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HIA REF: 327

Witness Name: HIA 327

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 327

I, HIA 327 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Belfast. My mother and father weren't married and they were in a mixed relationship. My father was Protestant and my mother was Catholic.
2. I think I was aged only one year when we were taken into care. I was the youngest of seven siblings. I was put into care with NHB 52 HIA 388 HIA 171 HIA 328 and [REDACTED]. Our oldest Brother [REDACTED] was able to remain living at home with his granny, presumably because of his age. My mother went on to have another six children after that, two of whom, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] followed us into the care system. I am not entirely sure of the reasons why we were taken into care, but I believe it was a result of poverty and overcrowding in our home. I would love to know more about the reasons, because it seemed like in those days, nobody had any money and every household was overcrowded, so I often wonder if there was more to it than that. I also wonder why my four youngest siblings were allowed to remain at home with our parents.
3. We were taken from our home by NHB 98 who told us we were going on a picnic. We were all scrambled into the back of a van. We were put into St

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Joseph's Baby Home. My brother [REDACTED] was only a year older than me so he was in the nursery with me for a time. I have no real memories of the nursery, although my earliest memory would be of sitting on the potties. We stayed in the nursery until we reached school age. [REDACTED] was transferred to Nazareth Lodge where he stayed until he was aged eleven years, when he went to Rubane.

4. I think may have we went home at one stage for a very short while and my sister told me that we were in Bawnmore at one stage, but I don't remember this. When we first went into care, we were called [REDACTED] which was our mother's name, but later we were known by [REDACTED] my father's surname. I have no idea why our name was changed.

Nazareth House, Belfast, 29th November 1961 – 9th July 1971

5. There were three groups in Nazareth House – St Anne's, Sacred Heart and Our Lady's. We all wore different coloured clothes depending on what group we were in. I was in Our Lady's group, and **SR 31** was the nun in charge of the unit. I was given the number eighty-three.
6. I was in the same group as my three sisters, **NHB 52**, **HIA 171** and **HIA 328** but I didn't know who they were at first. When I was in the nursery, I didn't mix with the older children. I recall leaving the nursery and seeing a girl hovering, but I didn't know she was my older sister. I was only four years old at the time, and she would have been around twelve years. She took my hand but I didn't know who she was until later. She left the home when she was aged fifteen years. I remember being at Mass one morning and I was looking around because there were two new faces I hadn't seen before. We always got excited when there were new children. I found out eventually that they were my two younger sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
7. **SR 31** had a bedroom in our dormitory. We slept in basic metal beds with lumpy mattresses. **SR 31** would come in and she would just clap

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her hands to get everybody up. The nuns would pull the bedding back to inspect the beds. Thank goodness, neither I nor my sisters ever wet the bed. The children who wet their beds had the worst time. They had to walk with their wet sheets over their heads, down to the laundry and the washroom. They were shouted at and humiliated. We had to pray as soon as we got up, then have breakfast and then go to Mass.

8. After Mass, we went to primary school in the grounds of the convent. There were pupils from outside the home who also came in to this school. In primary school, **SR 31** was the teaching nun. I was in her class until I moved to secondary school, so I had her through from getting up in the morning, prayers, breakfast, mass, in school, and then when we went home where she was in charge again. There was no escape from her. I think she acted different when the pupils from outside the home were around. She was two different people, and definitely not as harsh when they were there, so they probably thought she was nice. **SR 134** also taught in the primary school. **SR 134** used to dig her fingernails into our wrists, but we didn't have much to do with her because we were always in **SR 31** class. **SR 31** wasn't a bad teacher. She was strict so we had to listen to her. We were taught how to read and write, but they didn't teach us anything which was going to be of any value in the real world. When I left the home I didn't know how to get on a bus or do other normal things.

9. After school, we had to clean the classrooms, wash the desks and then there was general cleaning and tidying up. The cleaning could be quite heavy. We were always scrubbing. We only ever seemed to be either scrubbing or praying. They might have let us watch a little TV, maybe once a week, on a Saturday. We used to go out to the garden sometimes, but even on a cold day, we weren't allowed back in until the bell rang and I remember being freezing at times. There were a couple of old swings and a climbing frame. I can't remember doing a lot of playing. In the evening we had more prayers and the Benediction Rosary before tea. The system in the home was brutal. All we did was clean and pray. We always seemed to be on our hands and knees. I don't know what good all that praying did for us.

