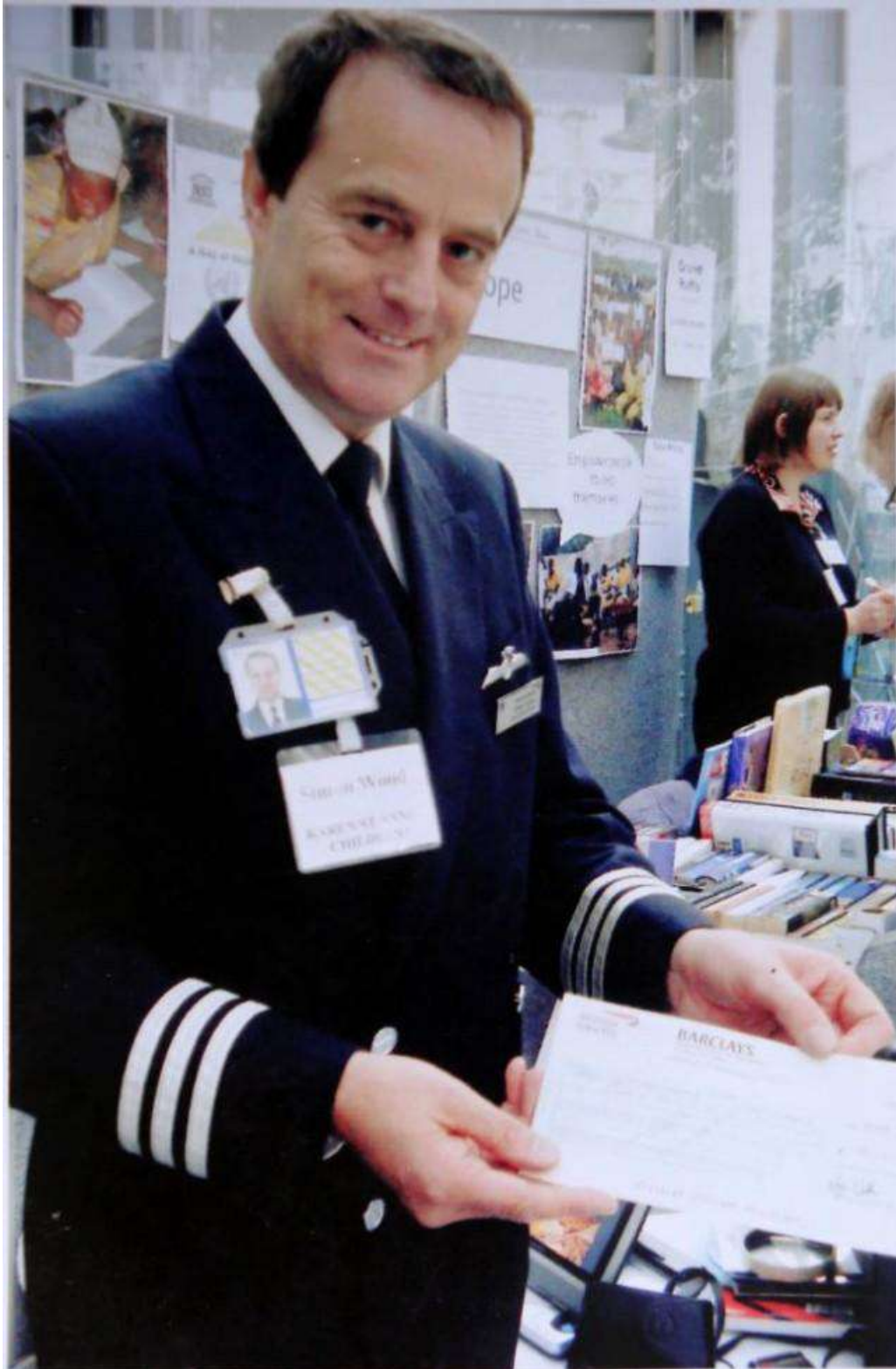
[Sharon Marris](#) Tuesday 29 Jul 2014 10:12 pm

**Women and children who say they were sexually abused by a British Airways pilot are suing the airline for damages.**

The alleged victims – some as young as eight – claim they were among up to 50 assaulted by First Officer Simon Wood at schools and orphanages in Africa.

They say British Airways bears responsibility because Wood, who died under the wheels of a train days before he was due to go on trial last year, carried out the alleged attacks while on stopovers.

British law firm Leigh Day said Wood molested the youngsters during visits to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It is sending a team of staff to Africa to recruit more alleged victims to join the case.



BA pilot Simon Wood killed himself after being accused of molesting girls at an orphanage in Nairobi (Picture: Mark Richards)

Lawyer Nichola Marshall said: ‘The schools and orphanages that our clients attended were all in receipt of charitable donations from the airline and Wood played a key role in administering those donations, on behalf of British Airways.’

In 2002, Wood was among 20 crew members from two BA flights who volunteered to spend their holidays with the Kenyan youngsters, delivering presents, medicines and donations to their orphanage.

At the time, he said: ‘We play, sing, organise activities and generally entertain them. We become very close to the children.’

The 54-year-old died near his home town of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, in August last year, 12 days before he was due in court accused of child sex offences.

BA said it was ‘shocked and horrified’ by the allegations but said they were ‘entirely outside the scope of his employment’.

<https://metro.co.uk/2014/07/29/women-and-children-among-50-sex-victims-of-pervert-pilot-suing-british-airways-4814783/>