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JHIA REF: 210

Witness Name: HIA 210

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 210

I, HIA 210 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry. I have six brothers and six sisters. My brothers [REDACTED] SND 430 and [REDACTED] are younger than me. [REDACTED] DL 307 and SPT 22 are older than me. I only know the names of three of my six sisters, and they are [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The last time I saw my mother and father was in 1993, and I could count on one hand the times I have seen them.

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (26th September 1973 – 15th August 1981)

2. I think I went into Nazareth House Portadown as a baby. I was transferred from there to Nazareth Lodge Belfast when I was four years old. My brother [REDACTED] was there too but we didn't really get along. I had a heart murmur and can remember lots of medical equipment there in my early years. I don't remember any other details at that stage.
3. I went to school in Nazareth Lodge and that was a terrible time for me. SR 62 [REDACTED] SR 62 who I believe is now deceased, would beat me hard if I was thrown out of the class. She used to beat me with brush shafts, metal parts of the

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hoover, and large wooden tweezers you used for washing. I used to cower behind the washing machine and tumble dryer to try and hide from her. She was such a fierce woman. She used whatever she could get her hands on to hit me. She hit me across the head with the shaft of the brush. This happened once or twice a week and I was often bruised.

4. One of the worst things was when **SR 62** hit you around the head with her keys. She used to stick the long key into your jaw bone really hard and that was so sore. It seemed just as bad as getting beaten. She was very vindictive. There was another boy with a surname **██████████** there too. I remember he had not been in the home for long and I saw **SR 62** hit him with a dust pan brush. No-one ever saw what happened to me because **SR 62** always did it in private.

5. There were five groups of fifteen children. I remember in my group there was **NL 56** and **NL 57** **NL 97** and **NL 33** and **██████████** and **NL 145** We were in **SR 62** group. Some of the other staff in our group were **NL 66** **NL 146** **NL 32** and **NL 147** I was known as **SR 62** pet but it was terrible. No-one would want to be her pet and I think the other boys were jealous. It was very lonely and I didn't have any close friends. In our group we stuck up for each other. If you did something wrong **SR 62** would make you stand in front of a picture of Jesus and swear you didn't break an ornament for example. No one would admit it because we all knew we would get beaten for it. We all got punished in the end. I remember **SR 29** was in charge of one of the other groups.

6. It was thought that your mother coming to visit messed with your mind. My mother came to visit once but I found that very hard to understand. Part of me realised I had a mother and the other part didn't really want a mother. It was not encouraged for family to visit the home.

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7. **NL 66** put me in the cupboard with no light in it. The only light was on the outside and she locked me in. It was pure black and the only light you could see was the strip coming in under the door. That strip of light was the only thing that kept me going. I was locked in there for a number of hours and when I came out I had sore eyes.
8. In the mornings we got up, got dressed and then went downstairs to get breakfast. Breakfast was cornflakes or toast. I remember on a Saturday we had chips. Even if I was not hungry I was forced to eat and the plate would sit there until I ate it. I always wore 'hand me down' clothes. I was given a bath every two or three days. I remember birthdays in the home were good and I had a party every year. I went to St Michael's School first but I was lagging behind so I started to go Harberton Special School **[REDACTED]**. If I was thrown out of the class one of the older girls would tell **SR 62**. She would tell me to go and wait on her upstairs. I remember waiting for about an hour and then **SR 62** would come raging at you with an object to beat you with. This happened regularly in periods of two to three weeks. After tea, we were allowed to watch television and then it was bedtime. During the week each day was the same. At the weekends we were allowed to go somewhere like the swimming pool or the pictures.
9. I slept in a dormitory with three boys to a room. I shared a room with my brother **[REDACTED]** and **NL 97**. The next room also had three boys and then there was **SR 62** room. Her room had a bathroom attached. Then there were the girls' dormitories where there were also three girls to a dorm.
10. One really nice member of staff that I can remember was a lady called **NL 146**. **NL 146** She never once beat me.
11. Homework time was terrible. I sat for what seemed like an eternity trying to spell words and **SR 62** would force you to get it right. If I got it wrong I had to go and stand upstairs and wait for her. You knew something bad was going to happen to you. She would beat you with anything solid she could get her hands on.

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12. When we did PE at school we always just wore our uniform and didn't have to get changed. I only realised later that this was how they were able to get away with bruising and marking us. There were two social workers when I was in Nazareth Lodge, **NL 189** and **NL 180** but you just couldn't say anything to them about the nuns.

13. On one occasion, I remember lying in bed sick in the dormitory all on my own and I remember feeling so alone. Everyone else had gone to school. There was no one with me and I knew then that I was probably going to be a loner. I remember thinking about how my own mother and father didn't want to look after me and that I was all alone.

