

PRIVATE

16 SEP 2013

HIA REF: 110

Witness Name: HIA 110

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 110

I, HIA 110 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Jubilee Hospital, Belfast.
2. My mother [REDACTED] was a domestic servant. I never knew my mother or my father. I recently met my sister [REDACTED] and she told me my mother is now dead. I would love to know if my father is alive or dead.
3. I was placed in St. Joseph's Baby Home, Belfast when I was a baby.
4. I was transferred to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast on 9th January 1959.

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (9th January 1959 – 16th August 1967)

5. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge when I was almost [REDACTED] years old on 9th January 1959. I remained there for approximately 8.5 years until I was 12 when I was transferred to Rubane on 16th August 1967.
6. I was in the Sacred Heart dormitory. The other dormitories were called Our Lady's and Marian's.

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7. I had a sister called [REDACTED] in Nazareth House but the nuns never told me. My friend [HIA 19] had a sister there too but nobody told him either. One day [HIA 19] granny told him to walk up to Nazareth House and he would see a girl waving so he did. He asked his granny who the girl was and she told him it was his sister [NHB 12]. The nuns never told either of us we had a sister, they kept it all quiet.
8. I went to school onsite in Nazareth Lodge but they didn't teach you much. There was spelling and sums but I was hopeless at it. I couldn't read or write, I still can't to this day. I can only write my name. I didn't like school in Nazareth Lodge.
9. The food at Nazareth Lodge wasn't up to much. It was like semolina or frogs spawn. I did not like the food, it was rotten but you had to eat it or else you got hit across the face by the civilian staff [NL 5] or [NL 4]. On the day of your First Holy Communion you got a fried egg but that was the only time. You were lucky to get a fried egg.
10. The clothes at the Lodge were just shorts and a t-shirt. There was no such thing as jeans, just the wee shorts.
11. The nuns I remember are [SR 47] and [SR 34]. [SR 34] was really bad. She hit me on many occasions with a stick, a strap or a hand. There used to be an open day when people would come up to see us. [SR 34] would say if she saw anybody begging from them, she would give us a good thrashing. On one occasion, one of the visiting nuns gave me money, threepence or sixpence. The next day [SR 34] got me by the cheeks with her big nails and lifted me clean off the floor by the cheeks. She did this to me whenever I did anything wrong or misbehaved. It would leave marks on my face.
12. [NL 4] was the worst member of staff. If you wet the bed she would put you in these big washing machines, put the lid down and pretend to turn it on. She did this to me a few times and I would be screaming 'I'll not do it

