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16 SEP 2013

HIA REF: 110

Witness Name: HIA 110

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 110

I, HIA 110 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Jubilee Hospital, Belfast.
2. My mother [REDACTED] was a domestic servant. I never knew my mother or my father. I recently met my sister [REDACTED] and she told me my mother is now dead. I would love to know if my father is alive or dead.
3. I was placed in St. Joseph's Baby Home, Belfast when I was a baby.
4. I was transferred to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast on 9th January 1959.

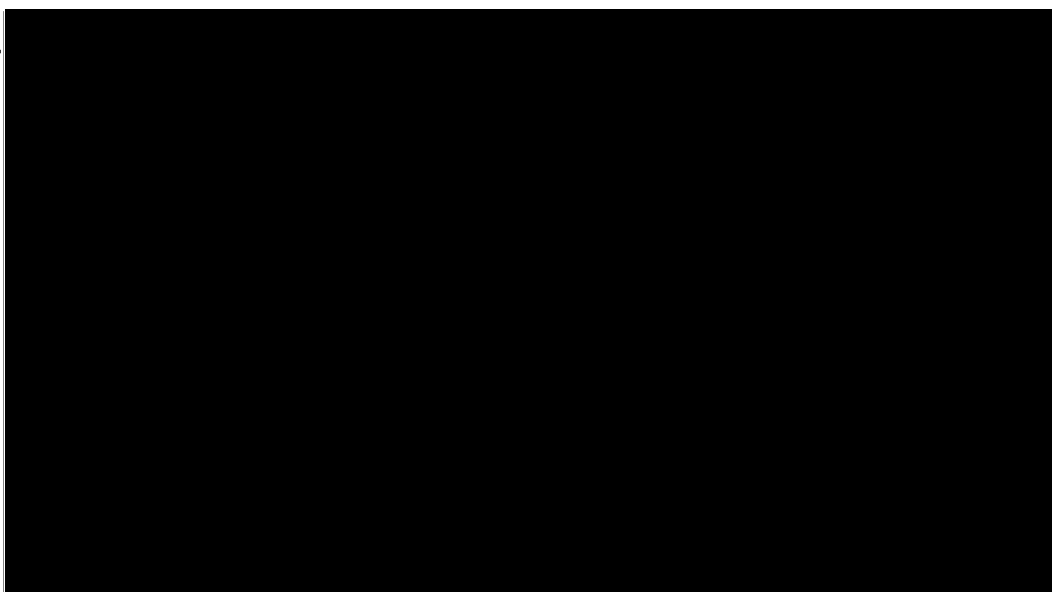
Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (9th January 1959 – 16th August 1967)

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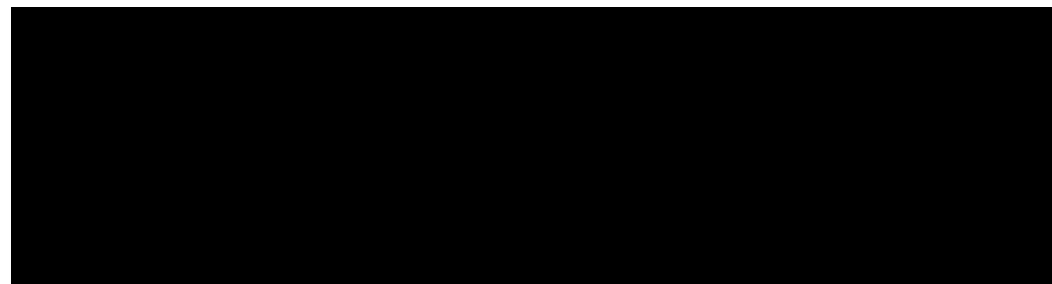
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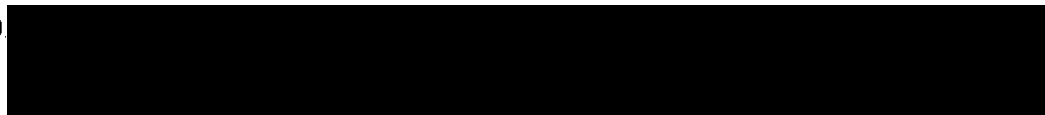


