

HIA REF:

Witness Name:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SR 29**

1. I worked in Nazareth Lodge for seven years from the 7th October 1976 until the 18th August 1983.
2. My general memories and overall view was that the children had as close to a normal lifestyle as we could manage and I particularly remember them enjoying holidays in Portrush, Portstewart and Ballyhornan.
3. As with any child growing up there were incidents during the lives, not all of which will have been good. My memory is that any incidents were reported to appropriate senior Sisters, were investigated appropriately and the necessary people were informed of any untoward event which would have occurred. These could have been of fairly minor things such as broken windows, children fighting or children getting injured in the playing areas or just in general life. I do not recall any major specific incident of note.
4. I do recall that, as would be expected, the children were not always well behaved. I remember that the main punishment for children who had misbehaved would have been having their pocket money reduced or taken off them for a short period, they could have been asked to do extra chores such as helping with the washing up or setting the tables and cleaning and polishing shoes, their access to the TV could have been withdrawn or not being allowed to watch movies. On some occasions they would have been sent to their rooms or could have been, what is now known in modern terms 'grounded' and not being allowed to go into town to the cinema or events like that.
5. Mealtimes were nothing of particular note in my memory. There was always a sufficient amount of food which, from my memory, was always of a good quality. The Superior at the time always insisted that the children were provided with nutritious and wholesome food as it was essential that they were not hungry and they were well fed if they were going to progress.
6. I remember who had wet their beds being woken in the mornings and they would have brought their wet bed clothes to a laundry basket which meant that they could be laundered and their beds remade in time for them at night. The children would then have had a bath prior to getting dressed to ensure that they were clean before they would have gone to school.
7. I remember various outings in my time with the children in Nazareth Lodge including trips to the cinema; the children would have gone to various clubs such as the Cubs, Brownies and Scouts, discos, swimming or would have been allowed out to visit friends. I also

remember friends being in the home visiting the children. I particularly remember parties at Christmas and Easter and the children would have had small parties for their birthdays.

8. My memory is that children did receive gifts at these various events in their lives.
9. When the children would have left our care there was Social Services involvement and the children would have been found placements by Social Services and would have had their placements and residential needs supervised by Social Services. The children would have been given great encouragement to come back and visit and would have been welcomed on any occasion they did this. Many children did come back to visit the Sisters and their former friends and particularly if they had other siblings living in the home, would have come back to visit them.
10. I recall over many years receiving letters from children who had formally been in my care and photographs of the children and their own families as they grew up. Unfortunately I have not retained these letters or photographs through my life and would have lost or disposed of them between the various moves around the Congregation's houses in the United Kingdom.
11. I hope that this is of assistance in looking at the general situation in the Homes during my time there.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 29

Dated

25.11.2014

www.sistersofnazareth.com

THE CONGREGATION OF

The Sisters Of Nazareth

Nazareth House, 13 Hill Head, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 2JF
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21st November 2014

Ciara McReynolds,
Jones & Company,
Solicitors,
4th Floor,
The Potthouse,
1, Hill Street,
Belfast, BT1 2LB.



Dear Ciara,

RE [REDACTED] HIA 10

I have no recollection of this family and they were never in my unit during my time in Belfast.

Signed: [REDACTED] SR29 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SR29 [REDACTED]

Date: 21.11.2014



The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth.

Registered in England and Wales Charity Commission Registration Number 228906. Registered in Scotland OSCR Number SCO 40507.
Registered Address: Larmenier Centre, 162 East End Road, London, N2 0RU Charity Number England and Wales 1113666, Scotland SCO42374.



Victoire Larmenier
Foundress of the
Sisters of Nazareth 1851

Name: Sr [REDACTED] SR29
Date: 7th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] SR29

I, [REDACTED] SR29, will say as follows: -

1. I worked in Nazareth Lodge from 7th October 1976 until 18th August 1983 and was formerly known as [REDACTED] SR29
2. [REDACTED] HIA149 was in my unit when I arrived in 1976. His two sisters [REDACTED] DL100 and [REDACTED] DL103 and his brother [REDACTED] DL56 were also in my unit.
3. As I was not in Nazareth Lodge in 1971, I am unable to respond to the statement that [REDACTED] HIA149 has made about Christmas 1971.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] SR29

Dated 10.11.2014.

