

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 103

Witness Name: HIA 103

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 103

I, HIA 103 will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I lived at home with my father, two brothers NL 25 and HIA 128 and my sister HIA 43. I am the eldest in the family. My mother left us in 1959.

Nazareth House

2. I was in Nazareth House from 22nd January 1960 until 8th May 1965. I was sent there when I was 7 years old along with my sister who was put in the nursery as she was 3. My brothers were sent to Nazareth Lodge.
3. I had regular contact with my father when I was in Nazareth House. He came and took us all out at weekends. He was traumatised when he was leaving us back. In the summer we all went to my granny's house in the country for a week or so.
4. My father would come to the wall at the side of Good Shepherd Chapel and would hand us over a bag of oranges. He was never made to feel welcome at the home by the nuns. Anytime we came back from seeing our father the nuns

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would ask 'did he give you an envelope?' 'Did he give you money?' My father paid regularly for us to be kept at the home.

5. A normal day consisted of getting out of bed and getting down on our knees to pray. We had to go to early morning mass every day. Afterwards we got breakfast which consisted of fried bread. After breakfast the work would start. We had to polish the chapel floors and wax the benches.
6. If we were caught carrying on, like sliding on cloths, the nuns would come down shouting and roaring and would often thump you on the head with a bunch of keys or their fists. The nuns used to grab us by the hair on the side of our heads when we were being disciplined. They would also use a pointer cane on occasion or their fists if you did anything wrong. **SR 134** was the worst one to me and **SR 31** **SR 31** was a teacher. **SR 134** was in charge of my dormitory. **SR 122** was wicked too but if you had sores she would have bathed you in Jeyes Fluid and iodine.
7. The beds were always checked to see if you wet the bed. If you wet the bed you had to wash it yourself in the laundry. This did not happen to me but I recall it happening to other children in the home of all ages.
8. Before having a bath on a Saturday we had to go into big hall and take our knickers off and stand in a line. We had to stand naked in front of everyone and show our knickers front and back. We wore the same pants and socks all week. Like most girls I washed them and then tied them in a towel and put them in my bed to dry.
9. Our hair was washed in Jeyes Fluid, nit shampoo and boiling water. If you tried to jump out of the bath they trailed you by the hair and dragged you back in and poured the water over you. **SR 134** would scrub the hair and then put a fine comb through it. The skin on my head was burned from the boiling water. I developed sores on my head and I was taken to a clinic on the Antrim Road.

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They tried to say it was ringworm or something and I was given cream to deal with it. I still have problems with my scalp.

10. The bath water was never changed and we shared towels. We were given old dirty shoes to wear that didn't fit.
11. **HIA 430** was older than me and my bed was next to hers in my dormitory. She pretended to tell us stories and got us to lean around her bed. She took our hands and she tried to get us to touch her. This happened a few times and I always pulled my hand away.
12. On one occasion I was crying and I told **SR 134** about what had happened. **SR 134** beat me on the head with keys. She moved me out of the dormitory and put me in a store room on the landing which had a small camp bed. She then moved me to outside her cell where my bed was near the fire escape.
13. **HIA 430** continued to hit me after this as she knew I told **SR 134** I was bullied by **HIA 430** and other older girls. If I received anything, the bullies would have stolen it from me. They would thump and kick me. For example, if I had a ball they would take it off me and thump me.
14. There was no one to tell. The nuns wouldn't have been believed you and they would have beaten you.
15. I was starving with hunger all the time. The stew was water with bits of grizzled fat in it. We got dipped bread from a dirty oven and we were given black pudding. The nuns probably got the good meat. I remember climbing the wall at back of Holy Rosary Chapel to get to the pear trees. We were constantly starving. On one occasion I remember someone brought in greasy apples and we were given them to eat.
16. There was a doctor, Dr Hunter I think, who came in and gave injections for measles and children's illnesses. I got a BCG injection. **SR 134** knew this

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and thumped my arm when I got the injection. The wound became infected and swollen and SR 122 treated it.

17. My father bought us things, for example, my sister got a yellow jumper but it was taken off her by the nuns. When my dad asked about it they said it was lost or something. I remember my sister having a bruise on her arm. My father complained to the nuns but nothing was done about it.
18. At Christmas parties we were given presents when we went to Hughes Bakery and Mackies. I got a doll called Rosebud and it was taken off me by the nuns when I returned to the home. I think they sold the presents that were given to children in the home.
19. I remember an inspector coming in and we were told to be on our best behaviour. We were warned not to be telling anything to the inspector. I remember a slide was brought out for a picture with the inspector beside it. This was just for show as we never got to use it and I never saw the slide again.
20. We weren't really educated. I was picked to play the violin and they brought in a music teacher called [REDACTED] to teach it.
21. I attended St Monica's Secondary School on the Ravenhill Road. I had a couple of lovely teachers there. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were particularly nice.
22. We had to mend old skirts the nuns gave us for our uniform and we had to borrow PE gear because we didn't have our own. Any time I had a hole in my uniform I was mortified.
23. I was ashamed about walking back from school to Nazareth House and I didn't tell people where I lived. I told no-one I was in care.
24. I left Nazareth House when I was about 11 or 12 years old. I was returned to my father's care because he got a house. I went back first because I was eldest. It

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was terrible being out and knowing that my brothers and sister were still in. Eventually NL 25^{HIA 128} and HIA 43 also got out.

