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HIA REF: 430

Witness Name: HIA 430

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 430

I, HIA 430, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born HIA 430 on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. My grandparents gave me [REDACTED] HIA 430, which I have been known by [REDACTED].
2. My mother [REDACTED] wasn't married when I was born, so I was sent to live with my mother's aunts and uncles in the mountains in [REDACTED]. The priests came and told my two aunts, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], that I would be better off in Nazareth House. My family were very religious so they took the advice and I was put into Nazareth House aged a year and a half. I do not know anything about my father.

Nazareth House 30/09/1949 – 17/12/1963

3. My memory of my first few years in care is very limited as I was so young. One of the first things I can recall is wetting the bed. I wet the bed most nights. The girls who wet the bed were made to take their wet sheets off their beds and stand holding them with outstretched arms on the stairs so that all of the other girls would see them on their way down to breakfast. We would also on

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occasion be made to stand with the wet sheets on our heads. This sometimes happened to girls individually, but we were often in groups. It was humiliating, and SR 31 would also beat us for wetting the bed. When I got older I was made to work in the old people's home, so I would bring my sheets up there very early in the morning to dry them in their drier so that no one would know that I had wet the bed.

4. SR 31 was the nun who treated us most badly. We were beaten on a regular basis for the smallest thing. I recall being sent upstairs to a store room just outside the dormitory where we were hit with a strap or stick. If she was in a temper she would take her belt off and hit us with that. SR 31 hit me, resulting in a split in my forehead when I was about 10 or 11 years old. I was not taken to see a doctor for my injury. SR 31 would also make us pull down our pants and she would hit our bare bottom for no reason. I was a stubborn child who didn't cry and she did not like that. I suffered more because I didn't give in and cry to her. As a child I lived in constant fear. I believe that SR 31 had something against me.
5. I remember lying in bed going to sleep and if SR 31 caught us with our hands under our sheets we got walloped across our face. She thought we were interfering with ourselves, even though as young girls this would never have crossed our minds.
6. I remember that SR 134 was often quite rough, but not as bad as SR 31. SR 134 would have hit me for any reason. I know that some of the other girls thought that SR 134 was worse than SR 31. Some of the nuns were nice to me, such as SR 116 who was a younger nun.
7. Every Saturday we were made to scrub the floors and the 2 or 3 flights of stairs on our hands and knees. The floors were marble and stretched the length of the building. We worked in the laundry, the kitchen and the church, even though I was not even sixteen at that stage. We were often made to scrub down the toilets as a punishment. I had no time to study after school because of all the work that I was made to do around the home.

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8. We had a bath once a week in the home. There were four baths in the home for all of the children, and we had to share bathwater. At bath time we were all lined up and Jeyes Fluid was put in the baths. If you were at the back of the queue the water would be cold by the time you got to the top. We learnt quickly that to get hot water we needed to be at the top of the queue. They used the same water for all of us and we would often come out with a black rim around our waists. We were usually given a shift-like garment to cover our modesty but it only covered our fronts. It was a first come first served basis and those that arrived late had to do without. Baths were supervised by the older girls, but sometimes the nuns would be there too. When I was an older girl I helped to supervise the children at bath time.
9. If I got into trouble I would be sent up for a beating from **SR 31** **SR 31** who would say "you're illegitimate and you're a bastard, who asked you to come here, we didn't ask you to come here, your mother left you here." I didn't know what the word illegitimate meant until I was older and I swore that I would never tell anyone that I was illegitimate because it just felt nasty. I did not know what a mother was as I had never met my mother. I could not question the nuns as they would have hit me for talking back to them. I did not tell anyone apart from my husband that I was illegitimate for 65 years because I was so ashamed. I only told my **SR 31** sons a few years ago that I was illegitimate. **SR 31** used to say nasty things about my mother, which included calling my mother a slut. This continues to have an impact on me today.
10. I remember my mother coming to visit me once when I was in the home when I was about 10 or 11. I told her about the beatings that I was receiving, although I was not really sure who she was at that time. She never came back to visit me, and I believe that the nuns told her not to come back. I do not remember ever being visited by a social worker during my time in care.

