

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 169

Witness Name HIA 169

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 169

HIA 169 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I was placed in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] when I was a [REDACTED]. I was then placed in Nazareth House in Derry on [REDACTED] when I was almost [REDACTED] years old.

2. [REDACTED]

Nazareth House Children's Home, Bishop Street, Derry ([REDACTED])

3. I entered Nazareth House on [REDACTED] when I was almost [REDACTED]. I stayed there for [REDACTED] years and left on [REDACTED].

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4. I only remember my mother visiting us twice, when I was between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] years old. I remember one of the times when she visited [REDACTED] SR 9 held me and would not let me go over to see her. I do not know why she did this I just remember her holding me really tightly. [REDACTED] was allowed to go over to her.
5. [REDACTED] was also in Nazareth House. The nuns did not like us having contact or being close. I do not know why but the nuns seemed to not like anyone bonding in any way. If they saw any of the girls getting on and having fun they would come out and separate them [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] brother came to visit the home and [REDACTED] SR 9 loved him. I was his favourite and [REDACTED] SR 9 didn't like this and so she picked on me and beat me but never in front of him.
6. When I first arrived we were placed in dormitories. We were divided into three groups. I was in [REDACTED] SR 15 group.
7. Our daily routine was to get up at 7am on an ordinary morning. We got up at 6am on a mass morning, went to mass and then had breakfast. We had mass in the mornings about three times a week and on a Sunday. If you were being punished for something you were not allowed breakfast. We would then get washed. Our hair was normally brushed with a normal brush but if we were being punished our hair was brushed with a steel fine tooth comb by [REDACTED] SR 9 or [REDACTED] SR 15. I remember many occasions between the ages of 4 and 14 when this happened and having my head pushed about and the Sister being very rough, often leaving my scalp bleeding. We then went to school. I went to primary school at Nazareth House and then I went to secondary school at [REDACTED]. After school we came back to the home. We would have tea. We would be allowed to watch television for an hour. Then we completed our homework and went to bed about 8 o'clock. Bed time was at 6 or 7 o'clock when we were younger.
8. We had chores to do every day which included scrubbing the bathrooms, toilets, corridors and washing the dishes. [REDACTED] SR 15 was obsessed with cleanliness

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within [REDACTED] If a spot was missed she would get down on her knees and start scrubbing. If we did not offer to help she would physically punish us by pulling our hair, kicking us on the body or hitting our heads off the wall. Sister SR 15 would always get a red face with rage. SR 15 was given the nickname "[REDACTED]" because she always wore [REDACTED].

9. The food was good. However it was often withheld as a punishment. There was recreation. There was a swing outside. If it was raining there was a hall to play in where we had tricycles to ride. You got pocket money. There was a school tuck shop to spend your pocket money. Sometimes we were allowed to watch a film on a Sunday and we were given an apple to eat while watching the film. I was often punished when the films were shown and wasn't allowed to watch. We always had second hand clothes but clothes were provided. We were taken to a nearby dentist. I think we were given immunisations at school. However in other ways we were not well looked after.
10. When we slept in a dormitory we had metal beds with a sheet and a blanket. It was freezing cold. The dormitory was dark and scary. One form of punishment I endured was being made to stand on a dark corridor naked. There were cockroaches on the ground. I recall this happening twice when I was nine and eleven years old. I had a problem with wetting the bed. This problem persisted throughout my time in care. They would get us up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet but I still had a problem. I think it started around the time I was first raped when I was [REDACTED] and I think it persisted as a result of the treatment I received from the nuns. In the morning I was beaten by SR 15 or SR 9 but worse than that they then humiliated the bedwetters by making us put our underwear on our head and stand at the breakfast table so everyone could see.
11. During my time at Nazareth House I suffered physical abuse at the hands of three nuns SR 9 SR 15 and SR 52

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12. One day in [REDACTED] myself [REDACTED] SND 162 HIA 105 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (deceased) and [REDACTED] SND 174 [REDACTED] were playing in a workman's hut in the playground. They said 'let's go [REDACTED] HIA 169 [REDACTED] and they took most of my clothes off. They were carrying on [REDACTED] SND 170 [REDACTED] telephoned [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] and told her. When we got back to the home [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] lined us up along the corridor. She grabbed me by the hair and banged my head off a wooden ledge above the lockers. My head was bleeding and I still have a scar [REDACTED] from this incident. I was distraught at the time. [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] then wiped the blood off me but her face was red with anger [REDACTED] SR 18 [REDACTED] witnessed this incident.

13. I had my nose broken twice, once by [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] and once by [REDACTED] SR 15 [REDACTED]. When I was about [REDACTED] years old [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] broke my nose by hitting my head off internal doors in Nazareth House. When I was [REDACTED] years old [REDACTED] SR 15 [REDACTED] hit my head and face off a pebble dashed wall in the yard at Nazareth House. I was not given medical treatment on either occasion. I knew my nose was broken because of the severe bleeding, swelling and nose bleeds. I do not remember what I had done on either occasion. I truly believed they just hated me. I think it was because I was not like my sister [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and whom [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] loved. [REDACTED] was in Nazareth House also but she is [REDACTED] years older than me. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and she became a [REDACTED]. She came back to Nazareth House for the holidays [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] SR 15 [REDACTED] would also walk up behind us and hit us on the head with their keys. They would come up behind you and hit you with the big, heavy keys and say "what are you doing here?". We were obviously somewhere that we should not have been although I do not remember being told not to be there.