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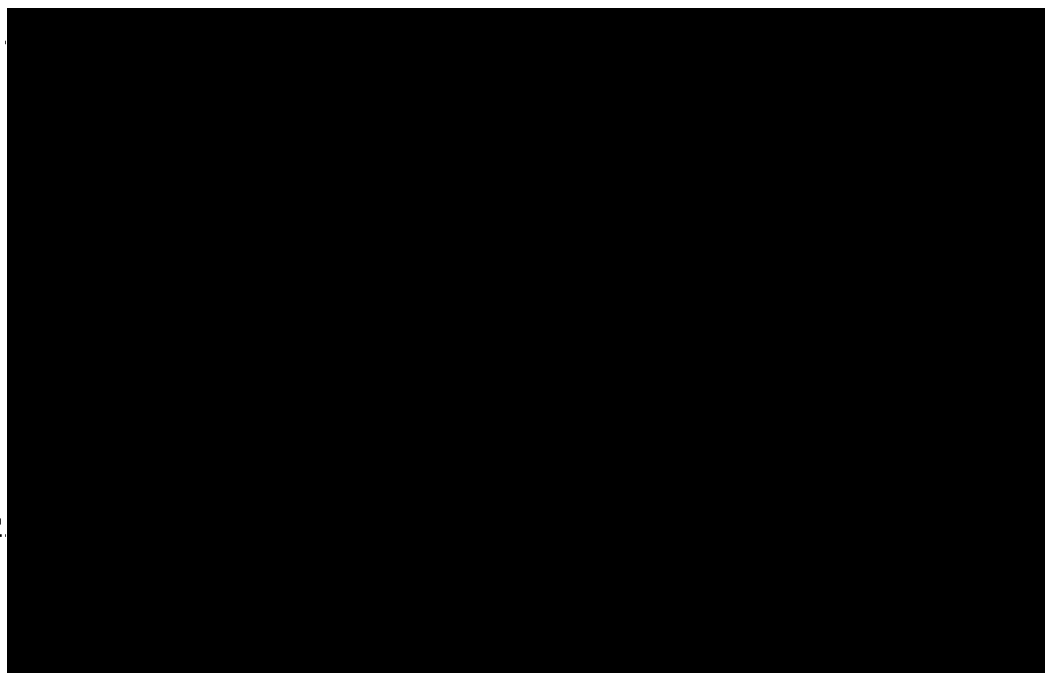


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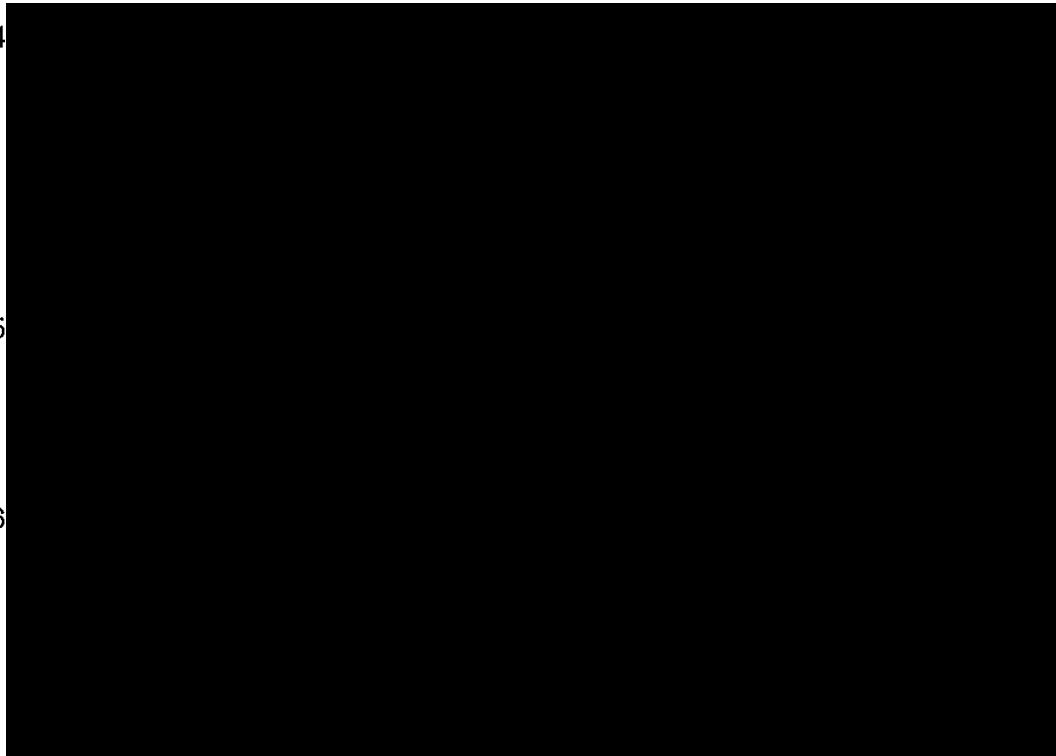
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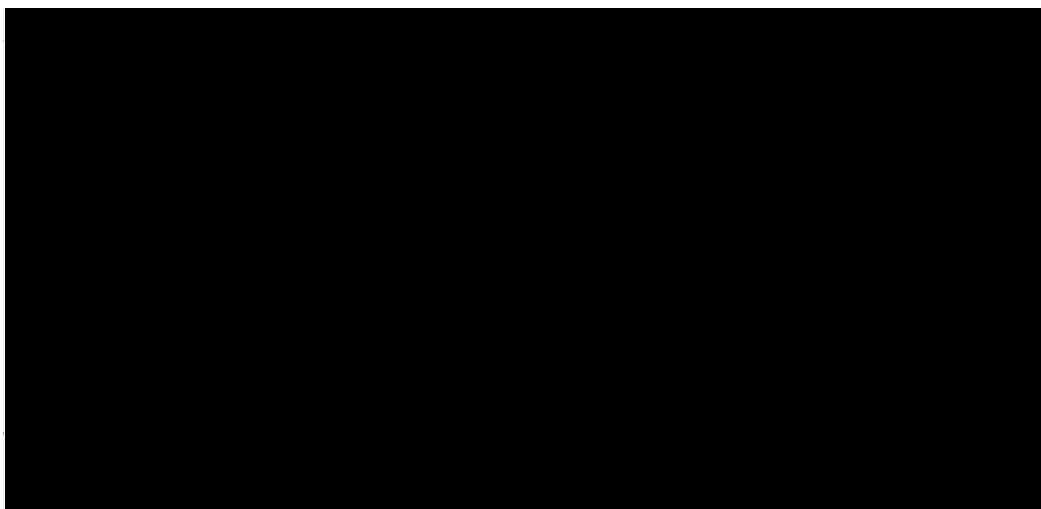


