

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL
INSTITUTION ABUSE 1922-1995**

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF SR59

HIA105

1. Day 8: 7/8

This witness alleges SR59 struck children on the head with a bunch of keys as a routine form of punishment.

Comment: SR5 is unfit to testify. However the congregation acknowledges the account given by SR 147 in her letter of 23 July 2013. In so doing, we respectfully submit it is significant that SR 147 identifies only two sisters who were responsible for maltreatment during her times in Derry, one of whom was responsible for the single act of assault on an elderly resident. This is not an attempt in any way to excuse the conduct of either of these Sisters but the Inquiry Panel may consider this lends perspective to the nature and extent of physical punishment that was used in the home.

HIA40

2. HIA40 alleges beatings by SR59 and SR 6 when in Nazareth House, Bishop Street in the 1970s. He also alleges that nuns would lock children in cupboards for hours on end as a punishment and if children were naughty SR59 would usually give them either a scalding shower or a freezing shower. He also complained that SR59 took him to the toilet and left the door open and watched

him while he used the toilet. He alleges that every day he was beaten with something by a nun and that sometimes they used “*clangers*” [day 7 74: 23].

3. Comment:

- i) Social Services records [SND-4835] record that initially HIA settled well in TB but this was followed by truanting from school and stealing money. During subsequent foster placement he vandalised classrooms at school, stayed away from home overnight and urinated on his bedroom carpet and ended up in Harberton House as his foster parents could not cope.
- ii) SR59 has dementia and is unable to assist the Inquiry. However the Inquiry will hear evidence from former residents and other Sisters.
- iii) It is significant that HIA40 makes no complaint of physical beatings when in TB for 2 years between 1977 and 1979.
- iv) HIA105 was in Nazareth House, Bishop Street from 1 May 1962 to 1 July 1976 and she states that all physical punishments ceased in Nazareth House in the early 70s.
- v) In his evidence HIA40 was confused about the identification of particular nuns. His brother, SND-138, who was in the home with HIA40, appears to have been fond of SR1 as in a letter to HIA40 [SND-4586] he asks HIA40 “*how is SR1. Tell her I was asking for her*”.

- vi) The toilet supervision complained of was reasonable given that HIA40 had been climbing out of the toilet window and down the drain pipe when he was not supervised and was running away a lot.

- vii) In respect of his complaint that he was not allowed to attend his mother's funeral, at SND-4801 Social Services records contain a history that he was not allowed to attend the funeral as it was thought he would run away. It is not clear whether this was the view of his social worker or of the nuns or of a combination of both.

- viii) HIA40 had a social worker throughout his time in care and was also assessed by a psychologist and there is no record of maltreatment by the Sisters although, whilst still in TB in 1979, the psychologist records:-
"...the staff were so concerned about his condition, I sought advice from Dr Nugent with the agreement of GP...". It seems likely that this is a reference to the staff in Termonbaca since it was there that he was seen on 15 and 18 June 1979 and the psychologist also refers to the history that HIA40 is eating and sleeping normally. It is respectfully submitted that this reflects carers who were doing their best for HIA40 rather than maltreating him.

HIA49

4. This applicant makes a number of allegations against SR59 including being sent back to clean the toilets again which she felt was for badness; denigration due to bedwetting day 9 42: 6-21. SR59 used to say sometimes “*Oh, so you were out on your boat last night...*” She said the reason she had to sleep beside the door in the dormitory was because she smelled of urine and no-one wanted to sleep beside her. She describes how SR59 would come around at 11.00pm to wake up the bedwetters to go to the toilet and on one occasion she was already wet and SR59 smacked her face, used her knuckles on the back of her head and made her stand on the back stairs all night. She also felt that SR59 knew she was being sexually abused by a priest at confession and facilitated same.

5. Comment:

- i) It is likely the bays in the dormitory were arranged so that bedwetters were in the row of beds closest to the door rather than because HIA49 smelled of urine. She is the only resident who claims she was not bathed after wetting the bed. She describes one occasion only when she was punished for wetting the bed as oppose to routine punishment for so doing.
- ii) It is denied that SR59 would have tolerated sexual abuse by a priest or anyone never mind facilitate same.

Turlough Montague

Sarah Walkingshaw

Bar Library

25.04.14