14. I was in [REDACTED] and we would travel around Northern Ireland winning every festival we entered. This meant that everyone in Derry loved [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] Sister [REDACTED] SR 15 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] SR 52 [REDACTED]. It was therefore difficult for anyone to believe that they were abusing us behind the scenes.

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15. [redacted] SND 297 taught us [redacted] and he would beat us on the legs with a steel ruler if we did not get [redacted] right.

16. When I was about [redacted] in [redacted] I stole [redacted] from a shop and I [redacted] in school. I fainted and I was taken back to Nazareth House. I was given [redacted] by [redacted] SR 15 [redacted] [redacted] I was sent to [redacted] SR 178 [redacted] a [redacted] in the school. I didn't tell her that I [redacted] [redacted] I could not communicate well at that time. I met [redacted] SR 178 years later and she told me that she went to [redacted] SR 9 [redacted] at the time because she was worried about me.

17. When I was about [redacted] years old a few of the girls and I found a bottle of vodka at [redacted] which I think was a raffle prize. We took the bottle and drank out of it. By the time we went on for the second half we were drunk. [redacted] SR 9 [redacted] and [redacted] SR 15 [redacted] were furious [redacted] [redacted] As punishment both nuns beat [redacted] SND 162 [redacted] and I with their fists on the way home on the bus. I felt very little pain at the time because of the alcohol but once it wore off my body ached for days. This was the first time I had drank alcohol and I started to realise it numbed the pain and gave me courage. I believe that is why I eventually became an alcoholic.

18. There was another time when I was about [redacted] years old I was allowed to go to a birthday party in [redacted] held by [redacted] I was friendly with. I do not want to give her name. There was vodka at this party and I got drunk. I discovered music and different people and I loved it. I was late returning to Nazareth House and [redacted] SR 15 [redacted] was waiting for me. She was furious. She was about to grab me and beat me but because I was drunk I had the courage to stand up to her and told her not to think about touching me. I used bad language and I called her names like "penguin" and "[redacted]". She ran round to Sister [redacted] SR 9 [redacted] office and I followed her. I also called [redacted] SR 9 [redacted] a "penguin". I could see that they were scared of me. Neither of them touched me that night. They just sent me to bed. I realised again that alcohol gave me courage.

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19. I became very overwhelmed by everything that was happening to me. When I was about [REDACTED] years old I [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] At night everyone received milk and buns at 8 o'clock. I brought the milk round to the three different groups. On my way back I threw the empty bottles down the steps to smash them. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Blood was pouring out of my leg. It was a release. For a couple of seconds I felt that I could breath. I do not remember how I ended up there but I was taken downstairs to a classroom. [REDACTED] SR 9 wiped the blood and then bandaged my leg with cotton wool and bandages. I did not receive any medical attention and my dressings were not changed for three or four days. When the bandages were removed the cotton wool was embedded in the wounds which were closing over and infected. [REDACTED] SR 15 and [REDACTED] SR 52 held me down while Sister [REDACTED] SR 9 pulled the cotton wool out of the wounds. It was agony. I was screaming with the pain. I was not taken to hospital and I received no medical treatment because the nuns would not have wanted questions to be asked. It took the wounds a long time to heal. [REDACTED]

20. When I was about [REDACTED] years old I was physically assaulted with a brick by [REDACTED] SR 9. At this time I was attending [REDACTED] SR 30 dropped some of us off in a minibus and then she drove to [REDACTED] to drop off another girl and then she dropped the rest of the children off at [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] SND 60 and I were playing truant from school and saw British Army soldiers leaving their barracks in a jeep. We picked up vibes from the nuns that they hated the British Army and the police. If British Army soldiers came in through the back gates of Nazareth House the nuns would hit them with brooms. As a result we thought that we should hate the Army too. They also made us distribute election leaflets for the SDLP as Sister [REDACTED] SR 9 was very good friends with John Hume. We were allowed to watch TV and we could hear the nuns talk politics between them. The streets were covered in bricks so I picked one up and I threw it at the Army jeep. Sister [REDACTED] SR 30 was passing by in the minibus with some of the children and the minibus and the jeep nearly collided. I am sure I must have frightene [REDACTED] SR 30 as I nearly caused an accident and there were children in the minibus. She got out

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of the minibus and picked up the brick and took it back to Nazareth House. I was sick with fear all day. Later that evening I was made to stand in a dark corridor with about eight other girls who had found themselves in trouble that day. [SR 9] and [SR 15] came out to us at about 6.30pm after they had been to church. We had been standing there for hours. [SR 9] had the brick in her hand and she started hitting me on the head with the brick over and over again. While she was hitting me she kept saying 'you are not worth it, I wouldn't be bothered hitting you with this brick'. There was blood pouring out of my head. I did not receive any medical treatment. [redacted] today. [redacted] [SR 42]

saw the blood pouring from my head. I know what I did was wrong but I think I should have been punished in a different way. I did not deserve the punishment I received. [SR 15] and other girls [SND 225] [SND 60] [SND 162] and [HIA 105] witnessed it.