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11. I went to primary school in Nazareth House and then onto secondary school in St Monica's on the Ravenhill Road. The primary school in Nazareth House was not that good, and we were never encouraged in our studies. **SR** **SR 31** was the head teacher. I moved to St Monica's when I was 12. I loved St Monica's because it got you out of the home and it was something to look forward to. Getting to school made things real; we got to mix with other children and we were all treated the same. They would have known we were from the home but they wouldn't have known our circumstances nor did we tell them. It was a form of escapism.
12. In the summer holidays we would go to Glenariff in County Antrim. We stayed in a holiday home for a week or a fortnight. All of the girls got to go, and it was freedom for us from the home. Apart from our holidays, I have no positive memories of my time in the home. I tried to put it out of my mind, but it has all recently come flooding back to me.
13. I do not remember much about the food but I do know that if we got tea we were not allowed milk as we would have to use it over our cornflakes. I don't recall the food being that bad but I know we never got extras. I remember being cold in the home. Our clothes were generally in bad repair, and so we were grateful for our school uniforms. We had the basics for bedding, but we were comfortable enough.
14. At Christmas time we got a toothbrush and a bar of soap. I do not recall ever getting any presents or toys. Christmas was just the same as every other day. I do remember that people from outside the home came in to make an effort, but it was all just for show. We were never shown any affection in the form of hugs and we never knew what love was.
15. All the girls slept in a big dormitory in rows. There were about 40 girls in each dormitory. I was on the very top level where **SR 31** had her room. She was in charge of our group. Her room was off the dormitory and you had to pass it to get to the dormitory. She would bring us there to do the beatings. She used a strap, a stick or her belt with a buckle on it if she couldn't get the

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others quick enough. When I was one of the older girls, I moved into another bedroom with other girls who were working in the home.

16. I remember being asked to close the windows one day. They were very high and you needed to stand on a chair. There were chairs along the wall, but they had laths between them and there were some missing. My legs went down between two chairs and there was a nail where the lath was missing and it hit the top of my leg. It went through my leg but I was never taken to hospital and it took ages to heal. I still have the scar and there is a dent in my leg. I never saw a doctor during my time at the home.

17. In later life I found out that the nuns sent my mother numerous letters requesting money to pay for my care. I am unsure if she ever replied to the letters but they constantly sent them as they were looking for money. My mother always paid for my care. I only discovered these letters when my mother had taken ill and was receiving treatment in hospital. I was searching for documents for my mother and I came across the letters by accident.

18. At the age of sixteen I was sent to Liverpool and from there went to work in a baby home. My mother was never told that they were sending me there. It was where mothers left babies to be taken care of if they could not keep them. I got some pocket money in return for all the work that I had carried out. I loved Cliff Richard and another girl and I found out that he was playing in Liverpool so we saved all of our money to go and see him. The nuns found out and took my ticket from me and tore it up, so I did not get to go. I stayed in Liverpool for just over a year.

19. I came back to Ireland and took up a place at a [REDACTED] college in Dublin. I loved needlework and cookery and my teacher always encouraged me. She told the nuns that I had a talent and should apply, but the nuns said no because they would have to pay for it. I didn't know until later life that my mum had regularly paid £5 for me to attend the course, as the nuns gave me the impression that they would have to pay for me. [REDACTED] SR 31 [REDACTED] said to me "eaten bread is soon forgotten", which I took to mean that she thought that I

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was ungrateful. I asked the nuns about my mum but never got any answers. I was placed in a hostel in Dublin for two years, which I believe was so that the nuns could continue to keep tabs on me.

Life after Care

20. I stayed in Dublin after college and met my husband [REDACTED] in 1966. We got married in 1971. I have two sons aged 41 and 42.

21. Several years ago I broke my wrist and went to a hospital in Dublin. I was x-rayed and the consultant asked me if I had injured my wrist before. I didn't realise but years ago whilst in the home I was hit with the leg of a chair and I must have damaged my wrist, as the doctor found an old fracture. I never received any hospital care. I recall that many of the girls were treated in a similar manner.

22. I only discovered the information about my background this year. My mother was admitted to hospital after falling ill in September 2013. I accompanied my mother to the hospital and I told the staff that I was her next of kin. My mother decided that she wanted the rest of her family to know about me. My mother now lives in a nursing home and I visit her at least once a week. I told my sons the truth about my family that weekend. I had sworn up until then that I would only tell them when they were settled with their own families. I have a good relationship with my family now.

23. I made contact with my mother before we were married but the nuns made it very difficult for me. However, my mum came to meet me before I married and we kept up contact after that. It was very difficult though because her father was still alive and nobody knew except my mother's aunts and uncles. They all know now and my mother is very good to my boys and my grandchildren.