Name: SR29
Date: 7th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR29

I, SR29 will say as follows: -

1. I worked in Nazareth Lodge from 7th October 1976 until 18th August 1983 and was formerly known as SR29
2. HIA141 and her sister NL108 known as NL108 were in my unit. NL108 looked after HIA141 like a little mother. Their mother visited me on a regular basis. She spent time with her children in each unit. HIA141's Social Worker also visited regularly.
3. There were no restrictions on siblings visiting from other units. HIA141's brothers and sisters were very fond of her and protective over her.
4. With regard to paragraph 4, presents given to the children by Santa were never taken away.
5. With regard to paragraph 5, I do not recall leaving HIA141 outside the door without support or help. Rather, the children would have been brought to school by a member of staff.
6. With regard to paragraph 6, I have no recollection of HIA141 being force-fed. Some children would have took longer to finish their meal and would be left at the table until they had done so. I also would not have cut the hair of any child; cutting hair was not one of my skills so a member of staff usually did it. Sometimes relatives took children to the local hairdressers.
7. With regard to paragraph 7, I never put a child across my knee or used a leather strap. I do not remember HIA141 standing on a tin bucket but she may have helped with the washing up. A lot of the children would help with the dishes and HIA141

would not have been expected to do all the dishes; the dishes would have been done by staff with the help of the children.

8. With regard to paragraph 10, I have no recollection of [HIA363] ever mistreating [HIA141]
9. [HIA141] was a beautiful child and loved by all of the unit.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [SR29]

Dated 10.11.2014

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] NL 20

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 04 day of June 1996

WILLIAM NIBLOCK DCONST

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded ~~or received~~

NL 20

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am the above named person and I reside at an address known to the police. I was born in [REDACTED] and resided at the family home along with my mother, father, four sisters and three brothers. In [REDACTED] I attended [REDACTED] where I was studying Child Care. While at [REDACTED] I was offered work experience at Nazareth Lodge Childrens Home in Belfast for three weeks. While at Nazareth for three weeks I looked after the children and did general work at the home. I was told by [REDACTED] SR 116 that whenever I finished my course I should contact her as there might be a position within the home for a Care Assistant. In [REDACTED] I commenced work at Nazareth Lodge. You were not allowed to reside outside the building so I had to live within the home. My duties in the home were getting the children up for school, preparing their breakfast, helping them with their homework and looking after their needs. I worked in a group, headed by [REDACTED] SR 62, along with two other girls called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] NL 146. After I was in the home for approximately two months I became aware that [REDACTED] SR 62 would beat the children. She was in charge of discipline and you had to report any wrong doing by the children to

				Official Use only		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Hire Purchase Payments (give details)						
Travelling to Work Expenses (give details)						
Other Expenses (give details)						

Figure inserted must include overtime and must be the gross wage before deduction of Income Tax or National Insurance. (Wages may be verified with employers.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the foregoing statements which have been read to me are true, correct and complete in every respect, and that I have no property or source of income whatever other than stated.

Signature

I (Anne Houghton) M.

Witness to Signature

J. E. Williams
for Divisional Welfare Officer

2.3.64.

HOME OFFICE

Form R.E.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

Clemens: School or Home

MEDICAL RECORDName [REDACTED] Date of Admission [REDACTED]
(Block capital, surname first)Date of Birth [REDACTED] Sex F Register Number 1090**PERSONAL HISTORY**

Number in family _____

Place in family _____

Age of walking _____

Age of talking _____

Bowel control _____

Bladder control _____

(Age of the menarche) _____

Prophylaxis:

Diphtheria _____

Smallpox _____

Whooping Cough _____

Other _____

PREVIOUS MEDICAL HISTORY

Whooping Cough _____ Tuberculosis _____

Measles _____ Rheumatism _____

Diphtheria _____ Cholera _____

Scarlet Fever _____ Flu _____

Mumps _____ Red swelling _____

Chickenpox _____ Other _____

German Measles _____

Operations _____

Injuries _____

SCHOOL HISTORY(e.g. Absence through illness; attendance at a Special School; results of any mental test.)