21. When we were in trouble we were made to stand in a corridor to wait for Sister [SR 9] or [SR 15]. I remember they would put me over a table, take my pants down and hit me with a steel ruler on my backside or the back of my legs. Sister [SR 52] also hit me once with a steel ruler when I was about ten years old. It was very painful and I could not sit down afterwards.
22. Another punishment by the nuns was to be made to have your bath last. We all used the same water. It was filthy by the time I got in and some of the girls would have had their period. I cannot have a bath to this day. I only ever shower. A bath would make me feel dirty.
23. During my time in Nazareth House I was also sexually abused.
24. During the summer we were sent to families. I remember being sent to spend the summer with the [SND 171/172] family when I was either [redacted] old. They lived in [redacted] and they had a nephew called [SND 173] who was about [redacted] years old. He wore denim and cowboy boots and I liked him. [redacted] [SND 173] One day when we were out in the field he gave me half a

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crown and said something along the lines of 'can I do something to you?'. I remember I was wearing a flowery dress and pink bloomers. I remember being on top of the hay lying on my back. He was on top of me and I had difficulty breathing. I remember severe pain in my vagina. I remember something inside me and I assume it was his penis. I believe [SND 173] raped me. I do not know how I got from the field but the next thing I remember is lying on the pavement across from the [SND 171/172]'s house covered in blood. All I remember is [SND 171] picking me up and carrying me to their house. [SND 172] bathed me and I remember the water was red from the blood. I do not remember talking to the family about this or how I got back to Nazareth House. I did not tell anyone what happened but I was never sent to that family again. I believe that the [SND 171/172]'s had their suspicions and that is the reason why they never had me back again.

25. When I was about [redacted] years old I was sent [redacted] with another family in [redacted]. I cannot recall the family's surname. [redacted] She made us kneel and pray daily. She would h[SND 174] and I with a cane. She had [redacted] calle[SND 175] who was between [redacted]. I remember he took me into the woods and on one occasion we were kissing. I remember we were lying on a blanket and he unzipped his jeans and he pulled down my trousers and pants. He touched me around my vaginal area then he got on top of me and he wanted me to touch his penis. I remember pain inside my vagina as he put something inside me which I assume was his penis. I remember I became upset and started to cry. This made him angry and he became agitated. He then turned me around so I was on my belly. I was crying and did not know what was happening. I recall something being put up my back passage which I again assume was his penis. The pain was awful. I do not recall anything more about this incident but I remember a tall nun from the Convent part of Nazareth House coming to pick me up the next day. I do not know how the nuns found out but someone must have told them because when I returned to Nazareth House [redacted] SR 9 physically beat me, called me horrible, filthy names and told me that what had happened was my fault. I just remember

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being glad to have been taken away from that house even if I was beaten as a result.

26. When I was about [REDACTED] years old I went to stay with my sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. While I was there I hitched a lift on a motorcycle with a man I did not know. I do not know why I did this. He took me to [REDACTED] and raped me. He then took me back to my sister [REDACTED]. When I got back to Nazareth House I was really ill. I became almost blind and I was vomiting excessively. A doctor was called. This was the only time I remember seeing a doctor. [REDACTED] I had sweats and was feverish. I do not know if it was connected to the rape. Nobody was allowed to come to see me. The only person I remember visiting me was [REDACTED] SR 30 who sneaked in to see me and brought me a bar of Cadbury's chocolate. [REDACTED] SR 30 was a good nun.

27. I was moved to Nazareth House [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I was sent there [REDACTED] and I loved it. I discovered drugs, sex and rock n'roll. I then got moved down there permanently. I left Nazareth House [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Life After Care

28. When I left Nazareth House in [REDACTED] I started to take a lot of drugs and drink a lot of alcohol. [REDACTED] My life started to spiral out of control. [REDACTED] That is where I met [REDACTED] who became my social worker. [REDACTED] eventually encouraged me to go to [REDACTED] where I stayed for [REDACTED] years. It got me off the alcohol and drugs but when my mother died in [REDACTED] I started drinking again. I have since stopped drinking and I have been clean and sober for [REDACTED] I have known [REDACTED] now for [REDACTED] years and she is very good to me.

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29. As a result of the experiences of my childhood I have been in therapy for most of my adult life. I was in therapy with [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] I was in therapy in [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] I have been diagnosed as suffering from [REDACTED]

30. I lived in [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years. I decorated houses and child minded.

31. I then moved to [REDACTED] I live alone. I have recently given up work as a [REDACTED] to go back to therapy.

32. Nazareth House was a very violent children's home. I feel that the nuns like SR 9 SR 15 and SR 52 made me suffer for my parents' actions. I did not ask to be put there. I did not deserve the treatment I suffered.

33. I reported the aforementioned incidents of abuse to Detective Constable [REDACTED] of the Criminal Investigation Department at Magherafelt Police Station. I attended Maydown Police Station and made statements to him on 28th September 2010 and 4th October 2010. I also made a statement to [REDACTED] on 5th October 2010.

34. I have a civil claim ongoing and my solicitors are V P McMullin, Solicitors, 11 Limavady Road, Derry, BT47 6JU. When my solicitor wrote to the Sisters of Nazareth to ask for my records she was told that they had no records of my childhood but they had a record that [REDACTED]

35. In September 2012 I telephoned SR 18 in [REDACTED] where she is now a [REDACTED]. She was in Nazareth House, Derry for [REDACTED] while I was a resident there. I told her I was pursuing a case against SR 52 I told her about the abuse and I asked if she would be a witness for me as she was in

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Nazareth House and must have known about the abuse that happened. She admitted that she remembered the time [REDACTED] SR 9 hit me with the brick. She told me she would have to get advice from The Sisters of Nazareth in London and think about it before she put herself forward.

Statement of Truth

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

HIA 169

Sig

Dated

2nd November 2013

238.

Reg. No

HIA 169

Admitted

Born

Baptised St. Eugene's, Derry.

