

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 175

Witness Name: HIA 175

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 175

I, **HIA 175**, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in County Down. My mother had an alcohol dependency sometimes she was able to look after us and on other occasions she wasn't I never knew who my father was.
2. I was thirteen when I went into Nazareth House and **HIA 368** was seven. I had an older brother [REDACTED] who was taken to Rubane in Kircubbin. I had an older sister who did not live she lived with a man in [REDACTED] and an older brother who lived with an auntie.
3. I remember the welfare coming down one day and they took me and my younger brother **HIA 368** out of the house and to a court in [REDACTED]. We were made subject to a court order but the judge said that we must be kept together and as a result **HIA 368** was the first boy to be placed in Nazareth House, he was only meant to be there for a few weeks.

Nazareth House (16/05/69 – 10/09/71)

4. I remember the first day that we arrived in the home. Living in [REDACTED] we did not have very much and going to the home I was wearing an adult coat

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that was cut to fit me. HIA 368 and I were sent to the Sacred Heart Group and SR 31 was in charge. The kids in it were making fun of me. I vividly remember us not getting off to a great start.

5. The routine in the home was that you got up in the morning and went down to breakfast in a single file. We had to walk on the right hand side of the corridor. After breakfast we would come back up and do our chores before going to school. In the home you had to go to the chapel every day before breakfast and we always had to say the rosary.
6. The first morning when we were walking down to breakfast I noticed children standing on the left of the corridor with bed sheets over their heads. As we walked I saw my brother HIA 368 standing there. He had wet the bed and this was the punishment. When we came back up there was a very strong smell and when I saw HIA 368 I hugged him. He smelt of jeyes fluid as that is what they used to bathe him. It was very hard being taken from your mummy because she couldn't look after you and that is how we were treated.
7. I used to steal sheets from the laundry and at night I would check if HIA 368 had wet the bed and if he had I stripped his bed so that he would not have to stand in the corridor the next morning. I would hide the sheets so the nuns wouldn't know. It didn't always work because HIA 368 wet the bed every night. The older girls would come and forcefully move the children that wet the beds.
8. After school we came back and did more chores. One that I remember was using a very heavy buffer to polish the floors. The nuns watched us as we did our chores. My only real dealings were with SR 31 because she was in charge of our group. When we had our chores completed we got our tea and then we would be allowed to watch TV for a short time before going to bed.

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9. The beatings happened on a regular basis if you weren't doing the chores correctly. **SR 31** would hit you with the bunch of keys round the head saying you were useless and stupid.
10. I went to school at St Monica's on the Ravenhill Road and **HIA 368** went to a school in Nazareth House. I couldn't wait to get back after school to see **HIA 368** we would play in the play area at the front of Nazareth House where there were bars. It was frowned upon for a girl to be playing on things like that because she would be wearing a skirt.
11. My mummy used to visit every week on either a Saturday or a Sunday. She would thumb a lift from **[REDACTED]** and then we were put in this wee hall with seats to see her. Sometimes we would be allowed to go out with our mummy for a couple of hours. After every visit when mummy left **SR 31** used to take us into a room at the Sacred Heart group. She would tell us how lucky we were to be in the home because our mummy was an alcoholic who didn't want us and the only reason she came to visit was to pass her day. She would say that mummy was very happy to leave us there. The way she spoke about mum has filled me with a hatred of her that has hurt me more than any of the physical abuse I suffered.
12. The food in the home was made up of handouts from places like Marks and Spencer's. You got the same sort of thing every other day it wasn't great but in those days nothing really was. I was constantly hungry.
13. One day another girl and I were up watching Top of the Pops, the Pans People were on and we were dancing. **SR 31** was coming up towards the room and she was totally disgusted at us dancing. We were brought up to her cell and she had a big chain with keys attached to the bottom and we got that round our heads. We were then made to stand outside her cell for hours until we learnt a lesson. I had to stand outside her cell on a regular basis and every time I would have been beaten beforehand.