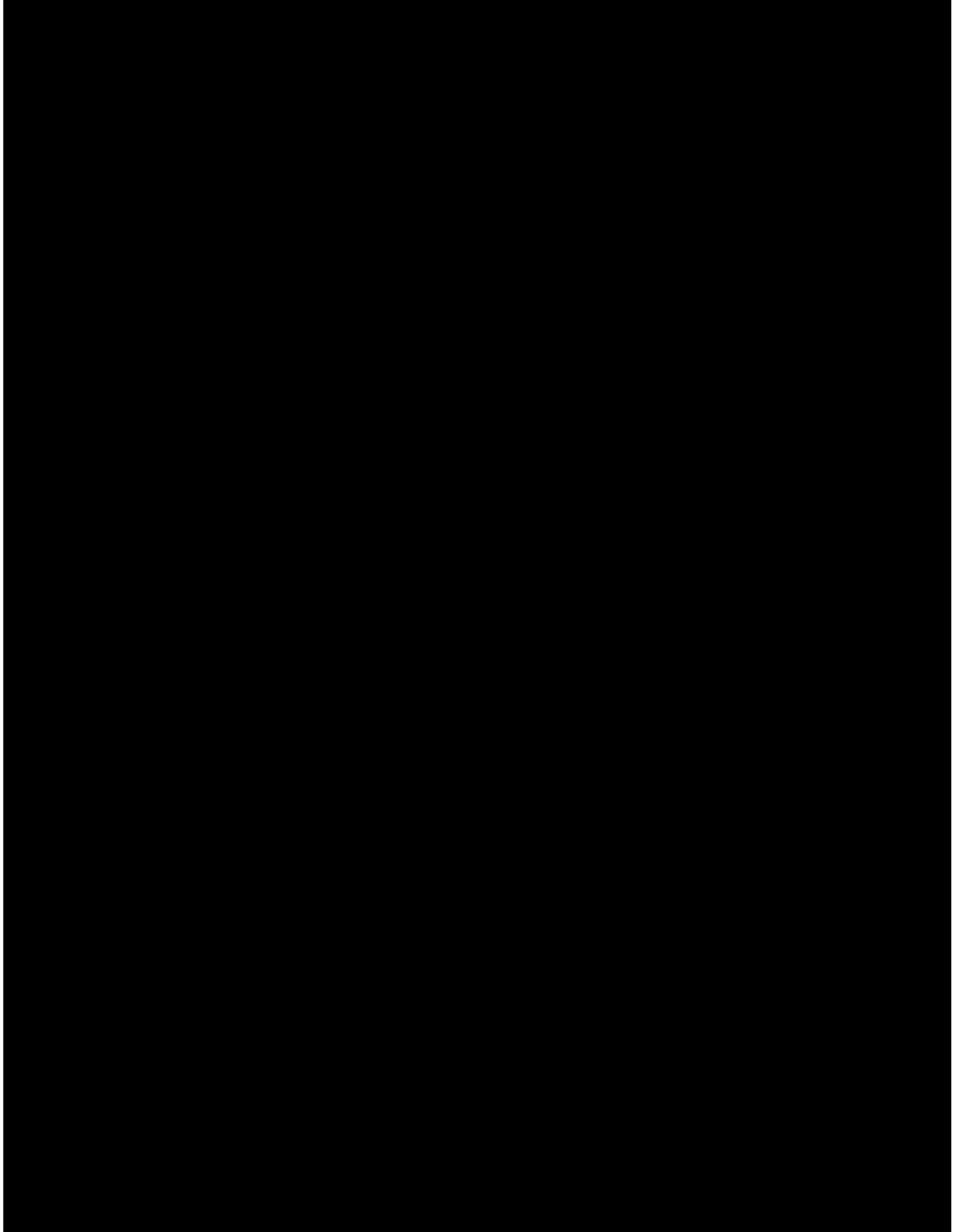
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again'. She did this to others as well. Nobody liked [NL 4] The next day you wouldn't wet your bed because you were so frightened. Anyone who wet the bed would be forced to stand in a line separate to everyone else. [REDACTED]