Mother's name

From

Met with D/C [REDACTED] to discuss an unrelated Matter when he asked me if I remembered an
HIA 169 [REDACTED] last pupil from [REDACTED]. I said that I remembered her very well indeed. He
explained that he had been in contact with her re. her allegations of abuse during her stay in the
Nazareth House in Bishop Street. I said that in the years I had contact with her [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] she was perceived to be "difficult". She did tell me that she was very unhappy in the
Nazareth House, but did not disclose any abuse. I visited the Nazareth House to talk to the nuns
about [REDACTED] and to ascertain the source of her unhappiness. The nun with whom I spoke said she
could not understand how [REDACTED] could be unhappy as she had a "lovely bedroom" which she then
showed me. I asked D/C [REDACTED] to ask [REDACTED] to contact me if she wished.

SND 472

13 July 2010



Dear HIA 169

12th Sep 2014

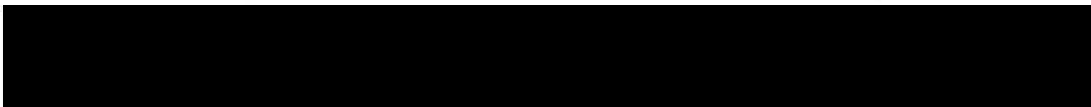
Thank you for letting me know when you are due to give your account to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. I wish you all the best on the day and I am glad you have kept me informed. As I told you when we met in Derry and we talked of the account you had given to your solicitor and emailed a copy to me, I had no idea in [REDACTED] when you were a pupil in [REDACTED] what was behind your emotional distress. When you [REDACTED] and I was asked to see you, [REDACTED] you told me how unhappy you were in the Nazareth House, but did not give me any details. I visited the Nazareth House at that time to talk to the Sisters about your unhappiness. When I addressed this with SR 9 she questioned why you would be so unhappy as you have a "beautiful bedroom!" She asked a young Sister to show me your bedroom. I returned to school aware that there was little awareness of what lay behind your unhappiness. I will never forget that visit. I started in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and you would have left a few years later, and you visited me once afterwards when you moved to [REDACTED]

Wishing you all the best, and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely

SND 472

SND 472



HIA REF:

Witness Name: SR 52

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SR 52

1. I, SR 52 will say as follows –
2. This statement is provided by me in response to a request from the Inquiry and in response to the various complaints and allegations set out with that request.

Personal Background

3. I was born SR 52 in in I was the
4. After secondary school I went into I was sent to Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry in following training and was responsible for I also did a part-time course for my advanced certificate in I cannot recall the exact dates for that but it was in the

Time in Derry Generally

5. I spent periods in Derry between and (but during this time I spent This was a course you could only do after This was around and a I appreciate the second period is not relevant to this inquiry as it is outside the period of their investigations and also because there were no children in Nazareth House during that period.

6. As I have said my [REDACTED] was to the primary school in Derry and I was [REDACTED] there. My normal duties were those of [REDACTED] and I would have spent my days in [REDACTED] I worked as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] these were [REDACTED] year old children and we had classes of about 40. At the time the large class sizes meant some schools split the classes into morning and afternoon classes but as we had to manage the schooling and the residential care of the children it was not possible to split them in this way. I left Derry in [REDACTED]
7. In addition to my [REDACTED] duties I would also be required to help the sisters in the residential home with the children. That assistance would be of a supervisory nature in the morning helping get the children their breakfast and then out to their various schools. In the evening I would assist with extra-curricular activities and home work. The sister in charge of each group would have been the main sister and she would have co-ordinated things and I would be there to help out. At no time did I work in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] nor did I work in St Joseph's Children's Home, Termonbacca.
8. I would have helped out after school by walking the Termonbacca boys up to the bus stop at Abercorn Road to get the bus back. The buses refused to come closer to the school because of a fear of being hijacked. I recall an incident when I was approached by a man telling me to move the children so that they could get a line of sight to fire on the army. I told them to go away as the children needed to go home and they needed to get the bus. The man left and there was no shooting anywhere near the children.
9. My memory of the children generally is that they came from a number of different backgrounds. Some were orphans, some came from families who could not, for many reasons, cope and provide for them. Some came from the nursery in Fahan, others from the nursery in Bishop Street and others came from their families who for many reasons could not care for them.
10. I do not recall any incidents of a child being abused. I recall [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] who was responsible for discipline in the home and also in the school. She was very strict but was also fair. The usual punishments I recall are of being refused an activity like music or dancing or of pocket money being withheld. I never remember any occasion when a child left [REDACTED] SR 9 [REDACTED] office and ever said they had been slapped or beaten. They were upset if they had been punished and some may have felt it was unfair because they did not think they were to blame but none ever said they had been slapped or beaten.

[REDACTED] HIA 90 [REDACTED]

11. I have seen the statement provided by [REDACTED] HIA 90 [REDACTED] and there are some simple inaccuracies in this statement. She refers to being sent downstairs from the nursery to the junior dormitory. The dormitory was upstairs from the nursery unit until the [REDACTED] when the unit was converted into smaller family units. I do recall [REDACTED] SND 50 [REDACTED] and I