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14. On one occasion I was sent up to the old peoples part of the home which was at the top of Nazareth House. It wasn't uncommon that we would go up there to bring the old people down to the chapel. However, this time there was a lady who had died and I was brought into the room to help the nun wash her. We then had to put this white thing on it was like a night dress. It was a very daunting experience for a thirteen year old girl. I was never told beforehand what I was going to be doing. I did this on another occasion as well.

15. Our chores included working with the elderly in the old people's home. My job was to wheel the old people to the lift and take them down and then somebody else took over. I remember there was a man but I cannot remember his name. I remember this oldish man in particular who was resident in the home. There was a big corridor and he used to run from side to side trying to block you. He seemed to live there and spent his day walking up and down the corridor. If he caught you he would hold you really tight and his hands would be everywhere it was frightening. When I look back on it now I think that there must have been something wrong with him.

16. I remember a really nice lady from Down Welfare visiting us a few times each year, she was a social worker and she used to bring HIA 368 and I into town to buy clothes. One day when we came back we were met by SR 31 she was very nice to us in front of the lady and then told us to go to our dormitory. Later she came in and took the stuff from us. I remember seeing one of the other girls wearing one of the dresses I had got. We never got them back. I told the welfare lady but I'm not sure that she said anything to

SR 31

17. I do not remember any inspectors coming to the home but I know that there were often visitors. When visitors were coming we would be made clean the home in preparation.

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18. I recall that one day my sister came and brought HIA 368 and I to [REDACTED]. We went to a football game and she had entered my name in a competition. This man arrived at the home with the prize and it was a signed ball with the Down team signatures on it, I was presented with it but I never got to see the ball again and I don't know where it went.
19. One day my mum took us on a day trip to [REDACTED] and we were so excited. We were away all day and when we got back we were about half an hour late. SR 31 was waiting on us and when mum left she hit me and HIA 368. I think I was about fourteen at that stage. I always told my mum what was happening to us but I would tell her not to say anything for fear of the repercussions.
20. In the home HIA 368 and I used to be sent to a family in [REDACTED] on holidays. I remember it because the man was disabled and had a wee blue disability car that only held one person. They used to make us eat porridge both in the morning and at night. HIA 368 didn't like porridge. I remember one morning the woman was making HIA 368 eat the porridge, which was the same bowl that he hadn't eaten over the previous few days and I had enough, I got him by the hand and told her he is not eating your porridge and we are going. We took off through the fields and they were shouting at us. They called the welfare and they came down. I told them that we were not staying as HIA 368 didn't like porridge and he was not eating it. I was always protecting him and I think that came from our family situation and carried right through into the home. We were brought back to Nazareth House.

St Joseph's Baby Home

21. When I was fifteen I left school and went to work in St Joseph's baby home. I am not sure how long I actually spent there. I was in the toddler section where we had to get the toddlers up out of bed, put them onto potties. I had some training from Nurse [REDACTED] on one occasion. It was in order to deal with one particular little boy. He had a medical condition and when he had a dirty bum something came down his back passage. We would have to lift him off the potty, put him on the worktop beside the sink and make sure our hands

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were warm. We then had to push that bit back up into the wee boy's passage. On thinking about it I didn't realise how dangerous it was I had no experience.

22. I lived in the baby home during my time there and got paid £3 a week from the nuns. This then had to cover my meals but often because I was so busy I would be late getting to the dining hall and there would be no food left.

23. I remember there being a long driveway up to the home and it was scary late at night in the dark. Men used to hide behind the trees and jump out because they knew it was all girls living there. One night a man tried to come through my bedroom window.

24. When I was fifteen I wanted to go out with the other girls to the parish disco. I was told not to go but I went anyway and was given a warning. I went again on two further occasions and I was put out of the baby home and into the Good Sheperd. At this stage I think **HIA 368** had moved to Nazareth Lodge and he was eventually fostered out.