25. Social services put us in Nazareth House to be looked after but we weren't.

Life after care

26. I have no positive memories of being in Nazareth House. I didn't talk about what happened to me for years because I was ashamed. What happened in there should never have happened. It had long term effects on me. I have low self esteem and I am ashamed of my body. Things are ingrained in me for example, washing my underwear as soon as I take it off.

27. I reported the abuse to the police at Willowfield PSNI around 2009. The police recently wrote to me advising that SR 134 and SR 31 are both dead and that they can't trace HIA 430

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 103

Dated 13.6.14

4597-98

HIA 43

HIA 103

Admitted 22.1.60.

Mother has deserted family. Father's application.

Date

REPORT

Initials
of
Officer

8.46

Refusal made initially by [REDACTED] cc. Holy
 Rosary Church regarding this family.
 But the Smolens was deserted by his wife 6(?)
 years ago when she went to live with another
 man. He works as a long driver and
 the children are almost all barge boys at St.
 Thomas Intermediate School and St. Augustine.
 The house which he is buying is in
 terrible poor condition; part of the ceiling
 needs plastering. The living room is in
 need of redecoration and there is little
 comfort or feeling of a home about it.

[REDACTED] came originally from Co.
 [REDACTED] where he worked as a laborer.
 [REDACTED] was a long driver and has worked
 steadily to maintain his family since his
 wife left. He appears dull, apathetic,
 almost retarded — one feels that he is
 possibly of low intelligence and has become
 tired & depressed by his wife's rejection of
 him & by his struggle to maintain his family.
 His father [REDACTED] had suggested
 a home help. I discussed this with him but
 [REDACTED] was not keen on the idea
 especially as he felt that he might have to
 contribute a little to the cost. He maintained
 that the family were got out to school by
 him in the morning and that now they were
 older, each helped with the others when they
 arrived home from school. [REDACTED] he claimed
 is a good cook & of help with cleaning
 etc. I doubted this & also his ability
 to judge home conditions.
 Should he change his mind he will

HIA 103

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: **HIA 103**Age of Witness: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of _____ 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 103** _____
 _____/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: _____
 (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: **N D Simpson** **PW2013** Date: **21/6/10**

by whom statement was
 recorded or received

Service/Staff # if police/staff

When I was 7 years old I was admitted to Nazareth House. I have a letter from Nazareth House which says I was admitted on 22/1/60 and discharged on 8/5/65. My mother and father had separated and that was how my sister **HIA 43** and my two brothers **HIA 128** and **NL 25** came to be in Nazareth. I can remember one time whenever I was seven or eight years old, I hadn't been in Nazareth for too long, one night being in our dormitory. There was about twelve beds in my part and then a door and partition and then more beds. I would have been in the middle bed of three along the window. This one night one of the other girls **HIA 430**, she was older than us, I remember **HIA 430** had about 4 or 5 of us younger girls round her bed and was trying to get us to touch her, I think it was in the pretext of telling us a story. **HIA 430** was lying on the bed and we were kneeling around the bed. **HIA 430** kept grabbing my hand and trying to make me touch her down below, near her genital area. I can't remember what she was wearing but I remember her pulling my hand in under the covers and me managing to pull my hand away before it touched her. I was crying and **SR 134** must have heard all the commotion for up she came. I told **SR 134** that **HIA 430** had been trying to make me touch her. **SR 134** started punching me on my back pushing me up out of the dormitory. **SR 134** took me up past the sitting room to the corner of the stairs and locked me in the cupboard there. The

Signature of witness:

HIA 103

Signature witnessed by:
 (Appropriate Adult)

