

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 10

Witness Name: HIA 10

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 10**

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I, HIA 10, will say as follows:-

**Personal details**

1. I was born HIA 10 in Belfast, on [REDACTED]
2. I have three elder siblings called [REDACTED], NL 87 and NL 130 and a younger brother called [REDACTED]. I have been told that my mother left us and moved to England. We were being brought up by our grandmother but she passed away and our Uncle [REDACTED] then looked after us. A lady called [REDACTED] and Father McCann got a court order which placed the girls in care. I do not know the reason why we were placed in care. My brothers were kept at home. I was placed in St Joseph's Baby Home along with my sisters, NL 130 and NL 87. I have no memories of St Joseph's as I was so young. I was moved to Nazareth Lodge when I was nine years old.

**Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (01/09/1977 – 11/04/1980)**

3. I was admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1977 when I was nine years old. SR 30 and SR 46 were in charge of my group. My sisters were in my group. When I first arrived, I was bathed in Jeyes fluid. I remember the strong smell.

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4. We slept in a dormitory. I remember being cold as there was only a blanket and a sheet on the bed. The nuns woke us up at 7.00am every morning, and if you did not get out of bed they trailed you out. We were then made to kneel on the floor and say our prayers. If the nuns did not hear you saying your prayers they slapped your back or pulled your hair. We then got washed and dressed. We all wore a uniform. There was one bathroom that we all used. We had cereal or porridge for breakfast, and the porridge was rotten.
5. After breakfast we had chores to do. We prepared the dining room for the next meal, cleaned and set the table, cleaned the floors and did the dishes. The chores we were given depended on our age. When we came back from school we completed our homework and had dinner. Sometimes we had chores to do after school. We had dinner between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. It was rotten but we were forced to eat it and if you did not you were given it again at the next meal time. A lot of the time I was starving. We were not allowed to play. We were only allowed to watch television after dinner; you had to watch what the nuns were watching. We went to bed about 7.00pm or 8.00pm. The staff would take you out to the park at the weekend if you were good. If you had misbehaved, you had to stay in your bedroom or do chores. At the weekends we had to scrub the skirting boards, stairs and banisters. We did not have toys. I remember my mother sent me a Barbie doll once around Christmas time. It was a Barbie with a horse and riding gear. I was only allowed to play with it that day and then it was taken away. I think the only reason I was allowed to play with it on this day was because the nuns knew my mum would be ringing to check I had received it. Everything was false, people only saw what the nuns wanted them to see.
6. I attended the [REDACTED] Special School on the [REDACTED] Road. It was for children with special needs. I was sent there because one of my sisters was attending it already. [REDACTED] NL 130, [REDACTED] NL 87 and I were picked up by a bus each day. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the bus monitors.
7. [REDACTED] SR 46 was the worst nun. I remember I was in mass and I fainted as I did not like the smell of incense. [REDACTED] SR 46 then shouted at me and nipped my arm for fainting in mass. [REDACTED] SR 46 had a ruler strap, a brown leather

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ruler with white stitching which she hit us with. If she wanted to hit you she would grab anything that was nearby. We were also hit with bamboo canes. The nuns favoured the children of families who had money and the families who appreciate how their children were looked after.

8. **NL 150** and another member of staff called **NL 114** would curl your hair and they would burn the back of your neck with the curling tongs intentionally. When checking for lice, the staff used a silver lice comb, but they did it so hard, it left me with scares and cut on my head and neck. I remember bleeding, and seeing other girls bleeding.
9. **NL 114** was a terrible person. I was in the lift once with her and **NL 150** I mentioned my grandmother and said she was dead. I was then slapped on the face and told that no one cared about me, no one wanted me, that I was worthless and I would amount to nothing. I was told the same thing all the time.
10. **NL 150** married **NL 14** the **NL 150** He would come up in the evenings with sweets and get us to rub his shoulders and his feet. He had wondering hands and I tried my best to stay away from him. He would play with your hair and then rub his hands down your back and then move round to your front and I would then wriggle away. He would pretend to tickle us, and then accidentally touch your chest, and his hand was always around your bum. There was another **NL 151** called **NL 151** and my sister **NL 130**, told me that he interfered with her. He used to take her out on the bus and that it was when it happened.
11. My uncle came to visit us on a Sunday and he would bring three packets of polo mints. He was not allowed to take us out at the start. He would just sit with us in the Lodge. They made us sit in a foyer, close to the living room, so there was always someone from the Lodge around and we could not talk freely. There were a couple of occasions when we were allowed to go to his house. I do not remember my brothers ever coming to visit.