Good Sheperd Belfast (1971 - 1972)

25. In the Good Sheperd I lived in Merrion House one of the hostels it was on Carolyn Road. It was separate from the house. There were two buildings one was for unmarried mothers and I was in the other bit. Many of the girls worked so they left the home but I didn't have a job so I cleaned certain parts of the hostel from half six in the morning. When I was finished I would go over to the big house and work in the laundry. My working day was usually from about seven in the morning to seven in the evening. The food was cooked by **SR 196** and it was paid for out of my wages. At the weekend I was allowed to go home to my mummy who was living in Belfast but it was only either a Saturday or a Sunday I always knew what lay ahead when I was coming back.

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26. The first time that I came back from my home visit I was told to go into what seemed like a dormitory but it was more like a hospital ward with an old fashioned curtain round it and take all my clothes off. **SR 196** came in with what appeared to be like a jam jar and a paint brush. She then proceeded to paint me all over with this stuff that was really stingy. I asked her what it was for and she said it was so I didn't carry anything in from being outside. The stuff was slapped onto the entire body and private parts she made us stand with our legs open and our hands in the air. I soon stopped going home. I'd say that I endured the same procedure about three or four times.

27. When I moved from Nazareth House I was never given the opportunity to see **HIA 368** who was in the Lodge although I asked on many occasions.

28. In the Good Sheperd I recall an episode where **SR 196** and a priest were in room. They made all the girls line up and individually they brought us into the room. They made the girls swear that they were virgins. I rebelled against them and would not conform to what they want. I believe as a result I was sent to Middletown.

29. I never had any contact with social services when I was in Good Sheperd. I think the court order stated that I was to stay in care until I was eighteen and I believe it was the same order of nuns that were responsible for our care.

St Josephs Middletown (1972-1974)

30. When I left Good Sheperd I went to St Josephs and I was so happy there. There was a lovely nun called **SJM 11** she was so nice and made you feel that you mattered. You were made feel like you were wanted and were treated with warmth and affection which I had never experienced before.

31. I was never in trouble with the police before being sent to Middletown and I stayed there until I was seventeen.

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32. The training I got in Middletown helped me to get a job we did different tasks and were given a small amount of money. They helped me to get a job at an old people's place in [REDACTED] County Down. It was also run by nuns but again they weren't very nice. I lived and worked there for a short period of time.
33. One day when I was coming into Belfast to visit my mum I was at a wee cafe near the train station in Great Victoria Street. I was having a cup of tea and I got talking to this lady and asked had she any jobs. She gave me a job even though I had no experience. I moved back home which I wasn't allowed to do. The welfare called a few times but my mum said I wasn't there. The final time they called my mum said that I was nearly eighteen and that I was doing well and they left me alone.

Life After Care

34. One of my friends had a brother and I started dating him. I fell pregnant very quickly and I moved in with him in Belfast. I had been living with my mum but she was an alcoholic and would have parties with different men in the house. I eventually moved out and not long after that she died [REDACTED]
35. I was with my partner for twenty two years and we had five sons together. He was very abusive to me and I was constantly seeking refuge in Women's Aid. I kept going back to him as it was the easiest option but now I am away from him and have a great relationship with my sons. I never drank due to the impact that alcohol had on my life in the early years.
36. The relationship I have with my siblings was very much hindered by my time in care.
37. The education we received has hindered any potential job opportunities that I had.
38. I suffer from fibromyalgia and one of my sons stays with me every night due to the heavy medication that I take.

