

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 367

Witness Name HIA 367

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT C HIA 367

HIA 367 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the Route Hospital in Ballymoney in County Antrim. My mother was called [REDACTED] I never knew who my father was. I have one brother called [REDACTED] who is about ten years older than me. I also have three sisters - [REDACTED] who is about eleven years older than me [REDACTED] who is about eight years older than me and [REDACTED] SND 85 who is about six years older than me. I am the youngest. My mother has now passed away.
2. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all stayed with my mother's parents. My sister [REDACTED] SND 85 and I were placed in the nursery in Nazareth House in Fahan in County Donegal before being placed in Nazareth House, Bishop Street.

Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry (4/9/1957 – 1969 approximately)

3. I was placed in the nursery of Nazareth House, Bishop Street when I was two years old. I remained there until I was about fourteen.
4. The nuns that were in Nazareth House were [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] SR 1 and Sister [REDACTED] SR 90 [REDACTED] SR 90 was only there for three years. She was a lovely nun. I went to primary school in Nazareth House.

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5. When I was very young I remember a man and a woman coming to visit me for a short period. In hindsight I assume they were my parents but I never saw them again after that.
6. We slept in big dormitories and there was no privacy at all. The nuns didn't sleep in the dormitory. They had a room off the dormitory. They used to walk up and down and check that we were asleep. We had to sleep with our arms crossed. [REDACTED] SR 9 would wake you up if your arms weren't crossed and tell you to cross them. We were never told the reason for doing this. My arms were always sore because of this. If you snored [REDACTED] SR 9 woke you up and made you get up and blow your nose.
7. One time in the home an older girl called [REDACTED] told me that on a few Saturday nights over a period of time a man came and crept around our dormitory. I was about eight or nine years old at the time. He threatened one of the girls who slept beside [REDACTED] with a knife. The girl told [REDACTED] SR 9 the next morning but [REDACTED] SR 9 didn't believe her. I don't know the name of the girl.
8. Bath time was every Saturday. We were not given any privacy. There were over one hundred girls for two baths and they never changed the water [REDACTED] SR 9 supervised bath times. We had to queue up wearing our nightdresses along the corridor and then quickly get washed in the bath and [REDACTED] SR 9 would be shouting at us to get out. We got our hair washed on Saturday afternoons by the nuns or the older girls in two tin baths outside in the yard. Again the water was never changed. We got our hair combed for nits. When I got older I washed the younger girl's hair.
9. The nuns never told us anything about puberty or our bodies changing. When I got my first period I thought there was something wrong and I rushed out and washed the sheets. One of the senior girls who was aged about fourteen or fifteen asked me if I had got my period but I hadn't a clue what she meant. She brought me down to a store room to get a sanitary towel. She also gave me my first bra. However she took the new bra and gave me her old one which was

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in bits. The nuns cut our hair short. They didn't like us having long hair. I rememb [REDACTED] HIA 49 and her sister came in to the home with very long hair and the nuns cut it all short.

10. The daily routine in Nazareth House was you got up at about 7.30 am and most mornings we went to Mass. We all had chores to do before school. My chores were scrubbing the floors on my knees, folding the covers for the beds and making the beds. On a Saturday we had to polish the tiled floors on the corridor that leads to the church until they shone. I remember once it was so damp that the floor was never going to shine. I tol [REDACTED] SR 9 this but she didn't listen and made me do it again and again on my own. She couldn't be pleased. Another chore I had to do with another girl was to take the bucket of sanitary towels and burn them in the yard. It was disgusting.
11. The food was alright. Breakfast was either lumpy porridge or cornflakes. Lunch was usually potatoes and things like that. For our evening meal we just got bread and tea. At mealtimes if we put our elbows on the table the nuns would hit us with a thin red stick. This happened often and the nun that was supervising the mealtime had the red stick. This was eithe [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] SR 1
12. After school we had more chores to do. There was a television but it wasn't up to us what we watched as the nuns decided that. We had no toys in the home. On one occasion a few of us were late going upstairs because we were tidying up downstairs [REDACTED] SR 1 got her keys which she kept on her belt and started hitting us on the head with them and nipping us under the arms. She was shouting at us that we should have been up ages ago.
13. In the summer the nuns used to leave us out in the yard all day long. They called it a playground but it was just a big yard with one swing. We used to get sunburned and suffer from sunstroke but the nuns didn't care. We never got sun cream. On one occasion I fell off the edge of the swing and hurt my back but the nuns didn't call a doctor. They just brought me into a room and told me I would be fine. My back was sore for a while and was never checked.