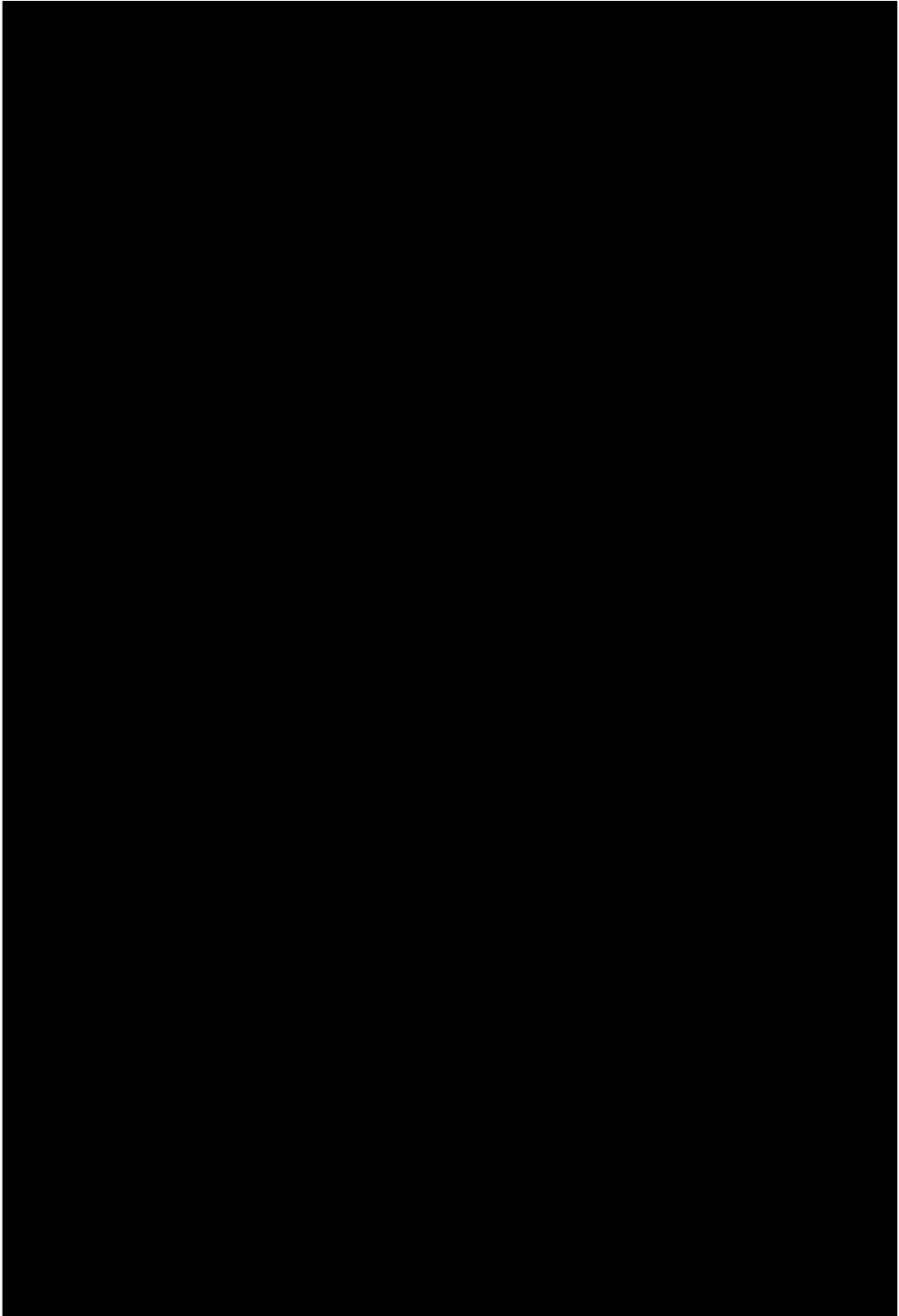
13. [NL 4] used to make us walk up a big long hall in the Lodge with cloths on our feet to shine the floor. I remember we used orange wax to shine it. We would chant '1, 2, 3, 4, take the marks off the floor'. For this to be done perfect all of the wax would have to be rubbed right into the floors and not leave a shoe print if you walked on it. Every time [NL 4] walked up she would say 'Oh hold on, I can see marks on that, go back down and start again'. Then she would start hitting you. She would slap you and hit you a dig in the face. There was about eight of us all in a line and she would have us all walking up and down shining the floor. I think some of the other children were tortured by [NL 4] she was a wicked one.
14. I feared [NL 4] and I didn't like living like that at all. Her job was to look after us. She never showed me any love or affection, she never taught me any family values or how to do things. I used to pull clumps of my hair out in Nazareth Lodge because of the stress of being in there and the fear of being abused.
15. [REDACTED]
16. [NL 5] was another civilian member of staff at the Lodge. She wasn't as bad as [NL 4] but she hit me too. She would ask you a question and if you couldn't read or write or you got the wrong number, she would hit you across the knuckles with the side of a wooden ruler. It was really sore; you would really have felt it.