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39. I have been seeing a psychiatrist since 1994 and I believe that my difficulties stem from the time I spent in care. I am currently waiting on a referral to a specialist as I have tinnitus, it may be attributable to being hit round the head with the bunch of keys.
40. I reported these matters to the PSNI in 2010 but I have not heard anything from them.
41. I am also taking civil action against the Sisters of Nazareth.
42. I believe that an apology should be forthcoming from both the Order and the State as they were responsible for my care. I also feel that a memorial would be a fitting tribute to those that have not had their voices heard.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 175**

Dated 25/6/2014

| Name | Born | Admitted | Left | Taken | Remarks. |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| [REDACTED] | | | | | |
| HIA 368 HIA 175 | [REDACTED] | 16. 5. 1969 .. | 9. 7. 71 10. 9. 71. | Welfare Authority to Niz Lodge " | From the Down County Welfare Auths. |
| [REDACTED] | | | | | |

| No. on Register | Name | Date of Admission | Date of Discharge | Age on Discharge |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| [REDACTED] | HIA 175 | 16.5.69 | 9. 7. 71 | 15 ² / ₁₂ |
| [REDACTED] | HIA 368 | " | 10. 9. 71 | 9 ⁶ / ₁₂ |

175

HIA 175 decided to take up Child Care so arrangements were made for her to transfer to St. Joseph's. This did not prove successful. She was later transferred to S.S.C. where she is employed in the laundry.

10.9.71 **HIA 368** was transferred to the Lodge.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950

FIT PERSON : COMMITTAL TO : CARE OR PROTECTION :

William B. Lymas,
Senior Inspector of
N.S.P.C.C.

Section 63

Complainant : } Petty Sessions District of Newcastle
Defendant. } County of Down

Before the Juvenile Court sitting at Newcastle

HIA 175

who appears to the Court to be a child (or young person) under the age of 17, having been born, so far as has been ascertained, on the [redacted] day of [redacted] was this day brought before the Court as being in need of care or protection, namely as being a child (or young person) who (in respect of whom) having a parent or guardian unfit to exercise or not exercising proper care or guardianship or either falling into bad associations or exposed to moral danger or beyond control is in need of care or protection as defined by Section 62 (1) (a) of the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950

And the Court is satisfied that the said child (or young person) being within the description aforesaid is in need of care or protection.

It is hereby ordered that the said child (or young person) [whose religious persuasion appears to the Court to be that of Roman Catholic] be committed until he/she attains the age of eighteen years to the care (2) of Down County Welfare & Committee, being the [redacted] of the said child (or young person), who is a fit person and willing to undertake the care of him/her, and [who is of the same religious persuasion as the said child (or young person)]. [or who has given an undertaking that the said child (or young person) will be brought up in accordance with the said child's (or young person's) religious persuasion].

And it is further ordered that [redacted] residing at [redacted] being the parent (or person liable to make contributions in respect) of the said child (or young person) shall pay to the said [redacted] a weekly sum of [redacted] shillings and [redacted] pence [*to be applied by him in or towards the maintenance or otherwise for the benefit of the said child (or young person)] for so long as this Order shall remain in force.

And it is further ordered that the payments by [redacted] the maternal father of the said child (or young person) under the affiliation order (3) of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction sitting at [redacted] should be made to the said [redacted]

[And it is further ordered that the said child (or young person) be placed under the supervision of [redacted] a Probation Officer for a person appointed by the Court for that purpose] for a period of [redacted]

Dated this 16th day of May, 1969

Signed: G. H. Mullan
Resident Magistrate

*Delete where fit person is Welfare Authority.

NOTES :

- (1) Take notice that you, [redacted] are required, under a penalty of £2, to give notice forthwith to the said [redacted] of any change of your address.
- (2) The person to whose care the said child (or young person) is committed shall, whilst the order is in force, have the same rights and powers, and be subject to the same liabilities in respect of his/her maintenance, as if he/she were his/her parent and the said child (or young person) shall continue in his/her care notwithstanding any claim by a parent or any other person.
- (3) This order shall not extend the duration of an affiliation order and the affiliation order, unless revived, will not remain in force [except for the recovery of arrears] after the order for committal ceases to be in force.