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10. We all wore the same clothes, it was like a uniform. There was one nun who was very cruel, **SR 122**. She was in charge of the sewing room. We had to wear an apron, and we would call them pinnies. We had one pinnie to wear for a whole week, and then every Saturday morning it was inspected. If the pinnie was torn or had even the tiniest bit of dirt, we would get it from **SR 122**. On one occasion I tore my pinnie and my sister **NHB 52** hid it for me, by rolling it up in her own pinnie, but when it was discovered, she was hit by **SR 122**.
11. We were bathed twice a week. I remember the nuns would put Jeyes fluid in the bath, and it would sting really badly if we had any cuts. Sometimes ten other children would be in the bath before it was my turn so the water wasn't fresh. Older girls would sometimes supervise bath time, and they could be just as bad as the nuns. They were always rough and pulling at us.
12. The food in the home was terrible, but we were always hungry so we just had to eat it. We weren't starved but we still weren't fed a proper nutritional diet. The food was very bland and stodgy. We had lumpy porridge for breakfast. We were given pork pies that were just full of jelly and fat. The nuns would walk up and down the tables and stand behind us, always watching to make sure we ate our meals. I was physically sick at times. Sometimes I tried to hide my food, put it down my knickers. I remember being hungry quite a few times and going to steal apples and rhubarb out of the nun's part. I wouldn't say we ever felt full. On feast days, and at Christmas, a bottle of HP sauce and a bowl of sugar would have been put on the table. I don't remember being cold in the home.
13. **SR 31** had a massive bunch of keys, like jailers keys, and she had a habit of digging them into our heads. If we were talking at the table at mealtimes, she would come behind us and hit us with the keys. They are what I remember most about **SR 31**. We called her elephant because we could hear her coming a mile away with the jingle of her keys. We very rarely saw her smile or laugh. **SR 31** had her favourite children. On one

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occasion I ran away with another girl. As punishment, I was made to kneel all night outside **SR 31** cell. She kept looking out the window to check that I was still awake and if I was falling asleep, she would throw things out at me. She must have kept herself awake to check up on me. The other girl that I ran away with was just sent to bed, and wasn't punished at all.

14. **SR 31** could be very cruel. If I did something wrong, she would say "what do you expect, you're only from the back streets of Belfast". She called us "a pack of tramps". I know that when we were first taken into care, we weren't very clean and she was always bringing it up and reminding me of it. Her comments hurt me more sometimes than being beaten. That's what stuck in my head more than the beatings. She was always humiliating us.
15. My mother came to visit us in Nazareth House at the beginning. The nuns weren't particularly nice to her, in the way they looked at her and spoke to her. They made fun of her and said she was living in sin. I recall on one occasion, my mum wrote a letter and she was complaining about the way we were being treated. **SR 31** read the letter out in front of everybody during breakfast in the big main dining room. She pointed out all the spelling mistakes and the fact that my mother was so ignorant that she had written in red ink. It was humiliating and all the kids were sniggering. Once I got a bit older, and started to answer back, I would threaten to tell my mother what **SR 31** was doing and she would say "you should never have been born, none of you should ever have been born, your mother wasn't even married".
16. There was a brutal regime in the home. Nothing was ever different. I don't remember kids fighting, telling tales or making fun of each other. We all had to stick together. I don't remember anybody really crying, because there was no point.
17. Sometimes we were taken out for parties at Christmas time to places like Mackey's. I always remember feeling embarrassed. The people meant well but I felt like a charity case. I never liked going to them. They would give us

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small presents, but they were always taken away by the nuns afterwards. I would see my brothers [REDACTED] and HIA 388 at parties but I didn't know they were my brothers. I didn't get to know them until after I left care. We never celebrated our birthdays and didn't know when our birthdays were. When I was aged around ten or eleven years, a teacher by the name of Mrs Hennessy said happy birthday to me, but I didn't even know it was my birthday.

