

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

Witness Statement
DL 269

I, **DL 269** will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on the _____ in _____. My mother, who was from _____ was working as a _____ in _____ and was a single parent. When I was born I was put into the care of Nuns in _____ for approximately six weeks until I was then transferred to St Joseph's Baby Home in Belfast. I stayed at St Joseph's Baby Home until I was approximately 5 years of age.

Nazareth House from approximately 1959 to 1965

2. I attended Nazareth Lodge on the Ravenhill Road from approximately 1959 when I would have been about 5 years of age. Nazareth Lodge was in the same location as St Joseph's Baby Home. Nazareth Lodge was split into different groups and I was in, what was known as "Our Lady's Group". **SR 47** looked after me. All the Nuns were very good to me, such as **SR 151**. I am very grateful to them and how they looked after me.
3. I never witnessed any physical violence or abuse from the Nuns towards any of the children. I do recollect being beaten by domestic workers that would have come in to look after us. I remember one particular occasion when I was about 8 or 9 years of age. The Nuns would have gone to prayer and we would have gone to bed about 6pm in the evening. I remember being in bed and some of the other boys were talking and the domestic worker accused me of talking also. I denied that I was talking and I was hit repeatedly with a solid plastic racket. I was brought out to the passageway and was made to kneel with my hands over my head which seemed to have gone on for hours. I remember the Nuns coming back and being told to go to

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bed. SR 47 who would have slept at the end of the dormitory in an area that was cordoned off and heard me crying in the middle of the night with the pain and she came out to me, put ointment on me and comforted me. I believe SR 47 SR 47 spoke to the domestic worker involved in relation to this incident.

4. There would have been other incidents where I was beaten as well. I remember a NL 5 being rough with the kids and being violent. Also, NL 4 would have been cruel and violent to the children. I do not believe that the Nuns knew that the domestic workers were being violent to any of the children.
5. I have read the statements and the transcript of the evidence given by HIA 56 HIA 56 and the allegations that he has made and in particular allegations he made against me. I knew HIA 56 and had always got on well with him. HIA 56 HIA 56 also mentions DL 231 who I knew, who was roughly the same age as me. I do not know why HIA 56 is making these allegations. I was not given an opportunity to challenge this evidence or make representations before it was said at the Inquiry but would now make some points.
6. I have read the transcript of HIA 56 evidence and I note on day 87 he mentions what he calls "charge boys". These boys he talks about being 16 or 17 years of age. HIA 56 also makes allegations that, when I was 16 or 17 years of age, I am alleged to have abused him with DL 231 and we would have been 16 or 17 years of age. I can say that in my time at Nazareth Lodge that there were never boys of 16 or 17 years of age. I have never heard of these "charge boys". There would not have been people staying at Nazareth Lodge of 16 or 17 years of age. All staff working at Nazareth Lodge would have been females. I left Nazareth Lodge for Rubane in approximately 1965, when I would have been 10 or 11 years of age.
7. I have read the allegations that HIA 56 has made in that boys would be made to take their trousers and underpants down and that a face flannel then would have been placed on their penis. I can say that I never witnessed anything like this ever happening at Nazareth Lodge and it would not have happened.
8. HIA 56 makes an allegation in relation to abuse that took place by myself and DL 231 in a hall with a stage in Nazareth Lodge. I remember the area that HIA 56 is talking about. There was a hall with a stage and a TV sat

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below the stage. We would have sat round watching TV. This area was always busy and was never empty. People were always watching TV. I also had a mouse in a cage that lived on top of the stage and would say that this was a very busy area. The allegations made by HIA 56 did not happen and could not have happened and I deny the allegations that HIA 56 has made in relation to this or any incident of myself abusing him.

9. I remember HIA 56 mother would come at least once a week to visit him. She would change his clothes including his underwear in front of the other boys. The boys would make comments, teasing him for having to get changed in front of us. This was just boyish behaviour. There was always banter going on with people teasing and making comments between the boys; none of this was done with malice or with any other motivation or intent and I do not understand why HIA 56 keeps referring to me allegedly telling him that he had the nicest bum in the Home.