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

HISTORY OF CHILD ACCEPTED INTO CARE UNDER THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSON'S ACT, (N.I.), 1950.

(1) Particulars of child

FULL NAME **HIA 175** Date of Birth [REDACTED]
 Religion **Roman Catholic.** Place of Birth [REDACTED]
 Authority financially responsible **Down. Co.** Date of Baptism **20.5.1956.**
 Place of Baptism **Clanvaraghan R.C. Church.**
 Date of acceptance into care **29th April, 1969.** Section of Children Act under which child is
 State where admitted or accommodated, with dates in care **70**
Nazareth House, Ormeau Rd., Belfast. 29.4.1969
 Estimated period of care **Not known.**
 Reason for acceptance into care **Removed under Section 70. Fourteen day Interim**
Order granted at Newcastle Juvenile Court, Friday 2nd May, 1969.
 School and Standard attained **Castlewellan Intermediate.**

Has the child suffered from any of the following illnesses? - If so, state year and severity of illness, as far as possible:-

| | Year | Severity | | Year | Severity |
|----------------|------|----------|------------------|------|----------|
| WHOOPING COUGH | 1956 | Severe | RHEUMATISM | NO | |
| MEASLES | 1958 | Normal | CHOREA | NO | |
| DIPHTHERIA | NO | | FITS | NO | |
| SCARLET FEVER | NO | | BEDWETTING | NO | |
| MUMPS | NO | | GASTRO ENTERITIS | 1967 | |
| CHICKEN POX | NO | | DYSENTERY | NO | |
| GERMAN MEASLES | NO | | POLIOMYELITIS | NO | |
| TUBERCULOSIS | NO | | OTHER | NO | |

Has the child been vaccinated and immunised against the following diseases? - If so, state dates, as far as possible:-

| | Date | Dates of Reinforcement | | Date | Dates of Reinforcement |
|----------------|------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|
| SMALLPOX | 1956 | | POLIOMYELITIS | At school (1966) | |
| WHOOPING COUGH | NO | | TUBERCULOSIS | NO | |
| DIPHTHERIA | NO | | | | |
| TETANUS | NO | | | | |

Details of any other serious illnesses/operations **N-**

Is child at present under medical treatment? - If so, please give details:-
Suffers from tonsillitis periodically.

NOTE FOR THE FILE27.11.69.

[REDACTED] children

advertised in the Frontier Sentinel. I visited her on the 27th November, 1969 and also saw [REDACTED]. Both seem to be very keen to take the [REDACTED] children even for a holiday period. We discussed various difficulties in the situation e.g. mother visiting, jealousy on [REDACTED] part, HIA 368 difficulty in being the only boy etc. I formed quite a good impression of the [REDACTED] family and arranged to take HIA 175 and HIA 368 to see them on the 14th December, 1969. HIA 175 and HIA 368 were quite excited at the prospect of going to a foster home.

HIA 175 is very quiet but seems to have almost a grown-up awareness. HIA 368 is more child-like and more reserved at first. He is possibly withdrawn to some extent. It was interesting that his conversation during the journey consisted in a great measure of "dangerous" things e.g. lakes, Indians in the woods etc. He also talked a great deal about God.

The [REDACTED] family were very welcoming to the two children and were very impressed with their general behaviour. HIA 368 and HIA 175 in turn, enjoyed the visit. HIA 368 said that it was the best day of his life. HIA 175 stated that her mother would like to see them over the Christmas holiday and I assured her that arrangements would be made. [REDACTED] transported the children on the

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

C.19

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that **HIA 175** (.....)
of ... [redacted] date-of-birth

was medically examined by me to-day
and is free from infection and suitable for *admission to) Immanuel School, Whitby.
placing with) Uxue

Signed: [Signature]
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VI

Address: John Mitchel Place, Newry.

Date 6.1.40

*Please delete words not applicable.

C.19.