- remember [SND 51] [SND 51] attended the Mass for the closing of the house on Bishop Street [REDACTED]
12. She says that she recalls going to Mass every day. That would not have been normal practice for the children. They would have gone to Mass on a Sunday and on Holy days but not every day. During Lenten season they may have been encouraged to go to Mass but they were not made to go.
 13. She says that she had no contact with her sisters until the age of [REDACTED]. My recollection is that her sister [SND 288] [REDACTED] and would have seen her on an almost daily basis. I recall [SND 288] as being small in stature but she was in her late [REDACTED] when she was [REDACTED]
 14. I was not involved in making arrangements for children to be placed with families during any holidays. My recollection is that the children stayed in Nazareth House during the Christmas break and did not go to families. I remember the House at Christmas and the children going to the pantomime. I also recall visits from the Bishop and the children putting on a show for him. They would have performed music and dances they had been learning during the year. This is why I do not think the children went out to families over the Christmas break. I do not know what arrangement she is referring to about going to Mass early with two members of the host family. At that time it would have been usual for a whole family to go to Mass together so if that is not what happened I do not know why. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Had I been told I would have reported this to the Superior. I was never aware of any sexual or sexualised behaviour within the home, between peers or outside the home concerning our children. The recent revelations are the first I have seen of this type of behaviour.
 15. If any child had returned early from a placement there would have been questions asked about why the child had returned. If they had been unhappy we would have tried to find out why.
 16. I do not accept that this girl missed school because she was potty training the younger children. I recall the [REDACTED] taking the younger children to her home during the day and she would have done that.
 17. I am surprised that [HIA 90] feels the nuns stopped her from doing a Child Care course. Career advice would have been within the remit of the school and not the sisters. I certainly do not recall ever being asked for my view on this course and I had no part in deciding on the future career of [HIA 90]. I do recall that she, among other children, changed schools as a result of the rioting and troubles in the Bogside but not for any other reason. It is possible the change of school was a reason for a change in her career choices but it was not a decision taken for any reason connected to her career as far as I am aware.

18. I am very surprised and upset at the allegation that I hit a child as some sort of punishment for getting hurt. I would have helped a child who was injured and cleaned a cut and put a plaster on a cut if it needed one. I deny categorically that I ever hit or beat a child which caused bruising and that to hide this I stopped the child from swimming. If the children were on a day trip we would not allow them to swim as there were so many of them and the risks to them were too great. Even then I would not be the sister in charge of the children and the decisions about swimming and so on would have been made by the sister in charge and not by me.
19. I do not recall anything like the story about the brick and the first time I saw such a story was in the statement provided by **HIA 169** If **SR 30** was driving the bus this would have been during the year I was **[REDACTED]** I do not recall the girls wearing a tartan skirt as part of any school uniform. I recall a tartan skirt or kilt was worn by one of the bands who played Scottish music. I would find it hard to believe anyone would hit a child on the head with a brick and do not see **Sr SR 9** as being the sort of person who would do that.
20. **HIA 90** describes me as **[REDACTED]** when the unit changed and three groups were formed. I was in fact **[REDACTED]** years a sister at that stage but I will accept I may still have looked younger. I do recall the children doing chores around the house. This was partly to help out and partly as a distraction. The chores were normal household chores such as dusting, brushing and polishing. I recall a handheld polisher used with a rug or blanket thing underneath. I do recall seeing the children using the handhelp polisher but I have no memory of them using it in the hall. I have no memory of them polishing floors using their feet.
21. I do not recall there being scrubbing brushes in the bathrooms. I clearly recall sponges and nail brushes. I recall that each of the girls were given a packet of sanitary towels each month.
22. I do recall a time when there was a fear of a prowler in the dormitory at night. I recall a nursing sister who worked with the elderly residents, was attacked and an intruder tried to pull her outside. She raised the alarm and nothing serious happened. This person was not me and the sister was not raped. Because of the rumours of an intruder an alarm bell was fitted to the doors leading to the stairways and on one occasion three sisters stayed up and saw a man climbing a drainpipe. The chaplain and an off duty policeman chased and caught this man. The area was a "no go" area at the time and the police did not come out and the man was not arrested.
23. The children were never locked in the units. In fact I would say there were no locks on the unit doors to lock them in. The usual routine was that the children returned home from school, changed out of their uniforms, played outdoors if dry or in the hall if it was wet until the evening meal was served about 5pm.

24. I recall **SND 477** making regular visits to see the children. I believe he would have come in every **[REDACTED]**
25. I do not recall a large number of social workers. Only a few of the children would have had their own designated social worker as far as I can recall. The social workers would have visited the House to see the children and would have had the opportunity to speak to them privately.
26. I remember **HIA 90** coming to visit me after she moved to **[REDACTED]** to work. She married a man **[REDACTED]** and unfortunately this marriage broke down and ended in divorce.
27. When Nazareth House celebrated its centenary I returned with a number of sisters who had been there over the years. A large number of former residents who had kept in touch were invited to join in the celebrations. I recall a very happy and joyous celebration and I do not recall anyone who was distressed or upset. No-one approached me with any concerns and everyone I spoke to were grateful for the home and were sad to see it closing after such a long time in Derry.
28. I was present at a meeting with Cardinal Brady and members of the various congregations. Former residents of the various houses were present and it was a difficult meeting for all concerned. On behalf of the congregation I apologised for any hurt caused to our former charges. This was an apology on behalf of the congregation and was not a personal apology or admission. The sisters have no problem in such an apology as they always wanted the best for the children and tried to provide for them as best they could. If any child felt they were mistreated or feels pain or hurt as a result of their time I happily repeat that apology.

HIA 169

29. **HIA 169** alleges that I hit her with my fist and also with a bunch of keys. I have never struck any child with my fist and I did not carry a bunch of keys while I was in Bishop Street. I completely deny this allegation.
30. She also alleges that I struck her with a steel ruler. I do not recall there ever being steel rulers or any other implement that could be mistaken for a steel ruler. The rulers in the school were all wooden. I did not teach **HIA 169** nor was she in any family group I was in charge of. I completely deny this allegation.
31. Children who wet the bed like **HIA 169** were called by the sisters before they went to bed. They were woken and they went to the toilet to try to stop bed wetting. If beds were wet the sheets were taken by the sister in the laundry and were washed during the day.