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 103**

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cupboard was like a store but there was a bed in it. **SR 134** locked me in the cupboard alone and left me there all night. The bed was like a wee camp bed, I can't remember if there were any covers for it. I can remember my back being very sore from her punching me but I don't know if there were bruises because we weren't allowed to look at our bodies and there weren't really any mirrors about. They had a big tin bath for washing our hair and a big enamel jug which they used to pour boiling water over your hair. I can remember them then fine combing my hair when the scalp was burnt off me for louse. The nuns would have been about at hair washing time and I think it was **NHB 32** who was responsible for carrying or filling the bath. **NHB 32** had a built up boot. They used to put Jeyes Fluid in our bath water and it used to sting my skin, your skin was raw. I remember having to go to a clinic on the Antrim Road for scrapings off my scalp, I don't know if it was because of ringworm or because my scalp was raw. Sometimes my dad would have taken us out but it wasn't very often. I used to cry and cry whenever I had to go back we used to try and get him to leave the boys back into the Lodge first. You were scared to say to dad but one time he did see bruises on our **HIA 43** and he started on the nuns. Dad used to send money in in an envelope any time we had been out with him. I remember a beautiful white Littlewoods dress with a red ribbon on the front and some wee hearts, spades and curlies on it, I got to wear it about twice and then it was never seen again. I remember a slide being donated to the House, I saw it once and have a picture of the children and the slide but it was never seen again. We would have been thrown out in all weather and not allowed back in until maybe Chapel time. The minute they got you out of bed you were on your knees praying, then chapel and then cleaning. We had to clean the chapel, polish all the benches and wax all the floors. If there was no one about being kids you would have got on the cloth but then when you got caught that was more bother because you would

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Signature of witness:	HIA 103
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 103**

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have got hit with the big bunch of keys. Another favourite of **SR 134** was to get you by the locks. She would have grabbed your hair just in front of your ear and pulled it up. There was just constant fear in there you used to do your best not to get in trouble, if you were shining the floors and missed a bit you had to do it all again. **SR 31** was another one who hit you with the keys, she had a big red face and was always angry. **SR 31** used to teach me, she had a wooden pointer for the board and she used to hit me with it, she also used to hit me with the skinny side of the wooden ruler. I remember one time I had my BCG, my arm was all swollen and pussy and one of the nuns punched me on my BCG and all the pus came out. I can't remember which nun it was. I was ashamed to be in there. The food was rotten, you wouldn't even give it to pigs, the pan bread used to be dipped in some dark grease and dirty black pudding. The nuns would have made you eat it. On Saturdays they used to take all of us into the big hall and make us line up. We used to have to take our pants off and show the nuns the front and back of your pants to make sure they were clean before putting them in a laundry pile. I remember you used to wear the same pants all week and I used to wash the pants at night with carbolic soap and put them in my bed sheets to dry and put them on clean in the morning to show that my pants were clean. There was a big heating pipe in the dormitory but it was always turned off at night. I got beaten a few times by the nuns because my pants were dirty, I learnt very quickly to make sure I washed them and they were clean for inspection. I remember climbing over the wall at the Holy Rosary Chapel to get hard conference pears, they were hard as hell but I ate them anyway because I was starving. We got out at Christmas time to wee parties at the Monarch Laundry and Hughes Bakery, we would have got wee presents at them but they were all taken off us when we got back in. I remember getting a Rosebud dolly at one of the parties but she was taken off me and never seen again. I was not allowed to see my

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RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 103**

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sister **HIA 43**, whenever she was in the nursery I saw her I would have shouted but the nuns trailed me away. I don't remember seeing **HIA 43** too much when we were in there we weren't allowed to see each other. I remember dad coming standing on a wee gray wall and handing over a brown bag with oranges in it and the nuns seeing him and shouting at him.

SR 31 used to send me out to Cowzers Chemist across the road and a couple of times I ran down the road just to get out of the place was brilliant. I remember whenever I was about 12 1/2 years old dad got a wee house and took me out of Nazareth House. I think it was our **NL 25** who got out next. **HIA 43** was in a couple of years after me. You just got out of Nazareth in whatever you had on you and that was that. From I left Nazareth I really tried to forget about it and blank it out but there would be wee things that set me back. HP sauce puts me back into Nazareth because at Christmas time it would have been put on the table, if I see HP sauce I am back at the table at Christmas time. The entire time I was in Nazareth House I lived in fear, the moment I woke up I thought what's going to happen today. **SR 122** was the nurse and if you had any cuts she used to put iodine on the cut, it really stung.

HIA 103

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Signature of witness:	HIA 103
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

THE INQUIRY INTO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 430

I, HIA 430 will say as follows:-

1. I have been passed copies of the allegations made against me whilst I was a resident in Nazareth House.
2. Firstly, I categorically deny the allegations that have been made against me by HIA 28 in her statement.
3. The allegation she makes at paragraph 22 is inconceivable. The allegation is made that this occurred at midnight. My bed was situated at the top of the dormitory nearest to SR 31 bed. SR 31 had a clear view of the whole dormitory and the children's beds through a glass partition. Children were not allowed out of their beds at all at night time, and she had quite sharp hearing and she scolded children who made any noise or got out of bed.
4. Furthermore, I had, as per my statement, chronic enuresis which occurred on a nightly basis throughout my time in Nazareth House. In fact this continued for some time even after I left Nazareth House and relocated to England.
5. I have read the statement of HIA 103. This statement is also totally untrue.
6. I have a very vivid recollection of my time at Nazareth House and I can confirm that absolutely none of these allegations made against me are true.

Statement of Truth.

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

Signed

HIA 430

Dated

9 Feb 2015