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24. It was only as I became a mother myself that I realised what my mother had to go through and how terrible it was. Even as my two children grew up they couldn't call my mother nana because no one knew about it. Now my mother is in a nursing home and she has more freedom. My grandchildren can visit her now. There are still people that don't know and my mother is very religious, she goes on pilgrimages and none of that group of friends would know. She never married and had no more children. Even in recent years if I was in my mother's house and someone called I would have to hide upstairs because my mother was still worried about being an unmarried mother.

25. I opened up to my husband [REDACTED] a couple of months after meeting him. I told him about my history, but I am happy to say that it made no difference to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] met SR 31 47 years ago, and she tried to dissuade [REDACTED] from dating me, telling him that sympathy would not go far. [REDACTED] told SR 31 that love would go far, and we are still together now.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 430

Dated

25th October 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 430

I, HIA 430 will say as follows:-

1. I have been passed copies of the allegations made against me whilst I was a resident in Nazareth House.
2. Firstly, I categorically deny the allegations that have been made against me by HIA 28 in her statement.
3. The allegation she makes at paragraph 22 is inconceivable. The allegation is made that this occurred at midnight. My bed was situated at the top of the dormitory nearest to SR 31 bed. SR 31 had a clear view of the whole dormitory and the children's beds through a glass partition. Children were not allowed out of their beds at all at night time, and she had quite sharp hearing and she scolded children who made any noise or got out of bed.
4. Furthermore, I had, as per my statement, chronic enuresis which occurred on a nightly basis throughout my time in Nazareth House. In fact this continued for some time even after I left Nazareth House and relocated to England.
5. I have read the statement of HIA 103. This statement is also totally untrue.
6. I have a very vivid recollection of my time at Nazareth House and I can confirm that absolutely none of these allegations made against me are true.

Statement of Truth.

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

Signed

HIA 430

Dated

9 Feb 2015

CHRISTIAN NAME	BIRTH PLACE	DATE OF BIRTH	WHERE BAPTISED	PARENT'S NAME	OCCUPATIO
[REDACTED]					
HIA 430	Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry	[REDACTED]	Hospital Newry	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]					

WHEN	RECOMMENDED BY	DISMISSED	DECEASED	OBSERVATIONS	BY
[REDACTED]					
30. 9. 1949	Father M. Bastan.	17. 12. 63			4243
[REDACTED]					

(7)

J. M. J. Hazareth House
Bandonald.
Klasgow, S.W.2
13. 12. 68

My dear Miss [REDACTED] I am
sure you will be surprised at
hearing from me. No doubt you
heard that I had been transferred
from Belfast to the above address.
I have
often wondered how HIA 430 was
getting on. Indeed I am very
disappointed that she did not
even drop me a line since I
left Belfast, but I suppose eaten
bread is soon forgotten.

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a nice priest who said Mass in Nazareth House called [REDACTED] NHB 84 and [REDACTED] would rock over and back saying "[REDACTED] NHB 84 loves me". [REDACTED] NHB 84 was only there for a few months and then he was replaced by [REDACTED] who was alright.

20. Sometimes my sisters and I got out to our mother for a day at weekends. We weren't allowed out for the full weekend, just a day. I used to be sick coming back from these days out because [REDACTED] SR 31 always told us to see if our parents had any money for them. I would dread coming back to the home because when I told [REDACTED] SR 31 I had no money for her she let the whole place know. She would say out in front of all the other children 'we're not keeping you for nothing, what do you think we are – a charity?' It got to the stage that when my mother said she would take us out I'd say I didn't want to go because I dreaded the humiliation so much. I would actually be throwing up before I went back and my mother would ask me why I wasn't well but I couldn't tell her.

21. One time when we were out visiting my mother and my older sister [REDACTED] NHB 66 [REDACTED] NHB 66 noticed that there were big chunks of hair missing from my sister [REDACTED] NHB 69 neck. [REDACTED] NHB 69 had really long hair and somebody had obviously been pulling at it because half her hair was missing. [REDACTED] NHB 66 said she was going to ask the nuns about it but I begged her not to because it would be me who would be punished. I would have been murdered. In the end she didn't say anything. I never told my mother what was happening because I was terrified of her ringing up the nuns and then I would be punished.