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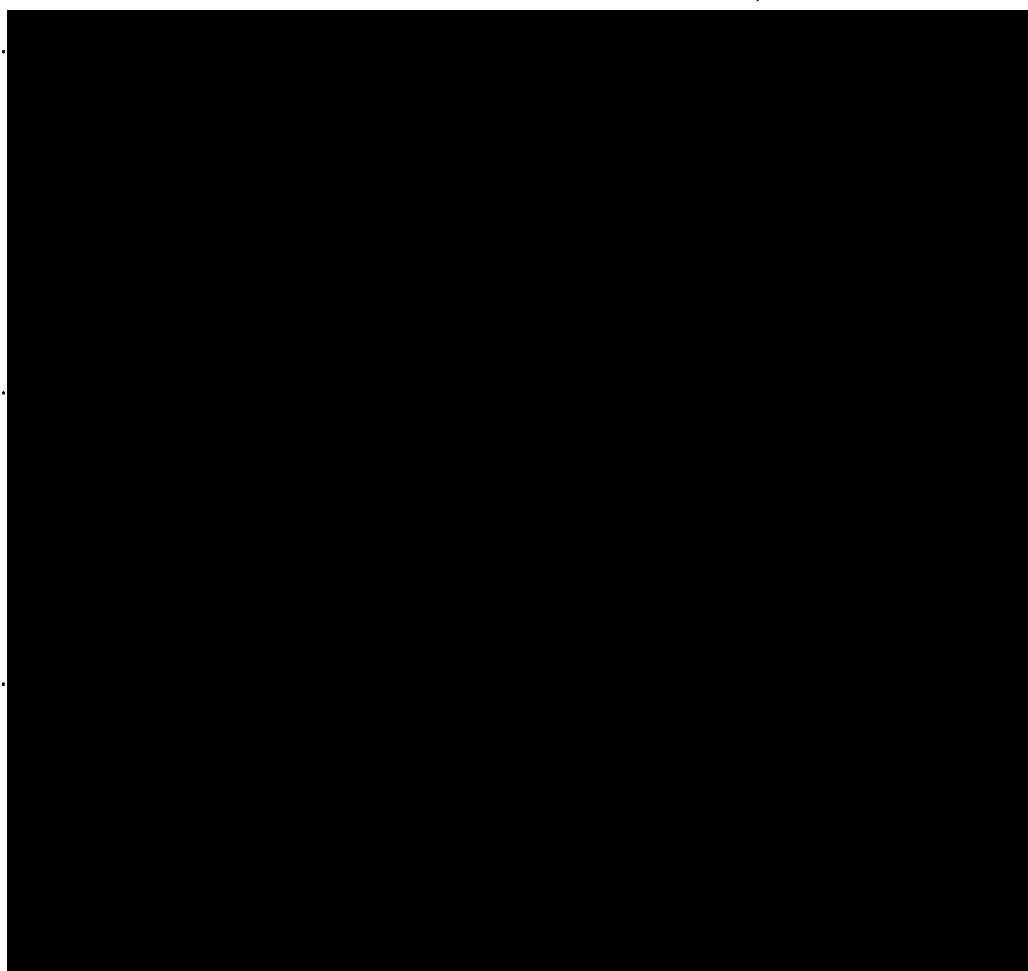
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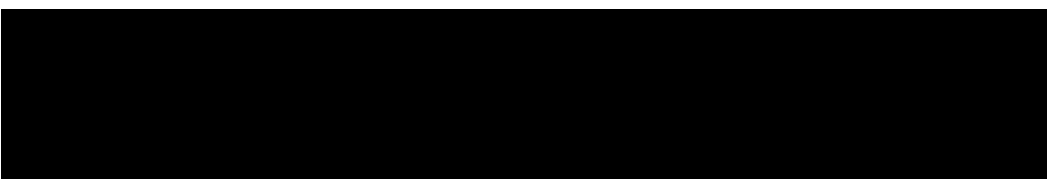
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Rubane House, Kircubbin (16th August 1967 – 22nd April 1971)