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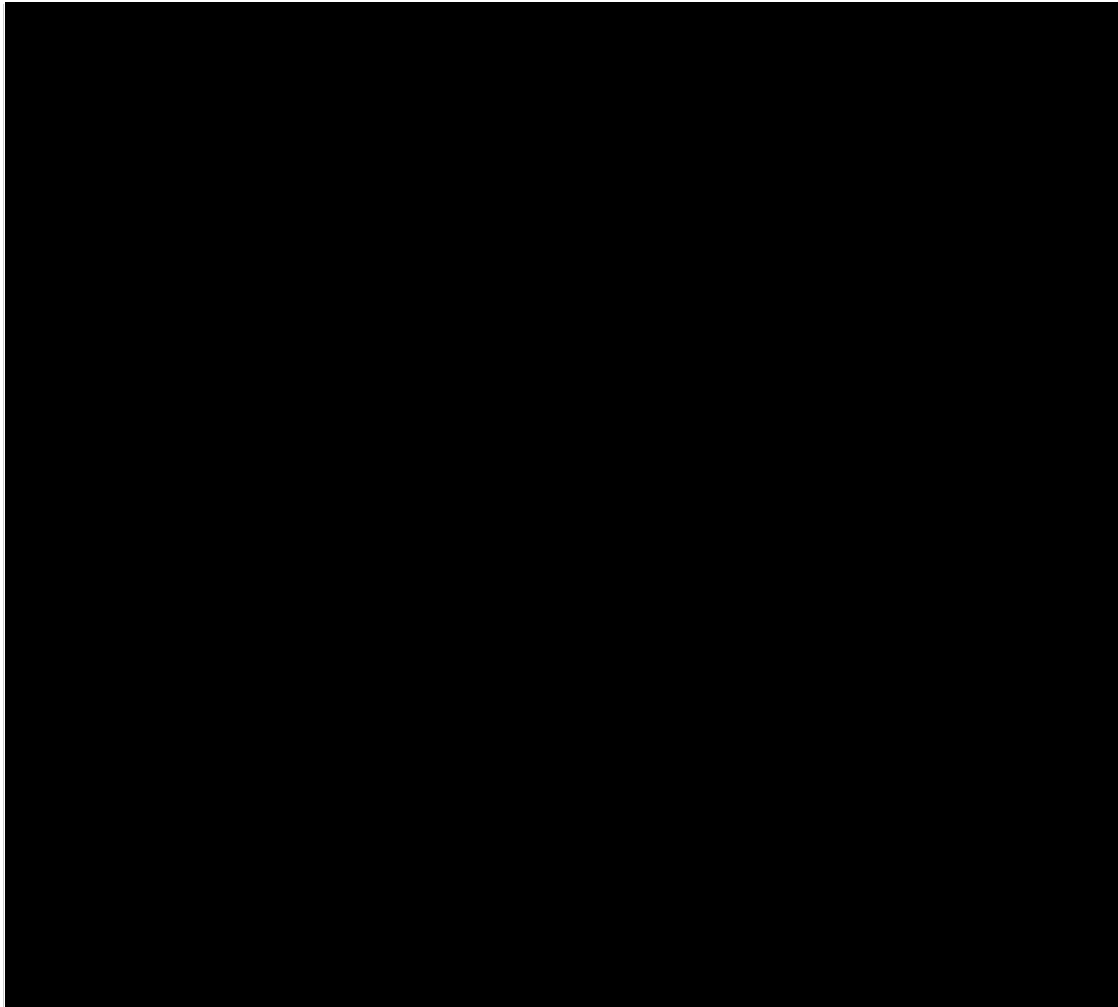
23. I left Nazareth Lodge when I was 12 on 16th August 1967. I was transferred to Rubane with a group of other boys around the same age.