22. When I was about 11 or 12 I was sexually abused by an older girl called [REDACTED] HIA 430 [REDACTED] HIA 430 She seemed massive to me. She was about 14 or 15 and she was much taller and broader than me. She had short brown hair, red rosy cheeks and a very square nose. She came into the dormitory one night and told me to come with her. I didn't know what was happening so I went with her. She brought me into her dormitory and told me to get into bed. She said if I didn't she would go and get one of my sisters instead so I got into bed. She took off her nightdress and made me take off mine. We weren't allowed to wear a vest

1 **door.**

2 Q. Now in paragraph 22 of your statement, HIA28 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- you talk about sexual abuse that occurred --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- that involved a girl who was known to you as HIA430

7 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- who is HIA430. Paragraph 22 is on page 047. Now you
10 were 11 or 12 at the time.

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. If that's right, it would have been approximately
13 1961/'62.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You said that she seemed massive to you.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You thought she was maybe 14 or 15.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. She was actually born in September '48. So she is 18
20 months older than you. She was in the home between 1949
21 -- so she is there before you -- and she leaves in 1963.
22 So she left when she was 15 and you were 13 at that
23 stage.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. So 11 or 12. She would have been 13 --

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They tried to say it was ringworm or something and I was given cream to deal with it. I still have problems with my scalp.

10. The bath water was never changed and we shared towels. We were given old dirty shoes to wear that didn't fit.
11. **HIA 430** was older than me and my bed was next to hers in my dormitory. She pretended to tell us stories and got us to lean around her bed. She took our hands and she tried to get us to touch her. This happened a few times and I always pulled my hand away.
12. On one occasion I was crying and I told **SR 134** about what had happened. **SR 134** beat me on the head with keys. She moved me out of the dormitory and put me in a store room on the landing which had a small camp bed. She then moved me to outside her cell where my bed was near the fire escape.
13. **HIA 430** continued to hit me after this as she knew I told **SR 134** I was bullied by **HIA 430** and other older girls. If I received anything, the bullies would have stolen it from me. They would thump and kick me. For example, if I had a ball they would take it off me and thump me.
14. There was no one to tell. The nuns wouldn't have been believed you and they would have beaten you.
15. I was starving with hunger all the time. The stew was water with bits of grizzled fat in it. We got dipped bread from a dirty oven and we were given black pudding. The nuns probably got the good meat. I remember climbing the wall at back of Holy Rosary Chapel to get to the pear trees. We were constantly starving. On one occasion I remember someone brought in greasy apples and we were given them to eat.
16. There was a doctor, Dr Hunter I think, who came in and gave injections for measles and children's illnesses. I got a BCG injection. **SR 134** knew this

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1 Q. Am I right in saying you were always in SR134's
2 dormitory?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. What you're describing here is that she got
5 a group of you round the bed telling stories and tried
6 to get you to touch her.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Your recollection is that that happened on a number of
9 occasions.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You kept pulling your hand away. On one occasion you
12 were crying as a result of this having happened. SR134
13 became aware of it, and you say in paragraph 12 she beat
14 you and took you out of the dormitory, put you in
15 a storeroom on the landing which had a small camp bed in
16 it. She then moved you to outside her cell ultimately
17 I think to sleep.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Your bed position moved so that you were then sleeping
20 closer to her cell than where you'd been before.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say in paragraph 13 that HIA430 continued to hit you
23 after this incident, because she knew you had told
24 SR134. So there is a number of things you are saying
25 happened. There is this particular incident with the

1 that the police hadn't been able to trace her. As
2 I said to you, the Inquiry has. She has provided
3 a statement dealing with your allegation. If we look at
4 800... -- 80094 -- yes -- in paragraph 5, if we just
5 scroll down, please, she says:

6 "I have read the statement of HIA62103. This
7 statement is also totally untrue."

8 So she simply says, "This didn't happen". Is there
9 anything else you want to say about that?

10 **A. I would like to say it did happen.**

11 Q. You -- in addition, there's two matters that I want to
12 allow you just to say whatever you want to say about,
13 HIA62103. If we can bring up, please, 804, paragraph 15
14 of HIA430's statement, she says:

15 "All the girls slept in a big dormitory in rows.
16 There were about forty girls in each dormitory. I was
17 on the very top level where SR31 had a room. She was in
18 charge of our group. Her room was off the dormitory and
19 you had to pass it to get to the dormitory. She would
20 bring us there to do the beatings."

21 She goes on to talk about SR31. What she is saying
22 is she was in SR31's group and therefore the dormitory
23 she was in charge of. You are clear you were in SR134's
24 group.

25 **A. Yes. She was in SR134's in the dormitory. Her bed was**