32. The self abuse referred to by HIA 169 was completely new to me. I had no idea about this and had never been told or this before. I did not witness anything that might have indicated this was going on. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I do recall an incident of HIA 169 being injured but my memory was that her sister told me she had fallen carrying a crate of milk and cut herself on the broken glass.
33. I am sure she received medical treatment but I could not say anything about a cotton wool dressing as I was not involved in the treatment. I deny being involved in holding her down while such a dressing was removed in the way she describes or at all. I am sure HIA 169 sustained the injuries she has complained of and I have seen the report from the doctor and the pictures. I cannot comment on how these injuries were received other than the recollection of an incident with milk bottles I do not recall any other major incidents with HIA 169. SND 477 attended every [REDACTED] I believe and any child who was ill or needed any care would have been seen by him. I am sure he would have treated HIA 169 for injuries she sustained and if he was concerned I am sure he would have made some note or comment about those injuries. I am also sure the staff at the school would have noted serious injuries and made inquiries about them.

HIA 105

34. HIA 105 describes incidents where the older girls combed her hair with a steel fine comb and that her scalp was bleeding. She says that I supervised this and took no action. I deny this. This sounds like an incident when there was an outbreak of headlice. This did happen and we did not have the treatments available today. The normal course was to wash the hair and then comb out the lice and nits using a fine comb. I recall some of the children may have had sores where they had scratched their heads and this could be a memory HIA 105 has. Many of the children came from deprived backgrounds and were unwashed or had infestations of head or body lice when they were admitted. They would have been washed and the lice combed out to try to prevent the spread. Infestations were unfortunately regular. I deny the allegation made that suggests that there was a bullying type regime which I supervised and allowed to happen. That is simply untrue. Bath nights were usually on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children's hair was washed on Saturday afternoon when I was out collecting in the Waterside. I was not involved in this routine.
35. I also completely deny the allegation of physical abuse and cruelty. I have never witnessed either of the two sisters identified inflict harm on any child. I do not accept that a child was ever made to eat food they had already eaten after they had been sick. The food was the best we could provide and there was no choice available. We had our meal after the children but ate the same meal cooked for them. Our dinner would be plated up and then kept warm while we supervised the children's meal time.

36. I do remember **SND 109** She went on to [REDACTED] I believe she became a [REDACTED] but she did not maintain contact with the sisters so I am recalling what I had heard.

General comments

37. During my time in Derry we saw some of the worst of the troubles. There was daily rioting and shooting. Rioting was almost a pastime for young people in the area and we were anxious to keep our children away from this. I was there for the trouble around internment, Operation Motorman, Bloody Sunday among other things. Bishop Street was very close to the Bogside and the Brandywell areas and many of the children we saw in the school had seen dreadful things. We tried to protect the children in Bishop Street from the worst of these problems as best we could with the resources available to us
38. We were heavily dependant on the collecting sisters and donations from the diocese and Saint Vincent de Paul. Without the charity of the people of Derry, who despite the poor circumstances they found themselves in, always gave generously to the sisters. We simply could not have operated the home without their aid. Even big companies like Desmonds gave us gifts of clothes and pyjamas for the children. This charity allowed us to operate and to do what we did for the children.
39. When I consider all the information available now on learning difficulties, behavioural problems and the effects of family trauma I wish more had been known then. In some ways we were better off as the children were more naïve and childlike than many of our young people today. I do not doubt that some of the children with us had behavioural problems which are more readily noted and treated today. I am sure many were traumatised by the events in the streets around them.
40. The Sisters did all they could with the knowledge and facilities available to them at the time.
41. The Sisters made sure the children had the best clothing they could provide. Every child had full school uniform and non uniform clothes for play. We baked bread in Bishop Street which was swapped for potatoes and fresh food from the farm at Termonbacca. This meant the children could get a decent meal. We had to manage the resources we had as best we could.
42. I am aware that it is suggested we sent the children out badly dressed and they were bullied because of that. I do not accept that. We sent the children out in uniform for school. I would say they may have stood out because they had better uniform than some of those from the local community. If any child was bullied it is not acceptable. That goes for now as much as it did then.

43. I am also aware of allegations that the sisters ate better meals than the children. That would not be my memory. I recall eating the same meal as the children. I recall that often our food would have been kept warm while we supervised the meals eaten by the children. There was definitely not a separate meal prepared for us.
44. I recall that there was always some sort of activity being organised for the children. There were dancing and music classes and the children would often perform on occasions and attend competitions. I have heard it suggested that these dancers or musicians were used like trained monkeys to make the sisters look good. This is a comment I find very hurtful. The best comparison I can make is of proud parents wanting to show off the talent of their children. We were immensely proud of the skills the children had learnt and it was a pleasure to see and hear them perform.
45. Whilst I did not participate in the washing of the children's hair as I was collecting on a Saturday I do recall Jeyes Fluid in the home. I recall [REDACTED] **SND 311** I think he was called, who would have used it for cleaning toilets and drains. You always knew he had been using it because the smell was very distinctive.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 52

Dated

12 November 2013

HIA 169

But we were..

SR 18

By comparison, that's all.. that people in their own homes in those times and it was in those times. Things have changed so much in [REDACTED] years and I'm going back further than that. But, I mean, these things are still going on in peoples' houses.

HIA 169

Agree..oh yeah.. there's so much abuse going on in the world. It's unbelievable.

SR 18

It's human nature, it will always be.

HIA 169

Yes, agreed and in every religious institution..

SR 18

Everywhere.