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

W.66

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that..... **HIA 175**

of..... Hazareth Lodge was medically examined by me to-day
and is free from infection and suitable for admission to.....

Signed : *S. J. Mc Clellan*
a/ Divisional Medical Officer.

Address : *Newry* (b)
.....

Date : *19.12.69*

DOWN COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

C 19.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that

HIA 175

()
date-of-birth

of



was medically examined by me to-day

and is free from infection and suitable for ^(admission to)
~~placing with~~

Signed : *G. E. N. Coffey*
() DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Address John Mitchel Place,
Newry.

Date 6.4.199

*Please delete words not applicable

Miss

31st December, 1970.

SR 31

Margaret Bourne,
Ormeau Road,
Belfast 6.

Dear **SR 31**,

HIA 175 and **HIA 368**

Further to your telephone conversation with [REDACTED] I wish to confirm that it is in order for you to purchase 22 Os. Od. Postal Orders each for the children and be reimbursed by this Department.

Yours faithfully,

Am

for County Welfare Officer

15-2-71.

SR 31

asked me to call to-day as she wanted to discuss **HIA 175** & **HIA 368** with me. Apparently **HIA 175** has been seeing some boy while she was out to see her mother on Sunday afternoon and **SR 31** was worried in case she might get into trouble. **HIA 175** has also been returning late from school on occasions & it is thought she was seeing this boy after school.

There is a rule in Nazareth House that the girls don't hunt boyfriends until they leave school.

SR 31

had spoken quite harshly to **HIA 175** and asked if I would have a word with her.

I saw **HIA 175** & **HIA 368** together. I tried to get over to **HIA 175** not the wrongfulness of what she had done but the fact that she was breaking the rules of the Home & causing **SR 31** to worry.

S.T.O.

Since she has only a few months left at school I suggested she might concentrate on her schoolwork and think of plans for a job. HIA 175 didn't have very much to say except that it wouldn't happen again.

SR 31 had told them that they would not be allowed to go to see their mother by bus but that she would have to collect them. This was obviously upsetting them as their Sunday visits to their mother meant so much to the two children & their mother could hardly be relied upon to come & collect them. Quite frankly I don't think it would make much difference one way or the other as HIA 175 could still go out from home to meet the bus. Certainly I would not be in favour of stopping the children going home.

SR 31 requested a letter from the Welfare Dept. stating that she should continue to allow

17.6.71 **SR 31**, Nazareth House, telephoned to inquire what action we were taking with regarding to **HIA 175** and **HIA 368** who was leaving school at the end of the current term. She seemed anxious that **HIA 175** should leave Nazareth House as soon as possible after the end of term and is not prepared to include her in any holiday arrangements made by the Home. She also feels that **HIA 368** should be transferred to Nazareth Lodge once **HIA 368** leaves Nazareth House. **HIA 368** sat the entrance examination for the Technical College but was unsuccessful. I gathered from **SR 31** that she has recently been a bit of a nuisance in the house tending to want and get her own way and very anxious to be out in the world.

