

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 192

Witness Name: HIA 192

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 192

I, HIA 192 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I was the second eldest of four boys. I had an older brother called [REDACTED] and two younger brothers called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Our father worked in England and I did not know him. We lived with our mother in [REDACTED] but she died of [REDACTED] in April 1944. [REDACTED] was still a baby and was adopted. He became known as [REDACTED]. The rest of us were placed in Nazareth Lodge by the parish priest. I remember the priest stopping on the way to buy us ice-cream. I didn't want one but I remember my brothers having one.

Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast (18/06/1945 to 08/07/1953)

2. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge on 18th June 1945 when I was almost eight years old. [REDACTED] and I were in the junior dormitory and SR 100 was in charge of us to begin with. [REDACTED] was in the senior dormitory.
3. I went to school in Nazareth Lodge and was taught by SR 100 then by SR 101 and then by SR 118

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4. I collected the jotters from everyone in class one day. They were all covered in fine wallpaper. One boy who was the biggest bully in the class bit in to the corner of his. When [SR 101] was going through the jotters she accused me of biting it as the other boy had denied biting his jotter. When I denied it she made me put my teeth in to the bite marks so she could compare. I do not understand how making me put my teeth into the marks would allow her to compare. If she wanted to compare she should have made me bit beside the teeth marks. She beat me in front of the entire class. She said she was going to beat me until I told the truth. She made me kneel down in front of the class with my hands out. She hit me with the handle of a hurley stick. She kept hitting me until she got tired. My arms dropped down from the tiredness of holding them up and my fingers curled from the pain. I lost five finger nails in the next couple of weeks as a result of the beating.
5. When I was taught by [SR 118] I was a class boy and was in charge of cleaning her room. She beat me every day for various reasons like not putting her ink well in the right place or leaving dust in her classroom. I lived in constant fear of her. She destroyed my confidence. My brother told me years after we left care that my father had asked [SR 118] for clothing coupons to buy us clothes. He was never heard from again. I think that is why [SR 118] hated us.
6. Around the same time I was also put in charge of a group of boys in the St Joseph's dormitory. If one of the boys I was in charge of lost something like his sock or wet the bed I was also beaten by [SR 118]. One of the boys wet the bed once and [SR 118] blamed me for not making sure he had been to the toilet before he went to bed. She put me in a cold bath and got an older boy to pour buckets of cold water over my head. I was then taken out of the bath and [SR 118] beat me with the handle of a hurley stick. After the second hit I said "that's sore Sister". She then hit me in the groin. She hit me about six times in total and the pain was unbearable. [SR 118] told me after we left care that [SR 118] had threatened to punish a boy in his dormitory called [SR 118] in this way and he threatened to jump out the window.

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7. **SR 118** woke me in the mornings by hitting me on the legs with the handle of a hurley stick to get me up so I could get the other boys up.
8. I remember another occasion when the radiator in our dormitory broke and leaked water. **SR 118** punished all the boys in the dormitory by beating them. I was the first to be beaten by her. When she got tired she got another boy called [REDACTED] to take over. He was a bigger boy from the senior dormitory. He did not want to hit us but **SR 118** would have beaten him if he had not done it.
9. When the Bishop came to lay the foundation stone for the building of St Joseph's Babies Home there was a special service. The Bishop passed the crozier to the priest who then passed it to me. I was an altar boy. I was kneeling and when I stood up I knocked the light. When the boys returned to the refectory later Sister **SR 118** hit me in front of all the boys.
10. I worked in the kitchen and I remember food coming in in big bags. I remember bags of peas with maggots in them. I would have to remove as many as I could before the peas were placed in soup. If any maggots were in the soup I had to scoop them out when they floated to the top. I also remember blue moulded bread.
11. I remember a relief nun called **SR 204** forcing the fat I had cut off the meat I was eating into my mouth. I gagged and she stopped.
12. I remember playing marbles with my younger brother [REDACTED] in the playground. A man came into the playground dragging a push along lawnmower behind him. The blades were spinning as the lawnmower was being pulled and [REDACTED] hand was cut. His knuckles are still funny to this day. He was not taken to the hospital. One of the nuns took him into the bathroom to clean him up. I could hear him screaming and was trying to get in to see him but I was beaten by another nun.
13. My older brother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **SR 118** told me to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] I never saw him
 when he was in hospital.