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14. If you were sick the nuns just put you to bed for a day or two but they wouldn't call the doctor unless you were really bad. I remember one girl was really ill and the nuns kept saying she would be fine but it got to the stage where her appendix burst and she had to be rushed to hospital. We went to the dentist every six months and my name was always called out and I had all my teeth filled. I don't know why because the dentist always told me I had beautiful teeth. I don't remember the name of the dentist.
15. The day I made my Confirmation I was very afraid. There were only a few girls there and I heard the doors being bolted behind us. We were locked in the chapel. The Bishop asked me my Confirmation name and I had to kneel down and tell him. He had a ring on his finger and he hit me a strike across the cheek. I don't know why he did this. It was very sore.
16. When we made our First Holy Communion we had to pass through the part of the building where the old people stayed. The old men used to drop money so we would have to bend down in front of them so they could look at us. I quickly learned not to pick up the money.
17. I spent a couple of my summers with **SND 84** in **SND 81** in **[REDACTED]** in **[REDACTED]**. I am not sure if they were married or if they were brother and sister. I think I was about five or six years old at the time. My sister **SND 85** was with me the first time but I didn't know who she was. One evening my sister stood on a pitch fork and the men helped her upstairs. In her bedroom she said 'you know I'm your big sister'. The **SND 84** grabbed me and slapped me across the legs and told me to go downstairs to help set the table.
18. After Nazareth House primary school I moved to St Cecilia's Secondary School. I never knew when my birthday was until I received my birth certificate years later.
19. **SR 9** was a cruel nun. She often beat me and other girls such as **HIA 49** and a girl called **[REDACTED]**. One time **HIA 49** and I were late coming back from St Cecilia's and she grabbed us and started hitting us. She would punch you or hit you with the black belt she wore around

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her waist, or stick, or whatever she could get her hands on. She would just lose her temper. On one occasion she told me to stand in a dark corridor and she took something from behind her back. She started whacking me across the legs with a stick and it left me black and blue. I was trying to grab the stick but she said there were nails in it. I don't know what I had done to deserve this beating. The next day at school my teacher who I think was called **SND 399** noticed the marks on my leg and asked if I wanted to talk about it but I said 'no, I'll be killed if I do'.

20. One time an older girl in school gave me and other girls some cigarettes. Sister **SR 9** found out I smoked and she lined all us girls up in the corridor. She asked us who the cigarettes belonged to. I got the blame as the other girls said that they were mine. **SR 9** grabbed me and pushed me into the music room. She banged me off the piano stool and kept thumping me on the back. By this stage I realised that she enjoyed it when you cried so I didn't cry. Then she said 'there's no point hitting you' and stopped. **SR 9** refused to call me by my first name. She always called me **SR 9** or **SR 9**. Only a few girls were called by their surname in the home.

21. One evening **SR 9** made us all stand in the corridor in the dark in just our nightdresses. We were barefoot and it was freezing cold. **SR 9** told us not to turn the lights on. I don't know how long she made us stand there. We had to go to the bathroom in the dark. This was a punishment for having answered her back or for having done something which **SR 9** deemed wrong.

22. On another occasion the washing machine broke in the wash room so Sister **SR 9** forced me and another girl to wash most of the clothes by hand. I was always picked to do this. We had to do this for a couple of days and our hands and fingers were raw. When **SR 9** got the machine fixed she didn't even say thank you.

23. Religion was a big part of life in the home. We had to go to confession every week which I didn't understand because we were only children so what sins did we have to confess. It's not like we had murdered anyone. The priest was called

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SND 237 and he told SR 9 everything we said in confession. I remember one evening all us girls were in the church for Benediction and we heard screaming coming from outside. SR 9 was hitting a girl and the screaming was unbearable. I moved to get up but SR 1 told me sit down. Then the Reverend Mother went out and asked what was going on. SR 9 said the girl was answering her back and the Reverend Mother said 'not outside the church'. I heard this clearly as she spoke loudly and it was very quiet for Benediction. I do not recall the Reverend Mother's name.