18. Sometimes we were sent out on holidays with families, but they were strangers and I never felt part of the family. I knew I was the odd one out. Sometimes I felt as if I was being used as a skivvy by the family I was sent out to stay with. I was sent out to stay with a lady called [REDACTED] who made me eat bread with mould on it. I was sent to one lovely family in Dublin, the [REDACTED] for three years in a row, at summer time and at Christmas. It broke my heart every time I had to come back to the home. They were the first normal family I had seen. On occasions they also took [REDACTED] out at the same time as me, but I didn't like that because I was used to getting all the attention.
19. The nuns seemed to know in advance when people were coming to see the home, and then we could always tell. Suddenly a lot of dolls would appear, and then there would be a lot of people walking around. As soon as the people left, the dolls would disappear again. The people never asked us anything. I remember a TV crew coming up one time to do a documentary, and I was pictured standing on the steps with a doll in my arms. I think I was aged eleven years at the time. I remember watching the documentary whilst I was out on a foster placement with the [REDACTED] family. I was given the doll to hold whilst the filming was going on. I had never seen it before, and never saw it again afterwards. Other than these times, we weren't even allowed a teddy bear. If a child came into the home with a toy, it was taken off them. The nuns seemed to enjoy being cruel.
20. Every time a nun passed away, all of the girls were made to kiss her body. I dreaded it when I heard that a nun had died and the smell of the bodies made me feel sick. I remember one nun in particular who passed away, Sister

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██████████ and I was worried that she was going to open her eyes when I was kissing her.

21. At the age of eleven years, I went to St Monica's secondary school. We wore the same school uniform as the other girls but we were marked out as Nazareth House girls because we all had a bowl haircut.
22. A couple of years before I left Nazareth House, the dormitories were reduced, and smaller bedrooms were provided. They were more private. A few years after I left, I went back to Nazareth House to visit my younger sister ██████████ and I was shocked to see her get up and make herself a piece of toast. I couldn't believe it. She seemed to have a lot more freedom than we were given.
23. I was in St Monica's for approximately three years before I was moved to Derry. I started to run away, but it was only a bit of excitement, for something different to do. ██████████ SR 31 ██████████ called me in one night and told me that she couldn't control me. She told me I was being moved to a children's home in Derry. My sisters ██████████ and ██████████ were left behind.

Good Shepherd Convent, Derry, 1971 - 1973

24.

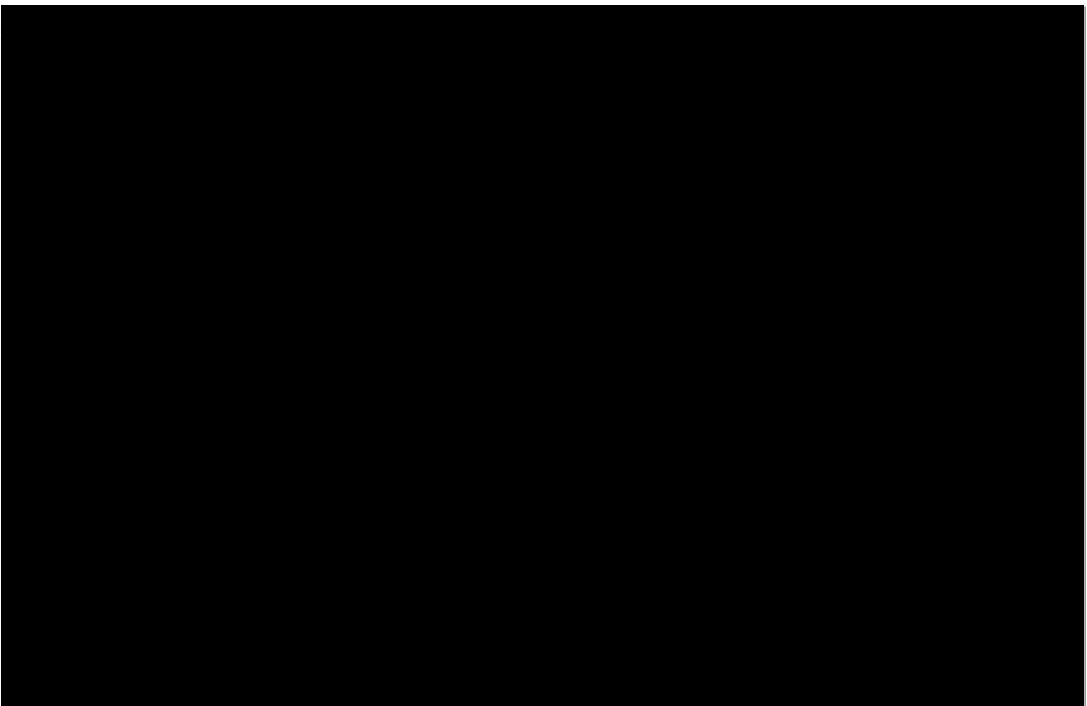
25.