14. I remember during one of the summer holidays someone put newspaper into the two pales of milk that were to be brought out to the boys to have a drink of milk when they were playing. We were all punished by not being allowed outside to play for three weeks. That was torture for young boys who were on their summer holidays from school.

Life After Care

15. When I left Nazareth Lodge digs were arranged for me on [REDACTED] and I worked in a [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] I moved digs to be closer to work and I worked there for five years.
16. In 1957 I [REDACTED] and I was in hospital from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
17. I met my wife when I was living in Belfast and we married in 1962. We had a son and moved to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] where we lived for nearly forty years and had two more children. I have had various [REDACTED] during my working life.
18. In 1984 when I was living in [REDACTED] I read in the papers about a man called [REDACTED] being shot in Belfast and thought it was my brother. I came over to [REDACTED] but my brother had not been shot. I did not realise that he was [REDACTED] now not [REDACTED] He was living in [REDACTED] and I was able to get in touch with him. My older brother [REDACTED] was living in [REDACTED] and had read the same article and also thought that it was our brother who had been shot. He phoned me and that is how we got in touch again. I asked him to try and get in touch with [REDACTED] who was also living in [REDACTED]. I went down to [REDACTED] one weekend to meet [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I saw [REDACTED] when he was forty six for the first time since he was sixteen and I knew instantly who he was.

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The four of us then met at my house in [REDACTED] the same year. We remained in touch. [REDACTED] died ten years ago but [REDACTED] and I are still in touch.

19. Nine years ago one of my daughters moved back to [REDACTED] so my wife and I moved back too. We have a grandson living in [REDACTED] and three grand children in [REDACTED]
20. I believe that my upbringing has affected me in many ways. I like my own company, I lack confidence and I do not like anywhere there is a crowd. My wife tells me that I am very negative.
21. I believe that the victims of institutional abuse should receive compensation and the spouses of those who have passed away should also be compensated for having to live with the affects of their spouse's past.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

HIA 192

Dated _____

7-8-16

STATEMENT OF **HIA 192**

I was born on _____ and entered Nazareth Lodge in 1945 with my brothers _____ and _____. I have set out in my witness statement of 7 August 2014 details of my time in Nazareth Lodge.

At the time we entered Nazareth Lodge there were a number of _____. There was also a cousin called _____ and others who were not related.

My brother _____ who was a _____ was in charge of our group at one stage until he left Nazareth Lodge. For a while no-one was appointed to take care of the group until I was appointed but at that time I would have been of _____ and infact would have been ill on a regular basis especially over the winter months.

I have heard of the complaints made by **HIA 87** against me and would say that I do not recollect a **HIA 87** being in Nazareth Lodge.

HIA 192

Signed _____

Dated 31-1-15.....

- (i) On one particular occasion one of the other boys soiled his bed and the Plaintiff was blamed. He was made to take a cold bath and was then beaten with a hurling stick by [REDACTED] SR 118 [REDACTED]. He was hit from behind twice and when he turned around saying "It's sore Sister" she struck him on the testicles and continued to strike him, damaging his testicles.
- (j) Another time [REDACTED] SR 118 [REDACTED] thought water from a radiator leak had been a boy wetting himself and she beat the entire class six times each on their bare backsides including the Plaintiff. When she got tired of administering the beatings she forced another boy to beat the rest.
- (k) The Plaintiff was struck with large keys on one occasion by [REDACTED] SR 118 [REDACTED] thereby cutting his head.
- (l) The Plaintiff was forced to eat blue mouldy bread and on one occasion had a lump of fat forced into his mouth when he would not eat it.
- (m) On another occasion an older boy attempted to molest the Plaintiff by touching his penis and taking it out of his pants. The Plaintiff was told that he was doing bad even though he was the innocent party and both boys were beaten.