24. I moved to Rubane when I was 12 on 16th August 1967. I remained there until I was 16. I left on 22nd April 1971.

25. Rubane was better than Nazareth Lodge; at least you got food in it anyway.

26. The Brothers I remember are **BR 6**, **BR 3** and **BR 13**
BR 13

27. **BR 13** is dead now but he was a nice man. He used to take us out for a walk and then we would sit on a wall and he would give us biscuits. We always called this wall biscuit corner. If it was your birthday, **BR 13** would give you an apple. The apples were really small and bitter.

28. The rooms in Rubane were chalets. Before that, there was just the big old house and the farmhouse. Everyone slept in the big house together but then they built the chalets and we were all split up. I was in Chalet 4. **BR 22** **BR 22** was in charge of my chalet. I had my own room in the chalets but other boys had to share. In my room I had my bed, a cupboard for hanging my clothes and a cabinet.

29. In Rubane we weren't called by our names, we were called by numbers. I was number 22. There was a room called the loft where all the clothes were kept. It was in the old farm building up the stairs. In the loft, there were big lockers with all our clothes stored in them and I had to go to number 22 to get my clothes. I think **BR 15** was in charge of the clothing. He is dead now.

30. The school was onsite and I remember I was in **BR 3** class. I didn't like school in Rubane, they didn't teach us much.

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31. We used to get money every week in Rubane from **BR 6** but if you did anything wrong you got nothing. There was a tuck shop ran by **BR 3** **BR 3** onsite where we could spend our pocket money. We would all buy big bottles of shandy and pretend to be drunk.
32. I remember sports day in Rubane was great. Everybody did the egg and spoon race and jumping in sandpits.
33. In Rubane, we were allowed to go out to the shop or for a walk to Kircubbin, as long as there was a Brother with us. We used to get the bus to the pictures in Newtownards as well sometimes.
34. In Rubane, Mass was voluntary but I didn't like going. **BR 22** who worked in the gardens got me a job doing the gardening so I didn't have to go to Mass then. Everyone had their own plot of garden but mine was the best. I had more flowers than everyone else.
35. We would go camping down in the woods at Rubane with **BR 6** He was always down in the woods. We had small huts and campfires and we would eat tins of baked beans and toast but the toast was always burnt.
36. We had a swimming pool in Rubane but I would never jump in because I couldn't swim. It was dirty as well. **HIA 19** and other boys would jump in but I never did because it was stinking.
37. A lot of the boys would go out picking potatoes on the farm in Rubane. I did that too. We would go out on a trailer and there were two tractors. I remember **BR 2** drove one of the tractors. We loved going out on the farm because you got out and away from the Brothers for a few hours.
38. The woman from Welfare, **DL 282** used to come up to Rubane the odd time to see how you were doing but she never told you how many years you had to stay there.

