

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 318

Witness Name: HIA 318

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995****WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 318**

I, HIA 318, say as follows:-

**Personal details**

1. I was born on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] County Tyrone. I am the second oldest in the family. I have one older sister called HIA 303 and two younger sisters – HIA 339 and HIA 401. I discovered I had a younger brother called AU 95 in 2002. For the first few years of my life I lived with my mother. My mother was unmarried. In recent years my cousin told me that my mother was my father's housekeeper and he was the father to all my siblings. He was a married man. My grandfather supported my mother until he died. My sister HIA 303 was already in Nazareth House in Belfast. When my grandfather died in 1952 I was put into Nazareth Lodge and my sisters were put into Nazareth House. My mother worked in the Good Shepherd Laundry in Newry and then in Dublin until she died in 1999 aged seventy two.

**Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (11/05/1952 – 21/12/1956)**

2. I was admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1952 when I was five years old.
3. I stayed in a large dormitory which held about twenty to thirty boys. I wet the bed but not as frequently as other boys. I recall waking up in the morning to the

## PRIVATE

stench of the urine soaked sheets and steam in the dormitory. When I wet the bed I had to carry the red plastic mattress cover with the urine into the bathroom. Sometimes it spilled onto my pyjamas and the smell was awful. In the bathroom the nuns hosed me down with freezing cold water. The nuns were cruel. You wouldn't do that to a dog. I cannot recall any other punishments but I do know that we wouldn't have got away with anything.

4. I recall a lady used to come to the fence at the Lodge and pass fruit through the rails to me. I think she may have been my [REDACTED] who was my mother's sister. She lived in Belfast. I recall this happening on a few occasions.
5. I had no idea that my sisters were in Nazareth House. I recall that there was a nun called **SR 71** Nazareth Lodge. I do not recall any other nun's names.
6. I left Nazareth Lodge on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1956 when I was ten years old. Thirteen of us were being sent to Australia. We had no choice - we were just told we were going by the nuns. My Child Migration Form is signed by my mother [REDACTED] and her address is given as the Good Shepherd Home in Newry. I do not believe my mother voluntarily signed the form. My brother **AU 95** was kept in Ireland and I don't believe she would have wanted her children to be sent to the other side of the world.
7. I didn't know it then but I was being sent out the frying pan and into the fire. I sailed to Australia on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1956 on the SS Strathnaver. On the journey we were accompanied by two civilian women. I cannot remember their names. I recall being thrown out of our cabin by the stewards on the ship as they brought their girlfriends in. We were allowed back in our cabins a few hours later. I arrived in Fremantle on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1957. I discovered years later that my sisters were sent to Nazareth House, Camberwell in Melbourne in different years.

PRIVATE

**Castledare (22/01/1957 – 1958)**

8. I was taken to Castledare Boy's Home upon arriving in Fremantle. I stayed there until I was eleven years old. I do not recall specific details of abuse but I do recall the terrible noise and confusion of hundreds of children running everywhere and having to work very hard.
9. I remember how terrifying the Christian Brothers were. They were always shouting at us and they were strict and often violent. I was frequently smacked across the head when we were lining up at assembly or caned in the classroom by one of the Brothers. I always feared a flogging with the cane or strap. I have had hearing problems for most of my life and I put this down to being frequently hit over the head as a child.
10. I recall feeling shame at being made to play female roles in musical plays and being made to dress up in girl's clothes. They made me take the part of Little Buttercup in HMS Pinafore. The Brothers used to fondle us especially when getting dressed for rehearsal. I recall on one occasion we were driving to a private show in a big black Vauxhall and a lot of the Brothers were drinking and smoking cigars. I remember being very frightened and crying on stage but over the years I have blocked this out. I recall a male called <sup>AU 14</sup> who was always hanging around. I found out later that his name was **AU 14** who was a Paedophile and he was friendly with the Christian Brothers. He worked as a  at   Perth. I know he took boys out from the home alone but I do not remember him doing that to me however when I think about dressing up and being in those plays I feel sick with shame and I think that something very bad happened to me.

**Bindoon (1958 – 1962)**

11. I moved to Bindoon when I was eleven years old. It was much worse than Castledare. There was a lot of violence and you were expected to do a lot of dirty work in hot conditions. I did not get a good education at Bindoon. I was made to work at the age of twelve. We were used as slave labour. We built many of the buildings and had to mix concrete in the hot sunshine. We were boys made to do men's work.