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26.



27.

Life after care

28. When I first left care, I went to visit my parents who were living on the [REDACTED] Road. They were indifferent towards me. They let me stay but the conditions were probably just as bad as when we were first taken into care. I did have Social Workers who visited me infrequently – NHB 115 and NHB 116. They could see the conditions I was living in and did nothing. They seemed to think it was okay for us to live the way we were. NHB 115 arranged for me to go into a hostel on the Newtownards Road. She would take me out to a nice restaurant and then she'd bring me back to whatever hovel I was living in. I used to think there was no point in taking me out somewhere nice if they were

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just going to bring me back to a hovel. There was no aftercare once I left care, no contact numbers if I needed help.

29. When I left the Good Shepherd it was the height of the Troubles as well, so that didn't help anybody's situation. I only ever did menial jobs as I was never trained. I left care with no confidence.
30. I met a man when I was seventeen years of age, and we got married. It turned out that he was an alcoholic and he was very controlling. I was tired and brow-beaten, so it was very difficult to get out of that relationship but we eventually separated after twenty years. I have a new partner now. I have a thirty year old daughter, and two sons, one at twenty six years and one at fifteen years. I have four grandchildren. My children and grandchildren are all living in Wales, save for my youngest son who lives with me. I moved my children around a lot during their childhood. I lived in Wales for years and then I returned to Northern Ireland but I don't feel like I belong in either place. I move house on average twice a year. I can't stay in one place.
31. It's not until you have children of your own, and then grandchildren, that you realise that you haven't had a normal childhood. There are no pictures of me as a baby, and sometimes it feels as if I just didn't exist. I feel like my kids suffered as well, although I don't think the youngest has suffered as much. Although I love them, I find it hard to show warmth and I regret that. I'm not particularly comfortable with people hugging me or showing me affection because I'm just not used to it. I remember the first time I was hugged was when I was about thirteen. I tend to keep everything to myself and then I get angry in my head, but I never tell anybody. It hasn't done me any good over these years. I have never had any counselling in relation to my experiences.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 327**_____

Dated 14. 10 14._____

3 - MONTHLY REVIEW

SNB-48770

Name of child: **HIA 327** Date of birth: **[REDACTED]**

Home Address: **[REDACTED]** Care Address: Nazareth House.

Division: South School attended / Employment: * St. Monica's

Date of admission to care: 8.12.61 Section under which admitted: 63 & 70

Reason for admission (be specific): Committed on application of N.S.P.C.C. (neglect)
Mother ill.

How accommodated during period in care

Place	Period
Bawnmore	30.10.61 - 8.12.61
Nazareth House	8.12.61 - date

Report

Dates of visits to child: _____

Dates of interviews with parents: _____

Owing to a misunderstanding and changeover of Social Workers **HIA 327** was not visited regularly during this period. She is a quiet girl, but seems to have been making fairly satisfactory progress at St. Monica's and Nazareth House during the period under review. At present she goes home on occasional Saturdays and Sundays.

Divisional Welfare Officer **[REDACTED]** Social Welfare Officer: **NHB 139**

Children's Officer **[REDACTED]** Date 1.3.71.

* Delete whichever is inapplicable

CHILDREN - HOME ON TRIAL/~~UNDER SUPERVISION~~

6 - MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

HIA 328

Name of child: _____ Date of birth: _____

Home Address: _____ Division: South

~~School attended~~/Employment*: Unemployed.

Date of admission to care: 8.12.61 Section under which admitted: 70 & 63

Reason for admission (be specific) Committed on application of N.S.P.C.C.
(neglect) Mother ill.

How accommodated during period in care

Place	Period
Bawnmore	30.10.61 - 8.12.61
Nazareth House	8.12.61 - 8. 4.70

Date allowed home on trial/~~date of Supervision Order~~*: 3.4.70

Period of Supervision: _____

Discharged to (state relationship) Parents.

Report

Dates of Visits: Owing to a misunderstanding arising out of changeover of
Social Workers HIA 328 was not visited regularly during this period. She
appears to have settled in fairly well at home, but has found it difficult
to find - and retain - employment.