A. Thompson
Children's Officer

loosely filed

Family Background

Marion Russell, b. 12.1.46

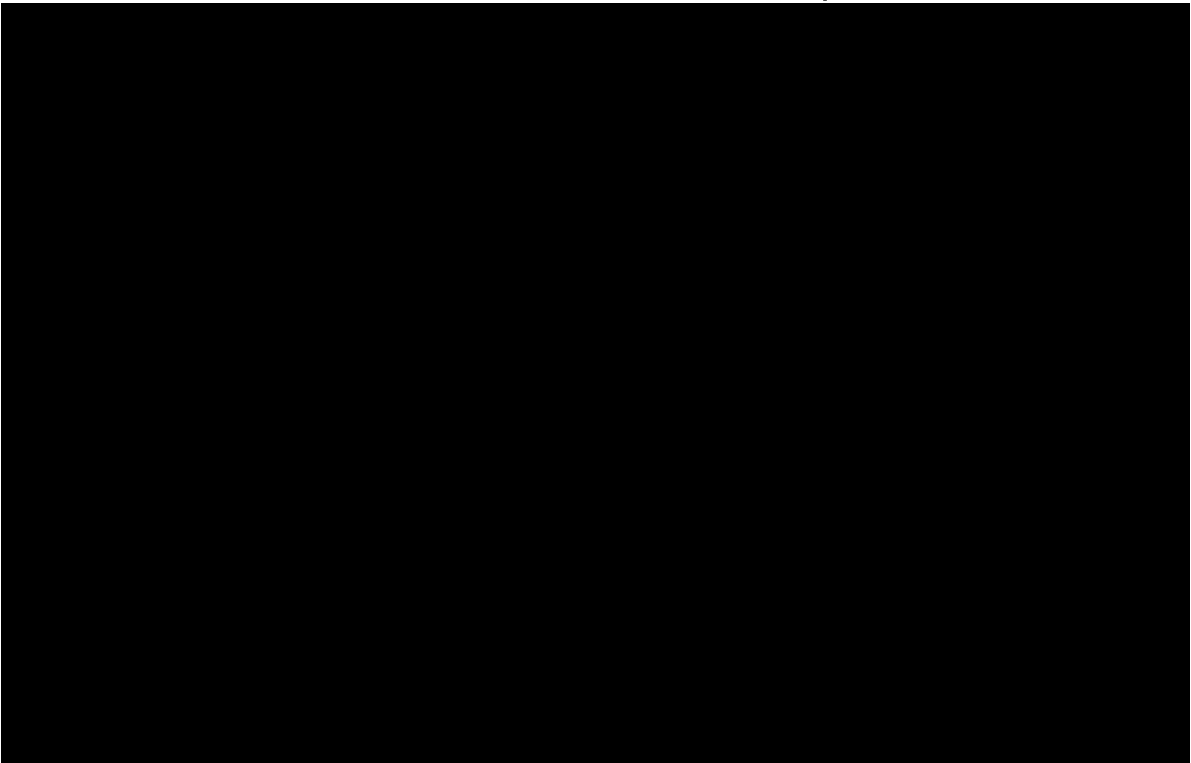
52 Abbots Street, Belfast Roman Catholic

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Mother</u> | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| <u>Brother</u> | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| <u>Sister</u> | HIA 175 | " | " |
| <u>Brother</u> | [REDACTED] | employed | in receipt of State Benefit. |
| <u>Daughter</u> | [REDACTED] | unemployed | |
| <u>Brother</u> | HIA 368 | | At School Nazareth Lodge Belfast. |

Family Background

Dependent is a fourth illegitimate child of Mrs Alice Russell.

The family has been known to the Welfare Department since September 1967 when three children [REDACTED] **HIA 175** and **HIA 368** were received into care (5.9.67) following an eviction from their home. They were admitted to Nazareth House, Belfast and remained in care until 28.10.67, when their mother found accommodation. The home situation was never very satisfactory and on the 29.4.69 the three children were removed to place of safety (Section 70 Children and Young Persons Act, N.I. 1950) as being in moral danger. They were subsequently committed to the care of Down County Welfare Committee at Newcastle Juvenile court 16.5.69 (Section 63 Children and Young Persons Act, N.I. 1950). **HIA 175** and her brother **HIA 368** were re-admitted to Nazareth House, Belfast and apart from an unsuccessful attempt to board-out these two children in 1970 the children remained in Nazareth House until this summer. During her stay in Nazareth House, **HIA 175** gave little trouble to the staff. **SR 31** always spoke very highly of her. She missed school on one or two occasions and gave some concern in the associations she was forming, but when spoken to about this she was co-operative and followed advice of **SR 31** and the Social Worker.