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Life after care

42. After I left Rubane, it was a long time before I got a job. My friend HIA 19 was working in [REDACTED] and he got me a job there too. Then I got a job [REDACTED] in Lisburn and I did that for thirty-five years. Before I got that job, I worked in [REDACTED] for a while but they let me go.

43. One day when I was working in [REDACTED] I saw NL 4 coming towards me. I recognised her because she would be in my mind all the time. She recognised me too and asked me to help her look for a grave. I got my own back on her by telling her to go straight down to the [REDACTED] at the bottom of the graveyard. She came back and said she couldn't find the grave. She asked me to show it to her but I said I didn't have time to.

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44. **NL 4** is still up in [REDACTED] I think she lives somewhere around [REDACTED] **HIA 56** gave me her address once but I forget it. She is on a Zimmer frame now and I see her around all the time. At the [REDACTED] in June 2013, I saw her in [REDACTED] I was asked to go around collecting the plate and I saw her but I didn't speak to her.
45. I am not able to work anymore as I broke both my hips and have pins in each hip. The first hip I broke when I slipped in the snow and the second one I broke when I was leaving [REDACTED] pub on [REDACTED]. I am on calcium tablets but I don't have much pain with my hips, only when I walk up a hill.
46. I keep myself busy by going to the [REDACTED] Community Centre and a summer scheme called [REDACTED]. At the community centre, I do art on Fridays and we have bingo every second Tuesday. I used to go to St. Augustin's Youth Club which was for ex-residents of Nazareth Lodge and Rubane. I also go to the [REDACTED] every Wednesday to a social group. We go on tours and to Dundonald Superbowl. We have a Christmas dinner in the [REDACTED] every year as well. I go to a support group every Wednesday as well called SAVIA, which **HIA 43** set up.
47. My sister [REDACTED] came looking for me and she told me my mother was dead. I don't know much about my family, I think she is my only sibling. I hadn't had much contact with [REDACTED] for the past eight years since I turned 50 but recently a nun from the Good Shepherd, **SR 66** put us back in touch with each other. **SR 66** took me down to [REDACTED] to visit her in June. Now I speak to [REDACTED] on the phone every Saturday morning. I have a niece and nephew, [REDACTED]
48. I go up to Armagh every Christmas and during the summer. I've been going there for the past forty-two years. One of the Brothers from Rubane, **BR 22** **BR 22** introduced me to a family called the [REDACTED] and I go up to see them every year. I was there for a week in June. They are always happy to see me. **BR 22** is dead now.

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49. I reported these matters to police on two occasions in June 2012. The first time I went on my own but the second time my friend [REDACTED] came with me. I went to Musgrave Street police station and spoke to a male police officer. I got a letter in summer 2013 to say that there was not enough evidence to prosecute [REDACTED] NL 4 for what she did to me. [REDACTED] HIA 19 and [REDACTED] HIA 16 got the same letter.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

[REDACTED] HIA 110

Dated

10.9.13

File 104

Continuation of
Statement of:
Forename

HIA 110

Surname

HIA 110

Service
/ Staff# if
Police/Staff

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Date:

30/05/12

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hit me across the face with an open hand. I feared her and I didn't like living like that at all. Her job was to look after us. She never showed me any love or affection, she never taught me any family values or how to do things. To this day I cannot read or write, I can only write my name. I remember that **NL 4** used to call **HIA 16** **HIA 16** by the name **HIA 16**, because he had big **HIA 16** and I were friends and I know that he did not like this, it used to upset him. **NL 5** wasn't as bad as **NL 4** but she did hit me. This would be if I did something and she would make me put my hand out flat, palms downward. She would then get a wooden ruler and with the side edge she would strike me across the back of the hand. It was really sore, you really would have felt it. I met some of the boys from the home at a reunion. The lads were saying to me that they remembered I was put into a Hen Hut. I told them that they were wrong as I remembered that it was a disabled fella called **NL 28** that was put into the Hen Hut. I don't think that

Signature of Witness:

HIA 110

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Paul Farr