

HIA 534
HIA REF: R4
NAME: HIA 534/R4
DATE: 21/06/2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of HIA 534/R4

I, HIA 534/R4 will say as follows: -

Background

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and am now sixty-five years of age. I am the fourth oldest of six children. In 1953 when I was about four years of age my mother and father separated and my father could not cope with six children. The two eldest children stayed at home with my father and I and two of my brothers and my sister were put into Childhaven Children's Home which was about half a mile outside Millisle. During my stay at Childhaven I did not receive any visits from my father, and my mother only visited about ten times in twelve years. My two older brothers visited more frequently.

2. When in Childhaven I attended Millisle Primary School and another Special school in Donaghadee in the afternoons. I later attended Donaghadee Secondary school. I had difficulty in school with reading and writing and also had some problems with my speech. When I finished school my reading and writing were poor though by then my speech had greatly improved. I left school without any qualifications. I had very few friends and the only people I felt close to were my brothers and sister.

3. I was very happy at Childhaven. The matron and staff were good to me and when I look back I consider my time there as the best days of my life. After I left I often went down to visit my brother and sister who were still there.

My time in Kincora

4. I went into Kincora Boys Home in August 1965 and was there until November 1966. I remember I did not want to go there, I had wanted to go home because I

knew my brothers were at home, however I was told I had no choice. I was unhappy in Kincora mainly because I had left school and had not yet found employment. I just sat about the Hostel all day and was constantly required to do chores such as cleaning, washing up and gardening, though I usually enjoyed working in the garden. I would continue to visit Childhaven, usual on a Sundays to see my sister. However, when my brother [REDACTED] visited me at Kincora he was chased away and told if he came back the warden would phone the police.

5. The regime at Kincora was quite strict. I remember getting beaten with a leather strap by one of the Assistants in the Home, I think this was for coming in late. I did not get on well with the other boys as they treated me as though I was a simpleton. Shortly after I entered the home I did get friendly with one boy called [REDACTED] KIN 167 however during a camping holiday at Magilligan he was drowned. I found it very difficult to cope after this and for a long time I was very depressed and refused to leave the Hostel.

6. My first sexual experience happened about six months after I had entered Kincora. One evening I brought Joe Mains, the warden up a cup of tea up to his room. He asked me to rub some cream on his back. I did this and nothing else happened that night but a few nights later he again asked me to rub some cream on his back and when I did he began to fondle my privates and my backside. He wanted me to take my trousers off but I refused and nothing else happened that night. The same thing happened again about a month later and matters progressed, we participated in mutual masturbation and then mutual oral sex. This developed into a regular occurrence and it continued after I left Kincora when I would call up to the Hostel to visit the boys. I continued to visit Kincora up to Joe Mains left in the late 1970s.

Other abuse in Kincora

7. I was never physically abused by Joe Mains nor was I ever physically or sexually abused by anyone else in the Hostel. Furthermore, I never witnessed nor was aware of any of the other boys being abused by any of the staff at Kincora nor did I ever witness anyone from outside the home abusing any of the boys or taking them off anywhere.

8. I did participate in various consensual sexual acts with some of the other boys in the home. I have dealt with these in more detail in my second statement.

9. I never complained about Joe Mains. I did not feel there was anyone there to whom I could complain. The social worker was Miss Beacon, I met and spoke to her about six times in 15 months, however these meetings always took place in the office with Joe Mains present and I did not feel I could speak freely to her. I was also frightened of being moved into Rathgael because although I was unhappy in Kincora I did not want to be moved further away from my father's home in east Belfast, as it would mean I would see less of my brothers.

10. I should add that I did not see anyone else in authority while in Kincora except a man who I think was called [KIN 342] and who came as a Hostel Inspector and was friendly with Joe Mains. I was aware that some of the boys talked about me and the fact that I was always doing chores for Mains and was in and out of his room. However, I was keen to keep my experiences with Mains from them and did not tell them what was happening to me.

Life after Kincora

11. Since leaving Kincora I have lived an unsettled life. I have never had sustained or satisfying employment and have had many jobs over the years. I have drifted from one type of accommodation to another and have found it difficult to settle down. About 1980 I had a steady relationship with a lady and was engaged to be married but when she heard I had been in Kincora she broke of the engagement. I have since had several fleeting and unsatisfactory homosexual relationships but have never been able to settle down with anyone. I am now a pensioner and live on the pension supplemented by Pension Credit and Disability Living Allowance because of a serious heart condition. I also have a severe drink problem. I blame my abuse at the hands of Joe Mains during my time in Kincora for my inability over the years to settle down and form a loving relationship.

HIA 534/R4

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

HIA 534/R4

Dated

21/6/2016

HIA Ref: HIA 534

NAME: HIA 534/R4

DATE: 21/06/2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of HIA 534/R4

I, HIA 534/R4 aged 18 years and upwards, will say as follows: -

1. **Allegations made against HIA 534/R4**

I have read the allegations made to the Inquiry against me and wish to say as follows:

2. **KIN 383**

The incident KIN 383 mentions in his statement of 27th March 1980 about walking into Joe Main's office and seeing Joe and me kissing is an incident I don't remember but which I accept may be true.

I also had various sexual encounters with other boys in the Hostel when I would call up and visit the boys in the Hostel after I had left. These encounters included:

3. **R 9**

I had anal sex and mutual masturbation with R 9 in the toilets of the Hostel.

4. **R 17**

R 17 was a boy in Kincora with whom I practiced mutual masturbation and oral sex on several occasions. This took place in the bathroom, back garden and the toilet.

5. [REDACTED] R 18

On one occasion another boy, [REDACTED] R 18 masturbated me in the TV room. He asked me to reciprocate but I refused because the curtains were open at the time.

6. My relationship with members of staff at Kincora

I got on reasonably well with the staff at the Hostel. I was never physically or sexually abused by any of the staff with the exception of the beating I received with a leather strap by one of the assistant care workers as outlined in my first statement and the sexual abuse I suffered at the hands of the warden Joseph Mains. I would like to add that I regard the grooming and introduction to homosexual practices by Joe mains as the main cause of most of my subsequent difficulties in forming meaningful and emotional relationships throughout my adult life.

Finally, I did not see and was not aware of any physical or sexual abuse of any of the other boys at the hands of any member of staff or anyone else. I did not see nor was I aware of anyone from outside abusing any of the boys or taking them out of the Hostel for any purpose.

HIA 534/R4

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Dated this 21st day of June 2016

Signed_

HIA 534/R4

Dated

21/6/2016