24. SR 1 had a habit of pinching you and hitting you across the head with keys. If the nuns weren't there, the older girls would take over. If you answered back the older girls would give you a slap. The older girls would tell you to sit on the bed and then whack you across the back of your feet with a plastic sandal to punish you.

25. SND 237 visited the home often to hear confessions. He asked us if we wanted to play football and we said we would have to ask SR 9. Sister SR 9 said no problem so we played for a while but then she stopped us. I heard that SND 237 interfered with other girls but I never saw anything myself. This is just what I heard. SND 237 had a video camera and he would use it to record us when we went on a day trip to Butlins or when we were playing on the swing in the yard. You had to save all your pocket money for the day trips away.

26. My sister SND 85 was also in Nazareth House but she was older and we stayed in different dormitories. I was about twelve when my sister left the home. I think she was seventeen or eighteen. My sister wanted to take me with her but Sister SR 9 wouldn't let her. She said I was too young to leave the home. I think my sister came back to visit me about three times in the home but on each visit the three nuns stood around us and would not give us privacy to talk. I think SND 85 may have tried to take me out with her on each visit but was not allowed.

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27. Another summer I went to stay with [SND 81/84] again this time with another girl called [SND 86]. She was younger than me. We used to help on the farm and one day [SND 84] told me to drive the tractor. There was another man who worked on the farm but I can't recall his name. I was driving the tractor and changing gears and the tractor shook and [SND 86] nearly fell off the back of it. [SND 84] started shouting at me. The other man who worked on the farm sexually abused me. He grabbed me and put his hand up between my legs and touched my private parts. I tried to get away but he was holding me down. I saw a bottle and I tried to hit him with [SND 84]. [SND 84] saw what he was doing and told him to let me go.

28. [SND 84] started interfering with me. He sexually abused me a few times. He would call me over to the outhouse, store or hay barn and put his hands between my legs and touched my private parts. He told me not to say anything. Another time I was in bed which I shared with [SND 86] and he came in the bed between us. [SND 81] came in and told him to get out. I was taken back to Nazareth House after that. I tried to tell [SR 9] about what happened but she wouldn't listen to me. She said she didn't want to know [SND 81/84]. [SND 81/84] are both now deceased.

29. I was sent out to a different family called [SND 82] when I was about twelve years old. I was there on two occasions for two months each summer. I did all the cooking and cleaning and I worked on the farm. The second summer I was there Mr [SND 82] was away visiting a sick friend and I was on my own with Mr [SND 82] and his son [SND 82]. One night I was watching television and Mr [SND 82] came in and told me it was time for bed. I turned off the television and he grabbed me and pushed me against the wall. He told me that he would give me sweets and cigarettes and he tried to touch me. I got away from him and ran upstairs and got into bed fully clothed. I was shaking. He followed me and got into the bed. He said again he would give me money and I pleaded with him to leave me alone. He heard the front door opening and someone coming into the house and he left my room.

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30. The next morning around 5.30 am I ran away from the **SND 82**'s house. I walked and walked but I had nowhere to go. Eventually I decided to go up to the **SND 81/84**'s house. **SND 81** picked me up on the side of the road and asked what I was doing out in the rain. I said I was never going back to the **SND 82** family again and I told her that **M SND 82** had asked me to rub his back for money. **M SND 82** came to the **SND 81/84**'s home to get me but I said I was not going back with him. I had to write a letter to **SR 9** to tell her and she replied telling me to come back to the convent. On this occasion while I was at the **SND 81/84** **SND 84** took me out to the hayfield. He made me sit on a haystack and used his hands to touch my private parts. I told **SND 81** what happened. I know now she must have known all along what was going on. **SND 81** put me on a bus back to Nazareth House in Derry.

31. When I got back **SR 9** took me out of school and sent me to Ennis to work as a nanny. The family I stayed with owned a shop and a bakery. I was about fourteen years old at the time. I stayed in Ennis for six months and I came back to Nazareth House at Christmas. After Christmas I told **SR 9** I wasn't going back to Ennis so she sent me on a bus to Dublin to work in the **hospital** in **hospital**. I worked in the kitchen of the hospital scrubbing pots. Then I got a job in **hospital** in **hospital** and after a while another girl **hospital** and I decided to get our own flat. She was from Nazareth House too but was older than me.