14. When I was in Nazareth Lodge I was sexually abused by the **Teacher, NL 67**. He did it a few times **One of the times it happened** was in a hall where we practiced on the Ravenhill Road, next door to where Nazareth House used to be. I remember going to the toilet because I had soiled myself. **NL 67** took me into the kitchen, closed the door and set me up on top of a cupboard with my legs dangling down. He started to clean me up but he started touching me up as well. One other time he was allowed to take me to his home which backed onto the **and I woke in his bed with him fondling my private parts. I was seven or eight years old. I told SR 62 that I wanted to give up and she punched me right on the nose. I fell to the ground and the blood was pumping from my nose. She went to get me a tissue and told me to put it over my nose.**

15. Another incident happened with a man called **NL 14**. He asked who wanted to play 'three man lift' and I volunteered. I didn't know what it was. He got two other boys, **NL 56** and **NL 68** to hold my hands down and **NL 14** pulled his trousers down and sat on my face. **NL 14** was a **there.**

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██████████ This happened in the living room, near the snooker table. NL 14
and the other boys just laughed.

16. I have had bad dreams ever since there was an incident in Belfast when a boy got murdered in Ormeau Park in 1981. We were told not to go outside because of it and it scared me. In my dreams I used to run and run and try to climb over the fence of Nazareth Lodge. The dream changed when I left Nazareth Lodge and I became big enough to climb over it.

17. My brother ██████████ was sent to live with a family called the ██████████ and I was quite jealous of that. In August 1981 I was sent to live with a lady called ██████████ who was in her fifties. She said soon after I arrived that she couldn't cope with me. My social worker NL 180 was coming to visit me. At that time I had to travel across Belfast from ██████████ to go to school in ██████████. This placement broke down because the lady said she was getting ill with angina. I used to have to go to ██████████ School in ██████████ to board and I used to cry every Monday morning going. She must have known that I was crying my eyes out. I was forced to go and see ██████████ on a Saturday. I never wanted to but I was forced to although we never got on. I spent a year with ██████████ in total. When that placement broke down I was sent to Rubane House, Kircubbin.

Rubane House, Kircubbin (December 1983 - March 1984)

18. I only stayed in Kircubbin for three months. My time in Rubane House was mostly ruined by bullying by the other boys. That was quite scary. I remember ██████████ bringing me down there and I cried my eyes out the whole way there. Nothing happened to me there apart from some of the other boys beating me up. I remember DL 120 was one of the boys who beat me up. It happened every few weeks.

19. I don't remember much about Rubane House. We got up, went for breakfast and then to school which was in the main grounds. Breakfast was in the

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dining room and the food was alright. Two civilian houseparents were in charge of the chalet that I stayed in. They were two men in their late thirties. I don't remember having to do chores or homework. We dressed as skinheads in those days wearing bleached jeans and Doc Martin boots. Some of the other boys were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] DL 334 I never remember any day trips or hearing anything of sexual abuse.

20. I was fostered out when I was thirteen to [REDACTED] TL 2 and his family in March 1984.

Life After Care

21. I had a spell in Adelaide Park Children's home and I then went to St Patrick's Training School. I also spent time in Crumlin Road prison and then Hydebank prison. I survived by relying on my faith.

22. My brother [REDACTED] asked me to come over to live with him in England in 1989. That is how I ended up there. We ended up falling out and I left his house. There wasn't much love lost between us and I haven't seen him in years. I stayed in England. Not a day goes past when I don't think about what happened to me. It has caused me mental health problems and I am currently taking medication for that. I am actually diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Thankfully I have a very supportive medical team who check on me regularly.

23. I have had a number of jobs in my life. I worked in a glass factory, a pram factory, as a baker, as a bin man in the local Council and I also stacked shelves in [REDACTED] I was working night shifts and my sleep patterns became very irregular. I became ill after that. My jobs all broke down eventually because of my mental health problems.

24. I don't have any contact with my family and I am very much on my own. I live a very isolated life.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 210** _____

Dated 23/3/14 _____

HIA REF: []

NAME: [NL 190]

DATE: [23 January 2015]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of

NL 190

NL 190 will say as follows: -

1. I was employed by the Southern Health & Social Services Board as a trainee social worker from 1976 until 1978 when I qualified. I then worked as a social worker with a generic caseload in Portadown Social Services office from 1978 to 1982, during which time I worked with **HIA 210** the applicant in this case. Subsequent posts included social work in Nottingham Community Mental Handicap Team, generic social work in Lurgan and Brownlow Social Services Offices, social work in the Fostering Team (1989 – 1995) and in the Sensory Disability team (1995 until my retirement in 2014).
2. Regarding this case, I have read the available documents (attached) relating to **HIA 210** complaints about his treatment in Nazareth Lodge, and have noted that he says he told me on one occasion that **SR 62** hit him with a stick. Unfortunately I have no recollection of him telling me this. That is not to say it did not happen, but that I do not remember it now.