HIA 169

Absolutely. But.. but.. but... I can only I can only ...I can only talk about my experience.

SR 18

Of course.

HIA 169

And my experience for nearly [REDACTED] years of the Nazareth House was just.. with moments of fun because I was funny when I was a child and I was cheeky, as you well know, but.. but.. but.. I honestly do not think that I deserved, from a very, very, very young agewhat I got. I don't.

SR 18

No, I'm hearing what you're saying all right, Definitely.

HIA 169

So, anyway.....

SR 18

And I don't know all about it.

HIA 169

No, no, but....

SR 18

I don't know I didn't know you cheeky ??

HIA 169

No, I did. One day I hung out - I started jumping up on the.. the beam. And I remember you couldn't control me - I'll always remember this - and you sent me downstairs and [REDACTED] SR 9 and SR 59 put me into the corner. You know when you come in through the doors?

SR 18

Yes.

HIA 169

You know, the church corridor?

SR 18

Yes.

HIA 169

And, I remember SR 9 and SR 59 calling me [REDACTED] and after that I got the crap beaten out of me. And I think that... I'm not sure but I think that was the only time you couldn't control me... that you told on me.

SR 18

Outside in the playground, was it?

HIA 169

Oh no, no. It was upstairs in one of the groups.

HIA 169 Well it went into the

SR 18 Yes, yes into the wound.

HIA 169 Yeah.

SR 18 So it was stuck to it.

HIA 169 Well it was inside -- what's stuck ?? It was in.

SR 18 Was it? Oh God.

HIA 169 That's what I'm saying

SR 18 Did you see a doctor at all?

HIA 169 Come on, SR 18 Come on. You were there when the heads were bashed. My head was bashed. Come on, are you crazy? Come on (Laughing) Oh my Lord. Yeah, very funny, very funny -- yeah, see a doctor.

SR 18 Right

HIA 169 Right. Of course I didn't. Why would I be seeing a doctor if I'm held down by two nuns?

SR 18 No, but I mean at any time?

HIA 169 (Laughing) No, not in hell. You know damn well.

SR 18 Right.

HIA 169 We were never sent to doctors.

SR 18 Right.

HIA 169 Anyway, look, look (hesitation) ... the other reason why I'm ringing you is .. this is not going to make you happy..... If the prosecution, well, first of all, ... would you support me?

SR 18 Well you see I don't know the story.

HIA 169 What do you mean that you don't the story? You were then when I was battered and bruised and cut. You used to ... when I was a child.

SR 18 You're bringing up this case..

HIA 169 Oh, but no, no, no but there are other things going on.

SR 18 Right. Okay.

HIA 169 Come on, give me a break.

SR 18 Oh, I thought you were bringing up this case against SR 52

HIA 169 Yeah, yeah, yeah.. but, but , but.. Erm

SR 18 What else?

HIA 169 Never mind. But would you support me?

SR 18 I'd have to think about it and I'd have to get advice on it too.

HIA 169 Right, that's good, that's good but you were there when I was a kid. Come on.

SR 18 Oh, I know

HIA 169 You saw stuff

SR 18 I was only there that one year with you.

HIA 169 I know and I know all about what happened when you left. I was tortured because I was blamed for you leaving. I know all about it.

SR 18 By whom?

HIA 169 Who do you think?

SR 18 By Sister SR 9

HIA 169 Yeah, Sister SR 59

SR 18 How stupid!

HIA 169 Maybe stupid but..

SR 18 Well, I don't know - you see there are things there that I may not know. Somebody might have said something to somebody in authority they said that a change was wrong ?? and I wouldn't be into that.

HIA 169 No, but you know about the head, the bashing.

SR 18 I wouldn't be part of that.

HIA 169 No, but you know about it. Come on.

SR 18 I'm just saying that if you were saying that you were blamed for my being transferred I wouldn't know that. All I know is that I...

HIA 169 Oh no, no, no. That I get, that I get. No, no, no, that I get, that I get.

SR 18 Right.

HIA 169 No, of course. It's not your fault. I didn't say it was. God, I'm letting off steam here. Look, but you were there for a [REDACTED] Erm.. you saw stuff.

SR 18 No, I didn't see that much because I'll tell you what I was very junior at that time.

HIA 169

No, I know you were.

SR 18

I was [REDACTED] in the order and I wasn't in on that and I used to sleep on the middle floor.

HIA 169

Yes, I know all that - but are you telling me you never saw me after the time my head was split and all that?

SR 18

Yes, that was the only time, HIA 169

HIA 169

But hello? (laughing) Come on.

SR 18

That you got what?

HIA 169

My head was split down in the school. SR 9

SR 18

Yes, I remember that, I was there.

HIA 169

Come on, that's good.

SR 18

Right.

HIA 169

I mean it's not good. I mean it was a horrible thing that happened. Look...

SR 18

But then you would have to bring that against Sister SR 9

HIA 169

[REDACTED] - very funny!

SR 18

[REDACTED] ??

HIA 169

No but yeah, but yeah you can .. could you vouch for me?

SR 18

As I say I would have to take advice on that.

HIA 169

(Audible sighs) Okay, look, Erm (audible sighs)

SR 18

I'm still here.

HIA 169

Yeah, I know. Erm I appreciate your honesty at least. Erm,... okay.

SR 18

Are you really looking for me to give my name? For me to put my name forward? Is that what you're looking for?

HIA 169

Yeah.

SR 18

Yeah. I couldn't do that.

HIA 169

You what?

SR 18

I couldn't do that straight away.