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39. Nothing really bad happened to me at Rubane. I remember [REDACTED] BR 6 would hit you with a stick if you did something wrong. This happened to me a few times. In the big house before the chalets were built, [REDACTED] BR 15 would come in and lift up your bed to get you out of it. I never heard about any other physical or sexual abuse going on in Rubane.
40. I can't remember if we had any Christmas parties in Rubane. One year we weren't allowed to leave Rubane because there was a foot and mouth outbreak and Rubane was a farm. That year, [REDACTED] BR 39 from St. Pat's on the Glen Road came up and brought us toys. We got Easter eggs at Easter too. I remember Halloween and once they had a fireworks display. We used to call the fireworks jumping jinnies.
41. I left Rubane on 22nd April 1971 when I was 16. It was completely unexpected. One day I was sitting in class and [REDACTED] BR 6 came over and said it was time for me to move. I said move where and he said 'you're leaving Rubane'. I didn't want to leave. I thought he was winding me up but he came back twenty minutes later and said 'are you not ready yet, the welfare woman is coming to pick you up'. [REDACTED] DL 282 was her name and she brought me to a boarding house in [REDACTED]

Life after care

42. After I left Rubane, it was a long time before I got a job. My friend [REDACTED] HIA 19 was working in [REDACTED] and he got me a job there too. Then I got a job [REDACTED] in Lisburn and I did that for thirty-five years. Before I got that job, I worked in [REDACTED] for a while but they let me go.
43. One day when I was working in [REDACTED] I saw [REDACTED] NL 4 coming towards me. I recognised her because she would be in my mind all the time. She recognised me too and asked me to help her look for a grave. I got my own back on her by telling her to go straight down to the bog meadows at the bottom of the graveyard. She came back and said she couldn't find the grave. She asked me to show it to her but I said I didn't have time to.

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44. **NL 4** is still up in [REDACTED] I think she lives somewhere around [REDACTED] [REDACTED] gave me her address once but I forget it. She is on a Zimmer frame now and I see her around all the time. At the [REDACTED] in June 2013, I saw her in [REDACTED] I was asked to go around collecting the plate and I saw her but I didn't speak to her.
45. I am not able to work anymore as I broke both my hips and have pins in each hip. The first hip I broke when I slipped in the snow and the second one I broke when I was leaving Devitts pub on Clonard Street. I am on calcium tablets but I don't have much pain with my hips, only when I walk up a hill.
46. I keep myself busy by going to the [REDACTED] Community Centre and a summer scheme called Jigsaw. At the community centre, I do art on Fridays and we have bingo every second Tuesday. I used to go to [REDACTED] Youth Club which was for ex-residents of Nazareth Lodge and Rubane. I also go to the [REDACTED] every Wednesday to a social group. We go on tours and to [REDACTED] We have a Christmas dinner in the [REDACTED] every year as well. I go to a support group every Wednesday as well called SAVIA, which [REDACTED] **HIA 43** set up.
47. My sister [REDACTED] came looking for me and she told me my mother was dead. I don't know much about my family, I think she is my only sibling. I hadn't had much contact with [REDACTED] for the past eight years since I turned 50 but recently a nun from the Good Shepherd, [REDACTED] **SR 66** put us back in touch with each other. [REDACTED] **SR 66** took me down to [REDACTED] to visit her in June. Now I speak to [REDACTED] on the phone every Saturday morning. I have a niece and nephew, [REDACTED]
48. I go up to Armagh every Christmas and during the summer. I've been going there for the past forty-two years. One of the Brothers from Rubane, [REDACTED] **BR 22** [REDACTED] **BR 22** introduced me to a family called the [REDACTED] and I go up to see them every year. I was there for a week in June. They are always happy to see me. [REDACTED] **BR 22** is dead now.

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49. I reported these matters to police on two occasions in June 2012. The first time I went on my own but the second time my friend [REDACTED] came with me. I went to Musgrave Street police station and spoke to a male police officer. I got a letter in summer 2013 to say that there was not enough evidence to prosecute [REDACTED] NL 4 for what she did to me. [REDACTED] HIA 19 and [REDACTED] HIA 16 got the same letter.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

[REDACTED] HIA 110

Dated

10.9.13