Life after care

32. When I was working in the **hospital** in **hospital** I was told that I was too young to be working and I needed my birth certificate. I had to ring **SR 9** and ask her for my birth certificate but she just kept saying 'your sister wouldn't leave a job' so I put the phone down. Somebody told me to ask the priest in **hospital** so I went to him and told him I was desperate and I needed my birth certificate to keep my job and my flat. I told him **SR 9** wouldn't give it to me and two days later he arrived at my door with my birth certificate in his hand.

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33. I moved around different places in Dublin doing different jobs. It took me a while to get on my feet. I didn't know anybody in Dublin. The nuns just left me there. I went to visit [SR 1] and [SR 9] in Nazareth House in Dublin before [SR 9] died. My hands were sweating with fear before I met [SR 9]. I asked [SR 9] where my sister [SND 85] was but she said she didn't know because she had married.
34. I started searching for [SND 85] as soon as I started working in the [redacted] in Dublin. I have tried to get information from the nuns but I have not been able to trace her. A nun called [redacted] got me a photograph of her. I went to the Salvation Army and my local TD to try to trace [SND 85] but I have found nothing.
35. I contacted the Family Care Society in Belfast in an attempt to find [SND 85] and a social worker called Michelle Peters helped me. I found out I have a brother and two sisters that I never knew I had. I was looking for one sibling and I found three more. We all met up in a hotel in 2010 and we get on great. I am delighted I found my new family and we all keep in touch. [redacted] lives in Limavady, [redacted] lives in Derry and [redacted] lives in England. The social worker also told me my mother was dead but I never knew my mother anyway. [redacted] put [SND 85] picture in the paper in an effort to find her but nothing came of it.
36. I am married and I have five children and six grandchildren, with another one due in November 2013. Four of my children are grown up and I have one son [redacted] living at home who is nearly seventeen. I saw my family more when I was in Dublin but when I moved to Wexford in 2001 it hit me that I was lost. My daughter [redacted] moved with me and another daughter [redacted] came to live there for a year. I have found it very difficult to cope. I get very depressed sometimes and I have suffered from panic attacks in the past. I went to the doctor about it but he just gave me pills which didn't do me any good. I am not currently taking medication but I would consider going to my GP again because I think I need help. My husband is not very supportive and I feel like I have nobody to talk to. If it wasn't for my cleaning job in a school, I think I might crack up.

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37. I made a statement in relation to these matters on 26th October 2012 with Sergeant Arnold Henderson from the PSNI.

Statement of Truth

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

Signature  HIA 367
Dated 29/11/2013

PARENT'S NAME

ADDRESS

Mazeroth House

OCCUPATION

PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDED

Mazeroth House

ENTRANCE SELECTION RESULTS:

IQ

DATE OF ENTRY

4. 9. 1967

CLASS ON ENTRY

1P

DATE OF LEAVING

June 1970

CLASS ON LEAVING

3F

DESTINATION ON LEAVING

Somerville House

HEALTH

GOOD, AVERAGE, POOR

ATTITUDE TO WORK

VERY CONSCIENTIOUS
COMPLETES WORK OF OWN ACC
ORDINARY
LACKS INITIATIVE

VITALITY

GOOD, AVERAGE, POOR

DISABILITY (IF ANY).....

GENERAL REMARKS

SPECIAL APTITUDES

WRITTEN EXPRESSION, FIGURES,
ORAL EXPRESSION; MECHANICAL, MANUAL
DIGITAL DEXTERITY

SPECIAL INTERESTS

E.G., ARTISTIC, DOMESTIC, MUSICAL

SURNAME

HIA 367

CHRISTIAN NAMES

HIA 367

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE IN FAMILY

GENERAL REGISTER & NUMBER

2/2

A. 180/45.

MARKS AND ASSESSMENTS AT TERM EXAMINATIONS

SUBJECT	1st YEAR (F)		2nd YEAR (F)		3rd YEAR (F)		4th YEAR ()		5th YEAR ()		6th YEAR ()	
	DECEMBER	SUMMER	DECEMBER	SUMMER	DECEMBER	SUMMER	DECEMBER	SUMMER	DECEMBER	SUMMER	DECEMBER	SL
RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE	B	B	C	B	C	B						
ENGLISH	A	B	C	B	B	B						
MATHEMATICS	A	A	B	A	A	A						
HISTORY S.S.	C	C	D	E	C	B						
GEOGRAPHY			C	B	A	C						
FRENCH												
ART	C	B	C	B	A	A						
LIGHT CRAFTS	C	D	D	B	B	E						
MUSIC	C	D	A	A	A	A						
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C	C	C	C+	C+							
COOKERY	D	C	D	D	D	C						
HOME CRAFT												
NEEDLEWORK			C	C	C	D						
LAUNDRY												
HYGIENE												
GENERAL SCIENCE												
SHORTHAND												
COMMERCE												
TYPEWRITING												
BOOK-KEEPING												
ATTENDANCE	71	189/190	95/97	187	94	185/187						
PUNCTUALITY	G	G.	A	A	P	A						
ASSESSMENT	A.	A.	A	A	G	G						