My Life After Nazareth Lodge

10. I left Nazareth Lodge in or around 1965 when I would have been about 10 or 11 years of age and went to Rubane House, Kircubbin. I stayed there until I left on the 23rd May 1969 at 15 years of age. I stayed in digs in at first but got a job as a in the . I then qualified in obtaining my and worked for . Due to a in or around 1998/99 I was no longer able to work and took voluntary redundancy in .
11. I never knew my mother but in the last 2 years I have been in touch with my mother's family in and I have been meeting relatives. I found out that my mother died when I was 9 years of age. I was told that my notes stated that when I was brought to Nazareth Lodge that I was not allowed to be adopted at any stage and was told that this was because my mother had been determined to come back for me. It appears that nobody knew that my mother had died. I was comfortable in Nazareth Lodge with the Nuns and think very fondly of them and would have sent them Christmas cards and I am grateful for the care and support they showed me.

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Statement of Truth:

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

Signed **DL 269** _____

Dated: 30.1.15

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10. In his statement he has stated he was in Nazareth Lodge from approximately 1959 to 1965 and he makes a specific allegation against unnamed domestic workers that he was repeatedly beaten with a solid plastic racket. I have no recollection of seeing any such racket in the Home while I was there and I certainly did not use one to beat children with. I remember the name of DLA269 but have no personal recollection of him and I deny using excessive force on him at any time.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: **NL 4**

Dated: 6 Feb 2015

HIA Ref - NL5

Name NL 5

Date 8 February 2015

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995Witness Statement of NL 5 - NL5

1. My full name is NL 5 and I have just recently celebrated my birthday and until recently my health was excellent. Since hearing of the allegations made by a number of former residents I have been very stressed and my blood pressure is very high. I also feel unsteady on my feet a lot of the time and an optician recently diagnosed an eye condition that is caused by high blood pressure.
2. I have provided statements to the Inquiry dated the 12th and 26th January and have been asked to comment on further allegations made against me by an additional boy.
3. I do wish to eventually comment on the evidence given orally to the Inquiry by the boys mentioned in my other statements but I understand that this statement is required urgently to address allegations made by DL 269 that will be heard on the morning of Monday 9th February.

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4. This boy was not in my group and by his statement he indicates that he was in SR 47 group and so I would have had very little to do with him.
5. I cannot put a face to this boy and I'm sure I have not met DL 269 since he left Nazareth.
6. I absolutely deny that I was "rough" or "violent". I know that I was fussy and strict about manners and morals and boys being clean and behaving well but I truly do not believe any more than a natural mother would have been. I took very little notice of boys not in my group as I had enough to do with NL 28 and my own boys.
7. Again I would emphasise that I received a standing ovation at the last reunion of children who lived in Nazareth and many have stayed in touch with me over the decades and visited me in my home.

8. I note that this boy did not go the Police and that these allegations are being made against me for the first time.
9. I note his allegations are very generalised and and that this boy does not accuse me of striking him and it remains my position that I did not strike this or any boy. I also can say I never saw **NL 4** strike this or any boy. I believe corporal punishment may have been administered by the nuns in the school but I never saw this.
10. I am sorry if this boy was struck as he alleges but it was not something I did or was aware of others doing.
11. I am not surprised that this or other boys remember my name as I was **NL 4** of lay staff and whilst other boys have said the nuns were abusive I am pleased to note this boy does not say that.
12. I know that memory is subjective and selective and that my memories of my time in Nazareth are not going to be exactly the same as anyone else who was there but until this Inquiry I counted those years from **NL 4** as the happiest of times.
13. I feel sick that I devoted my life to raising these boys in their time of need only many decades later to be accused of being someone I am not. I worked long hours on little or no salary to help raise many dozens of boys to be decent young men and I was proud of my role in doing that. I am saddened by that any boy would feel that I was rough or violent and do not accept that I was.

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

NL 5

Signed 

8th Feb 2015
Dated