Divisional Welfare Officer: _____ Social Welfare Officer: NHB 139

Children's Officer: 1 Date: 24.2.71

* Delete whichever is inapplicable

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
8/8/69.	HIA 327 not visited in July as she was away on holiday - Margaret House did not give us any information about this.	
3/9/69.	Visited HIA 327 she had returned from her holidays which she seemed to have enjoyed. She was in quite good form. Each sister appears to have had different lengths of time away, depending on who they were staying with. This I would not feel very happy about. However the girls did not appear to be upset by this.	
13/11/69	visited. All appears to be going well. Have visited home occasionally.	
13.3.70	Visited girls for the first time HIA 327 seem rather quiet and shyer than the other two girls. They visit home regularly at the weekends now	
29.4.70	Visited all the girls - everything seems to be going well	
29.6.70	HIA 327 seems to be a quiet, placid girl and more like her older sister HIA 171 She was looking forward to her summer holidays in Dublin.	
29.1.70	Saw HIA 327 with other my sisters. Had back with SR 31 pier, who was rather worried about HIA 327 . SR 31 obviously takes a great interest in this family & was	

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
	<p>rather anxious about HIA 327 behaviour & the effect her home visits have on her. to She wondered if HIA 327 was really happy at Nagasem. However when I asked HIA 327 if she liked Nagasem house she said it was "great" and Mar going home was "all right". It looks as if there may be some problems to be faced with HIA 327 & SR 31 mentioned Mar HIA 327 like HIA 171, at seemed at times resentful of her home background. However she appears to be happy at Nagasem & home visits at weekends are continuing.</p>	
23.2.71	<p>SR 31 rang. She is rather worried about HIA 327 behaviour at the moment - she has apparently been pilfering small things from Nagasem to take home to her family, whom she continues to visit regularly. She is also suspected of having pilfered something from a chemist's shop. SR 31 was at first inclined to want to cut down on HIA 327 home visits, but it was felt that this would not do much good. However, Sister SR 31 feels Mar HIA 327 would be better away from her family for some time, and is worried about the future. Visited HIA 327 myself. She was her usual self - not very communicative, but says she likes Nagasem and does not want to go home. It is felt that if HIA 327 had something more to occupy her at Nagasem the situation might improve. HIA 327 says she wants to become a hairdresser, but does not at the moment display any practical interest in this. This pattern of behaviour of HIA 327 repeats that of HIA 171, who also was inclined to pilfer while at Nagasem.</p>	
29.3.71	<p>Rang Nagasem House. SR 31 came to phone & had long chat about HIA 327 SR 31 continues to be concerned about HIA 327 behaviour. She is no longer pilfering, but is apparently moody & a bit unpredictable. SR 31 feels Mar HIA 327 behaviour</p>	

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
	<p>is creating an unpleasant atmosphere for the rest of the girls at Nazareth and would be happier if she could be moved somewhere else - wasn't in a very much as if I can suggest from the same positioning behaviour as main or because. We discussed the home situation & I explained to SR 31 that [redacted] was due home from De la Salle in summer & that there would not be room for HIA 327 at home. Nor would it be very satisfactory to return HIA 327 to the poor home conditions. SR 31 asked me to speak to my senior before visiting on Wednesday.</p> <p>Spoke to NHB 116 re possibility of HIA 327 leaving Nazareth and entering eg. Good Shepherd Hostel. HIA 327 is, however, just 14 (b. [redacted]) [redacted]</p> <p>31.3.71 Visited HIA 327 & spoke to her on her own. She remains a different girl to get to know, rather aloof, and one suspects that she gives me answers she knows one would like to hear. She maintained that she was happy at Nazareth, but would quite like to go home - though she was not over-enthusiastic about this. When the idea of living in a hostel was proposed she was quite responsive & interested. I pointed out that since she was still 14 she might ^{would} be rather young to leave Nazareth. I get the impression that HIA 327 is rather frustrated ^{at Nazareth} but she denied that there were any difficulties. When asked what she would like to do she said she would like to work with old people, but would not like a living-in job. She does not seem to have really considered the future. However, on this visit HIA 327 was more friendly & slightly more forthcoming. I said I might on a future visit bring my senior with me to have a talk with her, to which HIA 327 was quite agreeable. [redacted]</p>	