HIA 169

No, no, no, no. God no. But (audible sighs) But you may have been there a very short time but you were pretty powerful.

SR 18

I never saw me as anything or anybody there.



J. M. J.

Derry 262180

Nazareth House,
Bishop Street,
Derry.

HIA 169

Dear

I would like to meet you again to clear
up a few matters. I will be free to-day (Thursday)
and to-morrow if you would like to call.

Sister

SR 9

HIA 16921st Dec 2013
MondayDear **SR 18**(P.S. ARE you still in
contact with**SND 225****SND 225****HIA 169**

The inquiry is about to
start in January, I am pleading with
you to come forward (They will pay for
you to come over) The contact person
is [REDACTED] she's
a good person (her phone no. is [REDACTED])
OR Ellen and Katherine Support Officers:
[REDACTED]

I just want you to tell the Lord Justice
that you witness me being (my head being
smash my **SR 9** at the 1st Classroom)
and other things you witness throughout
the [REDACTED] you were there - There is nothing
to be afraid of anymore **SR 18** its
about Healing for all of us - "I and
a lot of us need to heal I know you
have talked to the head turns and Societies
if you can persuade **SR 2** and **SR 30**
to come along - It can't harm if anything
good can come out of it. Thank you
Sincerely **HIA 169**

RESTRICTED (when complete)**Statement of Witness**

Statement of:

HIA 169Age of Witness: Over 18

(If over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of 5 page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness:

HIA 169Date: 28/09/10

Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by:
(Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member:

19361Date: 28/09/10by whom statement was
recorded or received

Service/Staff # if police/staff

I was sent to Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry when I was about [REDACTED] years old. Before that I lived at [REDACTED] I lived at Nazareth House,

Bishop Street until I was [REDACTED]. Then I was sent to the Nazareth House at [REDACTED]

where I lived for about [REDACTED] I now live in the [REDACTED] and have been in contact with Detective Constable [REDACTED] of the PSNI regarding my time at Nazareth House, Derry. I have already provided Detective Constable [REDACTED] with two reports that I prepared. He has marked them Police Items AF1 and AF2. Regarding the assaults that I was subjected to at the hands of the Nuns at Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry I would say the following. Three nuns were involved in assaulting me. They were Sisters **SR 9^{SR 59}** and **SR 52**. These 3 nuns were at Nazareth House, Derry for all the time I can remember being there. Sisters **SR 9^{SR 59}** and **SR 52** were sadistic. They would come up behind us, including me out of the blue, wack me with their fists and or with a bunch of keys. I am talking about the big old fashioned keys, very long and heavy. I would of heard them coming up behind me and I would have been totally disorientated and startled and shocked and it would have caused me a lot of pain. Sisters **SR 9^{SR 59}** and **SR 52** would rotate as to who got us out of bed. We slept in dormitories with about 15 or 20 other girls. These 3 sisters would have brushed my hair in the morning before

Signature of witness:

HIA 169Signature witnessed by:
(Appropriate Adult)

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

McMullin
SOLICITORS

Sandra Wylie

Clooney Chambers, 11 Limavady Road, Londonderry, BT47 6JU

Tel.: 028 71342184 Fax: 028 71311231

Email: swylie@vpmmcmullin.com

Website: www.vpmmcmullin.ie

S & COMPANY
Solicitors

DATE:

YOUR REF:

FJC/KC/CH/4649

16 August 2010

FTAO Ms. Sandra Wylie,
VP McMullin Solicitor
Clooney Chambers
11 Limavady Rd
LONDONDERRY
BT47 6JU

BY FAX 028 7131 1231

Dear Madam,

Re: **HIA 169** - Sisters of Nazareth Derry

We have been contacted by **HIA 169** regard to a request for information following her time with the Sisters of Nazareth.

We can confirm that our clients have a record of an **HIA 169** having been admitted to their care originally in [redacted] and Bishop Street in Derry.

The person referred to was born on the **HIA 169** and was admitted to [redacted] on the [redacted]. She then moved and was admitted to Derry on the [redacted] and was discharged from the care of the Sisters of Nazareth on the [redacted].

Our clients do not retain medical or educational records as these would be the property of the doctor and/or the patient involved and we do not have any further information in that regard.



Ted Jones • Fintan Canavan • Richard McLaughlin
Advocate Advocate
Michelle Murray

RECEIVED
17 AUG 2010

4th Floor, The Potthouse, 1 Hill Street, Belfast BT1 2LB. DX 537 Nr Belfast
Telephone: 028 9024 5471 Fax: 028 9032 6879 Email: info@joneslawni.com Website: www.joneslawni.com

-2-

We believe that your client attended the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Our clients have no accurate record of this but are confident that your client did attend.

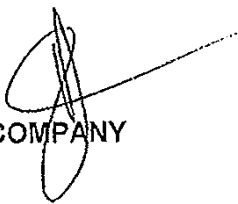
We have discovered a note of your client having [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

There is a note in a diary to that effect and a copy of [REDACTED]

In regard to the mental, medical or educational records, we believe that your client should approach the various surgeries, or the relevant government departments and seek access to the various records under the Freedom of Information Act.

We hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,


JONES & COMPANY

HIA 169

PAC asked her

to send me on records etc and promised me to

Tuesday

205-161 Week 30

First Quarter

Course did

not do so

needed money for

phone kept seen of

SR 9

asked me another time

Shortly after this if I could give her [redacted]
 for the next 2 years as she was getting therapy
 I refused bluntly. But she could say she
 was blackmailing us did not give her any [redacted]

SR 50

SR 71

Sis. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 Out with them \$10 each

NCPA 28/1