J. M. J.

NAZARETH HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME
Bishop Street, Derry
Tel: Derry 261976

NAME	HIA 367
BORN	Route Hospital, Co Derry
D.O.B.	
BAPTISED	St Josephs, Fincairn, Feeney.
MOTHER	SND 296
RECEIVED FROM	Fahan Nursery
DATE RECEIVED	4 September 1957



516 Ravenhill Road,
Belfast, BT6 0BW

Tel: 028 9069 0600
Fax: 028 9069 0601

Personal Request for Records regarding
House Derry

HIA 367

Nazareth

Taken from Girls Register 1933–1988 (Book 2 on file)

Registration No:	2418
Name:	HIA 367
Where Born:	Route Hospital Co. Derry
Date of Birth:	
Where Baptised:	St Joseph's Fincairn, [Feeney]
Parents Name:	SND 296
Occupation:	Not recorded
Recommended By:	Fahan Nursery
Admitted:	4 September 1957
Left:	No Recorded
Observations:	Not recorded

[] = writing unclear

Girls Register (Book 5 on file)

HIA 367

Admitted:	4 September 1957
Born:	
Mother's Name:	SND 296
Received From:	Infant's Nursery

No date of discharge found

g.m.g. +

Bulfinch 3.

HIA 367

I don't know if my Christmas card reached you - some of my others did not. Thank you for your good wishes. I hope 1944 will be a happy and peaceful year for you. God bless you.

SR 9

No trace of

SND 85

- still trying.

Dear

HIA 367

Thank you for your Christmas greetings. I hope you had

a very happy Xmas.

SND 85

I have no

idea of her whereabouts, but I would imagine she is still probably in Rome. I heard she was there in the mid 80's and I have heard nothing about her since. I have no idea of her address either, if I ever get word about her I shall contact you immediately. All the best for 1944.

Yours sincerely,

SR 59

Winnetta House,
Malabar Road,
Arlin 3.



J. M. J.

Derry 62180

Nazareth House,
Bishop Street,
Londonderry.

7. 3. '86

HIA 367

Dear

I believe you are trying to trace your sister [redacted] SND 85 As I have already told you a long time ago [redacted] SND 85 left here on 16/6/67 and went to work in the [redacted] Co. Donegal. From that day to this there has been no communication from her so I have no idea of her whereabouts.

Maybe if you wrote to that Hotel they might know where she has moved to. I'm sorry I cannot help you any further.

Yours sincerely,
[redacted] SR 59

Mazareth bouvent
 Church Hill,
 Sligo
 14th May 2013

HIA 367

leo. Wexford.

HIA 367

Dear

Thank-you for your letter which I received this morning. Fifty years on, it was good to hear from you! I spent three years in Derry 1961 - 1964 and yes, I do remember both yourself and your sister **SND 85** lovely girls! As you will understand, I did not take any photographs of the children and I did not keep any records. **SR 9** looked after that area of the children's life.

I contacted **SR 58** this afternoon re. your difficulties and I understand that she has passed on any information which was kept at Mazareth House, Derry. I will forward your letter to her and she will send it on to our archivest in Belfast.

I am sorry that I cannot be of more help, but you will understand I have no

access to records here and I have no photographs of the children other than Devry Journal photographs which I happened to see over the years.

I do hope you have kept well and, as the years have passed, you may have your own family now. As **SND 85** was nine years older than you it is strange that she did not make some effort to keep in touch or to link up with you in later years!

I guess you may be in contact with some of the girls as you referred to **SND 86** in your letter. It is good to have kept contact with the girls who were in Nazare at that time.

I hope that you will be able to make contact with **SND 85** and I am sure you have got help in this area from the different sources now available.

Wishing you and your family every success and blessing.

Yours sincerely,

SR 20