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12. I remember [REDACTED] SR 46 once brought me to meet Father Brendan Smyth. I do not know what age I was but I was younger than eleven. She took me in to one of the visitor's rooms with leather sofas to wait for a while. She then brought me into another room where Father Brendan Smyth was. She told him my name and then left. There was a bowl of humbug sweets on the table. He called me round beside him and asked me my name again. He sat me on his knee, his left arm was round mine and his right arm and shoulders were covering my shoulders so I could not move. He put his hand up my skirt. We always wore skirts in those days. He then touched my underwear and my genitals. I know it was Father Brendan Smyth because I remember him. I do not know how long I was there for in the room with him. I do not remember being brought to see him again.
13. I remember one time my sisters and I ran away and we were found near a motorway. When the police brought us back [REDACTED] SR 46 held me by the neck with her arm and beat me with a metal spatula. My sister [REDACTED] NL 87 grabbed a mop and tried to stop her and ended up breaking the glass window in one of the back doors beside the stairs.
14. My sisters and I were fostered when I was eleven by [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. They had previously fostered a boy called [REDACTED]. I left Nazareth Lodge on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1980. We did not get fed properly. We were given burgers and spaghetti or beans each night and to this day I cannot eat this type of food. The only time we were given a proper nutritional meal was if somebody was coming to visit. We did not get clothes or pocket money. [REDACTED] used to take me to the bingo. I won £100 once which she took from me. There was a man who lived with them called [REDACTED] NL 154 who felt my chest. I told my social worker but she ignored me. I think she was called [REDACTED] NL 153. My sisters were placed elsewhere first. [REDACTED] NL 130 was placed in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] NL 87 was placed in [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] Road, so I was left on my own. I did everything I could to try to get away from there. I stole, I missed school, I ran away. I was eventually taken back to Nazareth Lodge.

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**Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (09/03/1982 – 30/04/1985)**

15. I was re-admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1982. I was placed in a different group, of which [SR 205] was in charge. There was one nun in charge of each group. When I returned [SR 46] was head and she left and [SR 205] took over. She was brilliant but then she left. I ended up in [SR 29]'s group and then [SR 2] took over. [SR 29] was always shouting and hitting whoever was in her sight. [SR 2] was okay to start with but she was very strict. She would slap you with her hand on your head or your face depending on what way you were standing and what way she caught you. When I was fifteen she smacked my boyfriend at the time on the backside. I met my boyfriend at a disco that used to be held in the big hall at Nazareth Lodge. [SR 148] was also rough and would slap you.
16. The nuns were not around much so it was mostly lay staff member that looked after us. The lay staff had certain favourites. A member of lay staff by the name of [NL 152] slapped me and told me I was worthless. None of the lay staff had any qualifications.
17. Between the age of 13 and 16, I took an overdose because I was so unhappy in Nazareth Lodge. The nuns made out that I had taken an overdose because I had been caught stealing [HIA 363]'s watch, but this never happened.
18. I had a social worker called [NL 206] Her boss was called [NL 209] and his boss was [NL 210] They visited but I never saw them. I only knew they were there if a member of staff told me they had been or I saw them driving away.
19. I went to St Monica's school on the Ravenhill Road. We belonged to the Home and the school was run by the Home. We were told in the home that we would amount to nothing so I did not see the point in going to school. I believe we were treated differently from the other pupils, who were not from the home. Things were made more difficult for us in school.