PRIVATE

12. The Brothers made us box and would always put one of the smaller boys, including myself, against one of the bigger boys. If the bigger boys took pity on you and didn't know you down they would get a flogging. The Brothers looked on and laughed as we were beaten to a pulp. I was just a punching bag for the Brothers and some of the bigger boys.
13. I recall **BAU 20** mashed me in the face with his fist when I was twelve years old. It caused me to fall back onto a wood pile leaving me with a bloody nose and a swollen face. I then got screamed at for crying. There was no softness in the place. It was a concentration camp with injustice and brutality all around.
14. **BAU 6** was a great big angry man who bellowed at us and told us we were no good. Children would wet themselves in fear of him and I was terrified of him.
15. I recall only being in a classroom for a short time before they put me to work. The teacher was **BAU 28** and he was a really nasty man. He would hit children on the head with the blackboard duster by throwing it at them. School at Bindoon was not a place where you could learn. It was somewhere you waited to take cover before the next assault came down on you.
16. The food was terrible. Sometimes it contained insects. The meat we were given was always the worst cuts and at times we would steal from the rubbish bins.
17. The priest for the home was called **AU 18** and I was an altar boy and the altar boys could not get away from him. He molested me in the Church. He did this by pretending to fool around dropping sweets into your pocket and when trying to fish them out he would feel your genitals. He rubbed himself up against me especially when I was helping him change out of his vestments. We were taught to obey priests so although I wanted to stop him, most of the time I didn't and I felt ashamed and violated.

PRIVATE

Life after care

18. When I left Bindoon I worked as a painter, in various factories and before I retired three years ago I was a car detailer. I have worked hard all my life but I believe if I had a better education I would have achieved more. I was awarded \$45,000 under the WA Redress Scheme. Whilst it helped make life a bit easier it will never erase the memories of what happened to me.
19. I have been married for thirty eight years and I have three sons. We have a close relationship. My wife is very supportive and I have told her and my sons what happened to me in care. When I was in Bindoon a family used to take me out for holidays. They were very good to me as a child and as an adult. I call them my mother and father. My foster father died three years ago. I still visit my foster mother who is in a nursing home. She calls me her son. I have a good relationship with their daughters. The family helped me a lot throughout my life.
20. My real name is [REDACTED] but the Christian Brothers in Bindoon changed the spelling of my name to [REDACTED]. I was given no papers or documentation when I left Bindoon. The wrong spelling of my surname meant I could not get a birth certificate. My oldest sister [HIA 303] struggled for years to track me down because she was looking for me under the correct spelling of my name. The Child Migrant Trust helped us find each other in the early 1990's - nearly forty years after we had been deported to Australia. I met up with [HIA 303] [HIA 339] and [HIA 401]. We missed each other's children growing up and could really have helped each other. I am close to [HIA 303] and [HIA 339] now but missed on having a relationship for all those lost years.
21. In 2002 [REDACTED] made a [REDACTED] documentary on Child Migration and interviewed my sister [HIA 303] and I as well as other child migrants. My cousins in Belfast saw the programme and got in touch with the Child Migrants Trust. In 2002 I visited Northern Ireland for the first time and I met my brother [AU 95] and my cousins. I returned to Ireland in 2011 and I visited my [REDACTED] who was in a nursing home in Dublin. When she saw me

PRIVATE

she recognised me and squeezed my wrist and cried. She died three days later. I will never forget that experience. I looked for my mother's grave but I could not find it. I was told three different stories by the Good Shepherd nuns about where she was buried in Dublin. To this day I haven't been able to find her grave.

22. I am quite a shy person and I avoid questions about my background. I feel I have let my family down by being poorly educated and not being able to earn more or work in higher status jobs. My wife has been very supportive over the years but I can be hard to live with and I don't communicate very well. I still don't like noise and I prefer to be on my own at times. I have trouble relaxing and avoid going to bed. Instead I stay up until I am exhausted and I lie thinking about the bad times from my past. If I wasn't sent from Ireland to Australia all the terrible things that I have suffered would not have happened. I would have been with my family. I try to get on with my life otherwise those that abused me will have won.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**HIA 318**

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

4-6-2014

L.E.M. 3.

Ref No. ....

Group Nomination No. ....

# Commonwealth of Australia

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, AUSTRALIA HOUSE, LONDON

## CHILD MIGRATION

### SECTION A.

To be completed by Voluntary Organisation in conjunction with parents or guardian

1. Name in full ... **HIA 318** ...
2. Full postal address ... *Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Rd. Belfast* ... Telephone No. *41356*
3. Date of Birth ... *1/6* ... Place of Birth ... *[redacted]* ... Nationality *Irish*
4. Religion *P.C.*
5. Father: Name ... Address ... Nationality ... Occupation ...
6. Mother: Name ... Address ... *Newry, Co. Down* ... Nationality *Irish* ... Occupation ...
7. Brothers and Sisters
8. Name and address of guardian (if applicable) ... *Mother Superior, Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Rd. Belfast*
9. Names and addresses of any relatives in Australia
10. Educational Standard ... *P.S. Std. II* ...
11. Intelligence Quotient to be stated ... *85* ...
12. Details of any recent Intelligence or Vocational Tests with dates
13. If child is in institutional care, state name of institution and date of child leaving parents' care ... *Admitted 11.12.1952*

SECTION B.