6. With regard to paragraph 12, the food was always the best standard we could provide. In the interests of the child, the Sisters would encourage them to eat the meals provided as there may not have been another option. The Sisters deeply regret that any child felt they went hungry under their care.
7. With regard to paragraph 14, this would not have been an acceptable chore for a child to do and we do not accept that a child would have been expected to do this.
8. With regard to paragraph 16, the children would have been taken out of the home to spend time with their social worker. In regards to **HIA 175** statement, the Sisters would not have taken the clothes bought by the children when they were with their social worker.
9. With regard to paragraph 17, and similarly to any familial home, the children would have helped tidy for visitors. This would not have been an extensive clean but merely putting the home into some sort of order.
10. With regard to paragraph 18, we are aware of similar allegations in relation to toys being taken away from children however we do not accept this. Children's toys and presents may have been tidied up and put away but these were not maliciously taken from the children. **HIA 175** ball may have been used throughout the home, as the children would be encouraged to share amongst themselves.
11. With regard to paragraph 20, the Sisters would have encouraged the children to spend time with families outside of the home. Whilst the same checks and balances were not in place as in today's society, the Sisters would try to ensure that those responsible for the children were pleasant and good-natured people. We are shocked that **HIA 368** would have been made to eat porridge over a number of days and are very disappointed to hear this about a trusted family.
12. The Congregation must offer **HIA 175** an unreserved and most sincere apology for any treatment she received by any Sister which fell below the acceptable standard.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF **HIA 175**

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 pages, 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.

Dated this 25 day of May 1995

G DALZELL DC
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

HIA 175
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am known as **HIA 175** I am [redacted] yrs, I was born on [redacted] in

[redacted] I live at an address known to police. When I was young I think I was about twelve years old. I was sent to Nazareth Lodge Childrens' Home on the Ravenhill Road. I went there with my younger brother **HIA 368** I was sent there due to a family problem. I have no good memories of the home. I recall a **SR 31** she was in charge of the unit me and **HIA 368** were in. **SR 31** beat me on a number of occasions for no reason at all. She beat me once for dancing to Top of the Pops when Pans People were on. She told me it was bad and vulgar to dance to those people. On another occasion she beat me with her keys, they hung by her side and there was quite a few keys on the bunch. I had missed school and she beat me badly. I ran away from the home once and was taken back by the police, they found me in a doorway. On a number of occasions **HIA 368** would wet the bed.

SR 31 would make him stand in the corridor with the wet sheets over his head. He would put the sheets in the bath and I would wash them, I was then made wash **HIA 368** in Jeyes Fluid. [redacted]

SR 31 said he had to be washed in it because she said he was stinking. That was very hard to see your wee brother standing with

Yeah

SR 31

In Nazareth House.

Yeah, right ehm now again familiar stories she came into the, the home because of family problems. Eh and she was put into the unit that you were in charge of.

SR 31

Yeah.

Right. Ehm she basically says she was beaten by yourself, SR 31 eh for no real reason, eh just general beatings, she's not going into exactly what the beatings were or, she said that she recalled one occasion that eh she was beaten for dancing to Top of the Pops because Fans People were on. You told her that they were bad and vulgar to dance to those people. Would those be words that you would use, bad and vulgar.

SR 31

Never.

You wouldn't use those words, no. And once again we have an allegation that eh you beat

VIEWS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF SUPERVISING
OFFICER*

(In fast stream
cases, the
recommendation
must be from an
officer not
below the rank
of Inspector)

In these papers 7 separate complainants make allegations against **SR 31** and there is a common thread of striking the girls with a bunch of keys.

However when one takes into account the mostly minor nature of, and length of time since the commission of the alleged offences, the lack of medical or other corroborative evidence and the subsequent denials by the Sister I believe the likelihood of a successful prosecution is indeed remote and I accordingly recommend 'No Prosecution'.

Name & Rank: ALLAN J PENTLAND D/INSPECTOR

Signature: *Alan J Pentland*

Date: 28, November 1996