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
Easter '71	<p>SR 31 Lang to ask if HIA 327 could go home for Easter as the convent was going into winter & no holiday had been arranged for HIA 327. It was felt that this was not very satisfactory as [redacted] would be home also & there was not really room at [redacted] for both HIA 327 & [redacted]. However, there was no available alternative, so HIA 327 was allowed home. [redacted]</p>	
10.5.71	<p>SR 31 Lang to say that HIA 327 was again giving trouble, & that SR 192 Head of St. Monica's had complained to Nazareth</p>	
11.5.71	<p>Lang St. Monica's: SR 192 had had to go home as her sister had died that morning, so saw NHB 138, vice-principal instead. She was expecting me & had ready written reports from teachers complaining of HIA 327 lack of interest & attention in class & claiming she distressed other pupils. Also had with her a letter faked by HIA 327, & signed "SR 31 SR 31" asking for excuse HIA 328 from school for "personal reasons". It appeared that NHB 138 knew very little about HIA 327 home background, but after some discussion [during which I suggested that HIA 327 difficulties were possibly due to normal adolescent problems, plus feelings of insecurity (her efforts to distract the rest of the class could be a form of attention-seeking)] NHB 138 agreed that a more sympathetic approach to HIA 327 at school might help, though she qualified this by saying that she felt there was quite a strong anti-authority feeling in the school at the moment. She seemed inclined to feel that many of the girls from Nazareth were "difficult".</p> <p>Same day: I visited Nazareth & spoke first to SR 31 SR 31, who showed me a letter from HIA 327 & a girl called [redacted] in which they said they were leaving to go to [redacted] house because SR 31 "didn't trust them" & citing several instances whereby they thought they weren't trusted eg at night SR 31 had made them</p>	

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Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
	<p>keep me right on a some such thing. SR 31</p> <p>attitude was concerned but rather helpless. She agreed that HIA 327 was probably feeling insecure & resentful of attempts to "keep tabs" on her, but she still felt that HIA 327 "needed watching" eg SR 31 had given her a letter to post which HIA 327 evidently forgot - SR 31 was inclined to think HIA 327 deliberately forgot. Altho' NHB 116 SSWO had spoken to SR 31 on the phone & explained that there was really nowhere else where HIA 327 could go if Nazareen would not keep her, the feeling was still that HIA 327 would be better off somewhere else - or rather, that Nazareen would be better off without HIA 327.</p> <p>Spoke to HIA 327 on her own: at first she was sullen & gave monosyllabic answers. Given time, however, she opened up and began expressing feelings of resentment against SR 31 whom she feels is "always watching her" and "never trusts her to do anything". When asked directly about "mitching" from school, she said she "had to get away" & had gone home. I feel HIA 327 does not really want to go home, but does so because she has nowhere else to go & because she knows no-one will push her around or make rules. SR 31</p> <p>had previously complained that HIA 327 was apathetic, had no real interests, & never showed enthusiasm about anything. When HIA 327 asked re possible interests HIA 327 repeated what she had said before viz: she would like to work with old people & said she would like to do this on Saturdays even if it meant she could not go home. At the end of the interview I feel HIA 327 was more accepting of me. She asked if she could contact me & I suggested that if she felt "fed up" or depressed she could ring me. She seemed to rather tentatively welcome this idea. She offered to show me the way out, but as we were going to</p>	

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Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
	<p>she can SR 31 came out HIA 327 went off in another direction. SR 31 wanted to know what HIA 327 had told me & when I brought up question of helping old people immediately vetoed the idea. (apparently they fear the girls will scrounge off the old people). I tried to suggest that if HIA 327 had some similar occupation that she might be more settled. I feel that at the moment HIA 327 feels everyone is "getting at her" and making her feel rather useless. SR 31 said she would try to think of something HIA 327 could do.</p> <p>14.5.71 Report submitted to Mr. Moore. C.O. - copy attached</p>	
25.5.71	<p>Saw HIA 327 along with [redacted] & [redacted] and later on her own. She was, as always, polite and rather pleasant, but she said "things were better", both at school and at Nazareth. She backed up [redacted] & [redacted] in their complaint about the short time they were allowed home at weekends, but she displayed no real resentment. For the moment, at least, she seems prepared to stay at Nazareth and it did sound as if the staff at school had been more sympathetic towards her. Like her sister, she will be going on holiday when term finished, and she seemed to look forward to this, albeit with no great excitement.</p>	
15.6.71	<p>HIA 327 was her usual quiet self, and said very little - everything at school etc was "all right". SR 31 showed me her report from school (the one NHB 138 had shown me) which was not so favourable. The relationship between SR 31 & HIA 327 remains rather strained. Holidays are still being fixed up for HIA 327 but she will be away July & August. Explained to HIA 327 SR 31 I was leaving.</p>	