To be completed by Parent or Guardian (Father, if living)

I, (Name in full) **AU 108**  
 of (address) **GOOD SHEPHERD HOME, ARMAGH ROAD, NEWRY, CO. DOWN**  
 (Father) **HIA 318**  
 the (Mother) of **HIA 318**  
 (Guardian)

hereby consent to my child/ward proceeding to Australia under the Commonwealth Child Migration Scheme and understand that the Minister of Immigration will become his/her legal guardian upon arrival in Australia.

Date 10<sup>th</sup> January 1956 Signature **AU 108**  
 \* Witness Armandan Mac Hugh Qualification O Priest  
 Address Good Shepherd Convent, Newry

- \* The witness to the parent's or guardian's consent must be one of the following: --
- A Mayor, Magistrate, Provost or Justice of the Peace.
  - A Barrister, Advocate, Solicitor or Notary Public.
  - A Minister of Religion.
  - A Registered Medical Practitioner.
  - An Officer on the active or half-pay or pension lists of any of Her Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces.
  - A person on the active or pension list of the permanent Civil Service of the Crown, who is, or was at the date of retirement, in receipt of a salary of not less than £450 a year.
  - A Manager, Chief Cashier, or Accountant of a Bank.
  - A Teacher at a school recognised by the Ministry of Education or the Scottish Education Department, or the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland.
  - A Police Officer not below the rank of Sergeant.

SECTION C.

To be completed by Voluntary Organisation

In the event of the child named in this application leaving Australia before the completion of two years residence (unless he/she is repatriated for medical reasons within twelve months of arrival) Federal Catholic Immigration Committee

(name of sponsoring organisation) agree to repay, before the child leaves Australia, the full amount of the financial assistance granted towards the cost of the child's passage to Australia as an assisted migrant.

Signed Charles B. Wood **SR 104** Superior  
(Representative of Voluntary Organisation in United Kingdom)

Date .....

On completion, this form (in duplicate) should be forwarded together with a certified copy of the child's birth certificate and recent school report to: --

THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER,  
 AUSTRALIA HOUSE,  
 STRAND,  
 LONDON W.C.2.



L.E.M. 3.

Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Group Nomination No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Commonwealth of Australia**  
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, AUSTRALIA HOUSE, LONDON.

**Child Migration.**

**SECTION A.**

*To be completed by Voluntary Organisation in conjunction with parents or guardian.*

1. Name in full \_\_\_\_\_ **HIA 318** \_\_\_\_\_  
(In block capitals) (Christian Names) (Surname)
  2. Full postal address Mazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Rd. Belfast  
Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth Stavastown Nationality Irish  
(Birth Certificate to be attached)
  4. Religion R.C.
  5. **mother** Name \_\_\_\_\_ **AU 108** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Father** Address \_\_\_\_\_ G. Down \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality Irish Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
  6. **Mother** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
- |             | Name  | Age   | Address |
|-------------|-------|-------|---------|
| 7. Brothers | _____ | _____ | _____   |
| and         | _____ | _____ | _____   |
| Sisters     | _____ | _____ | _____   |
8. Name and address of guardian (if applicable) Mother Superior  
Mazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Rd.
  9. Names and addresses of any relatives in Australia  
\_\_\_\_\_
  10. Educational Standard P.5. Std. 11.  
(Attach school report)
  11. Intelligence Quotient to be stated 85.
  12. Details of any recent Intelligence or Vocational Tests with dates \_\_\_\_\_
  13. If child is in institutional care, state name of institution and date of child leaving parents' care  
Mazareth Lodge, Belfast.  
Adm. 11. 5. 1952.

diocese of Armagh.

Parish of Coagh

E. LIBRO BAPTISMALI.

Having examined the BAPTISMAL REGISTER of this Parish,

I find that

**HIA 318**

of

**AU 108**

and

Born on

day of

was Baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> day of

October

1946

, by

V. Rev. F. W. Terry Adm.

Sponsor<sup>s</sup> being

and

I certify this to be a true copy.

Francis W. Terry Adm.

parish at Coagh

this 10<sup>th</sup>

day of January

1956

Catholic Church of Our Lady of The Rosary

ORMEAU ROAD, BELFAST



CERTIFICATE OF CONFIRMATION

**HIA 318**

AGED 7

SON / DAUGHTER OF

**AU 108**

WAS CONFIRMED ON

22<sup>nd</sup> March

IN THE YEAR

1954

BY

Most Rev. D. Mageean D.D.

HAVING AS SPONSOR

AND TAKING THE NAME

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing has been faithfully copied from the Confirmation Register of the above Church, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1955.

(Rev) Hugh J. Stacey