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20. **NL 123** on the [REDACTED] was the doctor for the home.
21. My mother lived in England so she never visited us.
22. I left Nazareth Lodge after I turned sixteen years of age. I was just told that I was going and I didn't know where.

### Life After Care

23. When I left Nazareth Lodge I went to the [REDACTED] hostel on the [REDACTED] Road. This must have been arranged by the nuns and my social worker. I used to go down and stay with my uncle but the police always brought me back to the hostel. **SR 2** got me a job in Nazareth House care home, where I had to look after the elderly residents, feeding, bathing and dressing them. I didn't have any choice in the matter. I remember one nun, **SR 206** slapped me across the face when I was working there. She always wore a blue uniform. **SR 191** was in charge of the care home when I worked there.
24. When I turned eighteen I moved to Edinburgh for a summer to live with my sister. I moved back to Belfast and I moved in with my boyfriend. I got pregnant and had my first daughter [REDACTED], when I was nineteen. I had another daughter [REDACTED] a year later. When my girls were aged three and two years, I left that relationship as my partner, [REDACTED] was abusive to me. He locked me in the house and was physically abusive towards me and I reported this to the police. I went to a women's refuge on the [REDACTED] Road. It was difficult to be a mother when I didn't have a mother myself, and I had no support. I never had any encouragement, love or affection in the home. I blame my upbringing for a breakdown in my relationship with my daughters.
25. I then met and married [REDACTED] in June 1992. We had three sons and he adopted my daughters. We split up in 2005 as [REDACTED] was having an affair. I had been in a relationship with my new partner for five years but this has recently ended, after he found out about my background.

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26. I have been diagnosed as suffering depression and I am currently taking anti-depressants. My GP referred me for counselling a few years ago, but it didn't work for me.
27. I have turned away from religion. Although I had a catholic upbringing I no longer have any interest in the catholic religion.
28. I made a statement to the police in 1994 about Father Brendan Smyth to a Constable Dalzell. I also made a statement to the police in Castlereagh about three years ago. I gave them all the documentation that I had in respect of my time in care, but I have never been able to get this documentation back from them.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed **HIA 10** \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 24/10/14 . \_\_\_\_\_

CHRISTIAN NAME	BIRTH PLACE	DATE OF BIRTH	WHERE BAPTISED	PARENT'S NAME	OCCUPATION
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NL 130	Belfast	[REDACTED]	St. Matthew's	Father: Unknown	
NL 87	"	[REDACTED]	Belfast	Mother: [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	"	[REDACTED]	"		

WHEN RECEIVED	RECOMMENDED BY	DISMISSED	DECEASED	OBSERVATIONS	No.
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01.09.77	E.H. & S.S. Dept.	11.4.1980	Fostered	Home address: [REDACTED]	3438
"	Social Worker - [REDACTED]	5.01.80	"	Fostered by [REDACTED]	3439
"		5.01.80	"	[REDACTED]	3440



3438-40

NL 130

NL 87

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These

children were deserted by their mother who was separated from her husband in 1973. Mrs [REDACTED] went to England leaving her children in the care of her mother [REDACTED] and her brother [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] died on [REDACTED] it was agreed that a friend [REDACTED] should help with the girls. This situation has now broken down as [REDACTED] who is 73y

feels she can no longer cope with the girls.

It was therefore decided by the E.H. & Social Services that the need for consistent handling and a structured environment necessitated their admission to care.

Home address: [REDACTED]

NAZARETH LODGE - BETHLEHEM NURSERY

DISCHARGE BOOK

Date 5-1-1980

This is to certify that I have received my child *charges* -

NL 87

HIA 10

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in a clean, healthy condition and free from infection.

Signed

NL 205

*(Social Worker)*

Witness

NL 114

*Medical books  
Bank books £  
2 Sets of clothing*

Christian Name	Where Born	Date of Birth	Where Baptised	Parents' Names	Occupation	Recommended by
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HIA 10	Belfast.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		E.H. & S.S.B
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Occupation	Recommended by	Received	Died	Left	Observations	No.
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	E. H. & S. S. B	9.3.82		30.4.85.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Foster Parents	3533
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