PARTICULARS OF NEGLIGENCE:

The Plaintiff repeats the particulars of assault, battery and trespass to the person as particulars of negligence and adds:

- (a) Making the Plaintiff scrub and polish wooden floors in the home and or perform other manual labour when he was too young to be appropriately asked to do so and or for unduly lengthy periods of time.
- (b) Failing to take any or adequate steps in time or at all to protect the Plaintiff from physical injury by beatings and or the other trespass to the person described.
- (c) Failing and omitting to provide any or adequate supervision of the nuns and other servants and agents charged with or responsible for the care, management and supervision of the Plaintiff, including inter alia, those Sisters named above.
- (d) Failing to provide any or adequate supervision of the Plaintiff and or other children in care at the said home.
- (e) Failing to provide any or adequate management of the said home, the nuns thereat and or the Plaintiff.
- (f) Resorting to corporal punishment when it was unnecessary and or inappropriate to do so.
- (g) Administering excessive, inappropriate and violent forms of corporal punishment.
- (h) Failing to take any or adequate steps in time or at all to avoid corporal punishment so far as was possible.
- (i) Failing to devise and enforce any or adequate system for ensuring that corporal punishment was only administered when it was appropriate to do so and to an extent which was reasonable.
- (j) Administering corporal punishment other than with a light cane.

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: HIA 192

Age of Witness: 27/7/37 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of 2 page/s, 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.

Signature of Witness: HIA 192 Date: 13/12/10
Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: Joanne Hanna PW1472 Date: 13/12/10
by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

When I was about [redacted] years old I remember being driven to Nazareth Lodge Children's Home with my two brothers, [redacted] and [redacted] by the parish priest. My mother had [redacted] and was in hospital at the time. I didn't find out until about a year later that she died in hospital. I would describe my time in Nazareth as 'murder'. I remember when I was about thirteen I was put in charge of the dormitory. If one of the boys had lost a sock or a shoe I would have been beaten by SR 118 I was wakened in the mornings by SR 118 and it was my responsibility to get the other boys up. She would have hit me about the legs with a hurley stick or a brush shaft. Another time I remember one of the other boys had made a mess of the bed and I got blamed. SR 118 put me in a cold bath and hit me on the genitals with a stick. I have had trouble with my genitals ever since. I was hospitalised due to this since I was about seventeen and on and off over the last ten years until recently. I have had strangulation and tension of the testes among other things. Another punishment that SR 118 dealt me frequently was making me put my hands on the desk and hitting them with a stick. One occasion I remember I was alter boy when the Bishop opened the baby's home, I accidentally knocked the red light on the alter and and was later beaten by SR 118 in front of all the other boys for this. The older boys would often have put their hands down the younger boys trousers, including mine,

Signature of witness: HIA 192
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 192**

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when we were play wrestling. If the nuns caught you they would have beaten both of the boys for it. I also remember having to polish the wooden floors. I would have had splinters in my feet and hands from the rough wood. I remember being beaten by **SR 118** when she said it wasn't done right. I think **SR 118** was in charge of me from I was about ten years old. I don't really have any bad memories of Nazareth before that age, not about physical beatings anyway. I remember one time when I was about eleven or twelve **SR 101** beat me up for something I hadn't done. One of the other boys had bitten a piece of cardboard used for backing books and I got blamed for it. She said I'm going to beat you until you tell the truth. I was made to kneel in front of her and she hit and hit me with a hurley stick. I think she only stopped when she got tired. This was the worst beating I ever had, I thought I was going to die. Over the next week or so five of the nails on my hands turned black and fell off. One period of time I remember [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. There were lots of days [REDACTED] that I got nothing to eat. I feel that my time and treatment in Nazareth has greatly affected my life and that of my family over the years. I feel that it had caused me to be anxious and irritable and I have difficulty in relationships with others. I have also suffered throughout my life with nightmares.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

HIA 192

Signature of witness:	HIA 192
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

No. on Register	Name	Date of Admission	Date of Discharge	Age on Discharge
2063a	HIA 192 HIA 192	18. 6. 45	8. 9. 53	15 yrs. 11 mths
Sept. 1953 Dec. " March 1954	Apprehended to [REDACTED] Attended K-union Doing well			