_____**FAMILY HISTORY (Important illnesses or defects)**

Father _____

Mother _____

Siblings _____

Others _____

CONDITION ON ADMISSION(e.g. General appearance; demeanour; cleanliness; any marks of injury or violence.)

DL 56 ()

No fixed abode23.6.64

Mother of above child in [] prison for two months for larceny.

Child admitted to Nazareth House, Portadown, on fathers' request. Eight other siblings to be cared for by him.

DL 56 previously in Gleneyre Childrens Home, Portadown for care and attention.

D. Wilson

DR. JOHN C. WOODS
DR. SHELAGH E. M. WOODS
DR. RICHARD J. O'NEILL
DR. J. OLIVER WOODS

Telephone No. 2211

The Mall,
Armagh.

23. 6. 64.

DL 56

This is to certify that
[] of no fixed
abode has as far as I
can determine no infectious
disease.

John Woods M.B.

Identify changes in relation to the child's family, Residential staff, Social Worker, Foster Parents, other important people in the child's life and the effect of change on the child.

_____ was very unhappy when SR 205 was transferred. It was a very sudden transfer and _____ had no preparation for the feeling of loss she experienced, nor for the depth of her emotions as she normally functions at a very superficial level. She appears to have settled very well with _____ but for a fortnight she was very unhappy and unsettled.

Present legal position and any proposed change:

No change.

Date: 8.8.83

Signature of Social Worker: _____

NL 206

NL 206

Remarks of senior staff:-

Re: school - _____ and NL 206 to arrange a meeting at school.

Date: 8.8.83

Signature: Oliver Carson, SOC *Oliver Carson*

Date of 6 Monthly Review: 23.2.83

PRIVATE

20. I went to primary school for the first time when I was seven years old. I went to [REDACTED] which was [REDACTED]. I was taught by both nuns and lay staff but they were different nuns to the ones in Nazareth Lodge. I seemed to be the only child from the home in [REDACTED] and I was constantly taunted and called a bastard by the other children. The PE teacher in [REDACTED] was called **NL 239** and he used to keep me behind after school on my own to do PE because I was good at it - I won an award. He never did anything inappropriate to me but I believe there was something going on between **NL 239** and one of the nuns in [REDACTED]. I can't remember her name but she was the principal of the school. She would bring him in to her office and they always acted flirtatiously in front of me. **NL 239** drove a red two seater Mercedes.

21. After school I had chores to do. I never remember playing in Nazareth Lodge; it was just constant cleaning. It was only the girls who did the cleaning and there weren't many girls in my unit so I was left with a lot of chores to do. I had to clean the concrete floors in the bathroom and at the weekends I had to do a lot of laundry as well. We were given numbers in the home. These would be used for things like medicals, school reports and trips away.

22. I was physically abused in Nazareth Lodge. **SR 2** hit me quite a lot but she would always break down afterwards. She would hit me round the face with her hand. She was remorseful afterwards and you'd see the tears in her eyes but she never apologised. On one occasion, **SR 29** hit me quite severely as well. I was about eight years old and I saw her without her veil. She shouted at me and slapped me across the face. I was really shocked because it wasn't my fault and I thought we got on well.

23. There were rumours about **SR 29** and a priest who used to visit the Lodge on a Sunday. He never said Mass, he would just come in to the parlour at the front of the house. He and **SR 29** would drink alcohol - we tried to taste the drink but we weren't allowed. Only certain children were allowed in the parlour and I was one of them. The priest was tall with dark hair but I can't remember his name. We all knew she fancied him and we heard she