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Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
18.6.71	SR 31 rang to say HIA 327 had absconded from Nagatam & had missed school. (I was on leave. message taken by SR 31).	
22.6.71	Rang SR 31 HIA 327 was brought back to Nagatam by police on Sat. morning. Had been picked up on the streets with another girl. SR 31 was reluctant to say anything more as she thought someone else was on the line. NHB 116 was on leave, so arranged to contact SR 31 again tomorrow.	
23.6.71	NHB 116 contacted SR 31 Arranged to meet to discuss HIA 327 .	
24.6.71	Discussed situation with NHB 116 & SR 31 SR 31 attitude is rather punitive. She considers that HIA 327 needs "training" and ought to be taken away from Nagatam, out of present environment. She sees many parallels between HIA 327 behaviour and that of HIA 171 whom SR 31 "gave a second chance", and did not profit by it. It did not appear that HIA 327 had committed any serious crime, but SR 31 spoke as if HIA 327 was to be brought through the courts. She appeared to think that HIA 327 could be taken away there and then. It appeared that HIA 327 behaviour was fairly normal adolescent behaviour, and that possibly she had been driven to rebel by the restricted atmosphere in which she found herself. SR 31 considered that training-school was the only answer for HIA 327 , & is anxious to have her removed from Nag. as soon as possible. NHB 116 agreed to contact SR 31 next week re possibility of change of environment for HIA 327 , but it does not seem as if training school is likely to provide the answer.	
25.6.71	Meeting with NHB 116 & HIA 327 re morning HIA 327 to Good Shepherd in Derry.	

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Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
30.6.71	Visited Good Shepherd with NHB 116 & talked to Homes Supervisor and Social Worker [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2.7.71	Visited Nazarene with NHB 116 . Saw SR 31 first & told her we would take HIA 327 to Derry early next week. Also met HIA 328 would be going. SR 31 left us to get HIA 327 when HIA 327 came in she was red-eyed and crying. After some talk, NHB 116 explained situation to HIA 327 - not a punitive decision & HIA 327 seemed reasonably happy to go. She was pleased at thought of HIA 328 going with her.	[REDACTED]
6.7.71	Collected HIA 327 from Nazarene. There was quite a little crowd to see her go, and again she was upset and crying. However, she calmed down fairly quickly & was quite cheerful and responsive on the journey to Derry. Did not appear sullen or unhappy, & obviously felt happier that HIA 328 was going with her.	[REDACTED]
28.7.71	Visited HIA 327 & HIA 328 in Derry with NHB 116 & took them out to tea. HIA 327 was looking quite well, though a little pale. She has a cheeky way with her sometimes, but there is an attractiveness about her which is rather endearing. She appears to have settled in quite well at Derry, but made several complaints - that she had to do scrubbing, that they were always having to say the Rosary & go to church. She at present, however, having to work in the laundry from 8.30 AM to 5.45 PM with time off for lunch & tea-breaks. These are far too long hours for a child of her age to work - & the nuns are surely breaking the Factory Act by allowing her to do so. On the way back to Belfast	

Re: HIA 327 b. [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Care Address: Nazareth House.

HIA 327 is one of 12 children 8 of whom have been, or are, in care. Her parents who have co-habited for 20 years are of low I.Q., and offer no real guidance to any of their children. Mr. [REDACTED] and the 3 elder children at home are unemployed. During recent months there have been difficulties with HIA 327 behaviour both at Nazareth House and at her school, St. Monica's. She has been accused of apathy at school, of distracting other pupils, of petty pilfering and mitching. For some time it has been evident that HIA 327 is not happy at Nazareth House. The normal adolescent problems have been complicated by feelings of insecurity and by the atmosphere of the home which is not accepting of adolescent rebellion. She resents having to spend yet another year at school. There appears to be no secure mother-figure to whom Joan can relate at present; her mother is affectionate, but has little understanding of her problems. If a secure and understanding environment could be provided for HIA 327 with a mother-figure to who she could relate, in a smaller group than at present exists at Nazareth, I feel she would benefit greatly. Contact with HIA 327 home is still maintained, but she has not displayed any great desire to return to her family. At the present time I feel that Nazareth House has little to offer HIA 327 indeed it has been suggested by the Rev. ^{Mother} Matthews that she leave there, but there is no suitable alternative accommodation available.

[REDACTED]