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HIA REF: 149

Witness Name: HIA 149

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 149

I, HIA 149 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I have five sisters, DL 110 DL 103 and NL 76, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and four brothers DL 56 [REDACTED] and DL 41
2. I have been told that my sister [REDACTED] died in an accident at home while she was still a baby. My brother DL 56 died at 22 years old. He was mugged on the street in Belfast. He was on a life support machine in The Royal Victoria Hospital for a short while before the decision was made to turn the machine off. This was a very difficult time for me. No one has ever been convicted in connection with DL 56's death.
3. I come from [REDACTED]. At the time of my birth my family were living [REDACTED] My father was a chronic alcoholic who abused my Mother. I believe at some point my family were placed in a council house in [REDACTED]. I was a premature baby and at the time of being placed in care I was malnourished. A decision was made by way of a Court Order to place myself, DL 110 DL 103, NL 76 and DL 56 into care.

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**Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, (1968 – 1977)**

4. I was place in Nazareth Lodge, Belfast when I was about six months old.
5. In my first memories of Nazareth Lodge I was lying in my cot in the Nursery. I remember a black figure leaning over my cot. I'm sure it was Fr. Brendan Smyth because I remember his ugly face and the feeling of being smothered.
6. I remember one time around Christmas, 1971 at Nazareth Lodge. I had just come back from school and my brother **DL 56** was sitting playing the piano in the downstairs hallway of Nazareth House. Brendan Smyth was at the home at the time and he went over to **DL 56** and clouted him for playing the piano and then slammed the piano on his hands. I saw Brendan Smyth doing this and he then turned around and grabbed me by the ear and pulled me into a room. It was a room that he used when he visited Nazareth Lodge. The nuns used to serve him cakes and sandwiches in there. He then sexually abused me; he bugged me in that room. He hurt me so much there was blood running out of my back passage. I felt like he was smothering me. He held me close to him and I couldn't get him off. He told me that if I ever told anyone he would kill me and bury me.
7. I was lucky on this occasion and I managed to break away and run out of the room. I ran up the stairs towards the landing where my sisters, **DL 103** and **DL 110** were. My sisters could see me running and crying. They must have know that Brendan Smyth had done something as they were shouting things like "Smyth ya dirty bastard" and "Leave our child alone". I think they could see blood on me.
8. As I ran up the stairs, Smyth was right behind me and I felt his hand grabbing me by the collar. I shouted to my sister, **DL 103** to help me. She was running towards me. Smyth pulled me so hard I lifted up and went straight over the banister and fell onto the floor below.
9. I was knocked out. When I came round I was lying on the settee in the sitting room. My sisters were there and I remember **DL 103** crying. Smyth was

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leaning over the back of the settee with a Cadbury's Cream Egg in his hand. I believe this was deviousness on his part, trying to blackmail me. I'm sure that SR 29 saw the whole thing.

10. I was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital. My leg was broken and my spine was damaged. To this day I still suffer from the damage caused to my spine and I receive ongoing treatment.

11. The sexual abuse continued during my time at Nazareth Lodge. Each time he took me into the office with him, Fr. Smyth sexually abused me. I kept running away to get away from it. I would sleep on the street until I was found and returned to Nazareth Lodge, usually by the police. This continued until I moved from Nazareth House.

#### **Rubane House, Kircubbin (1977-1980)**

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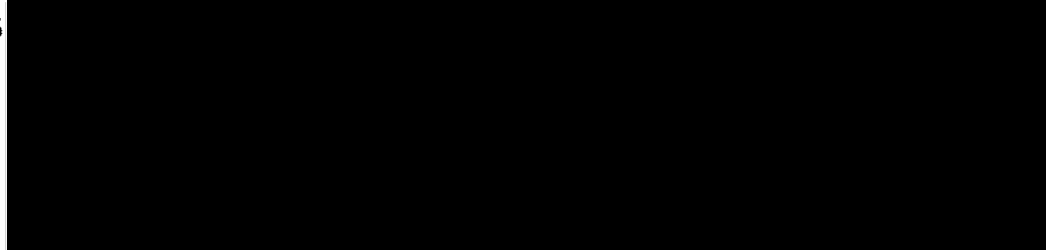
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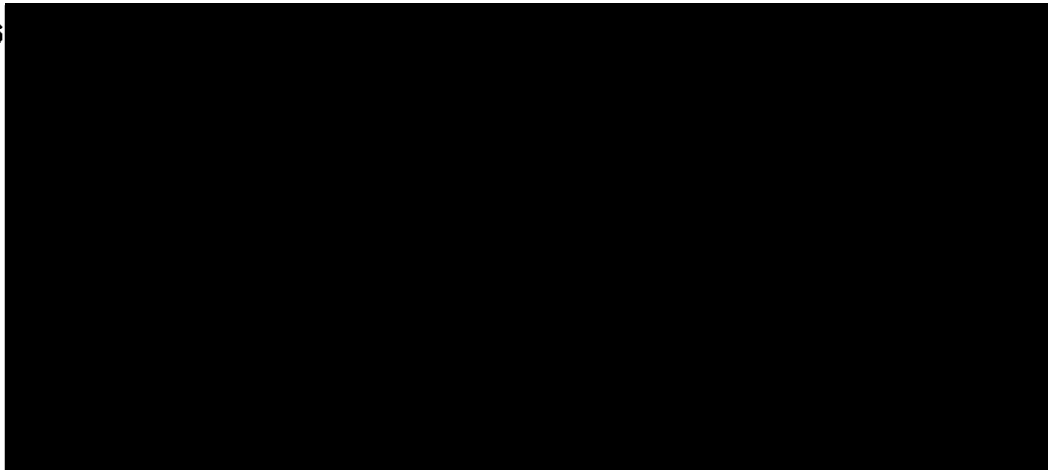
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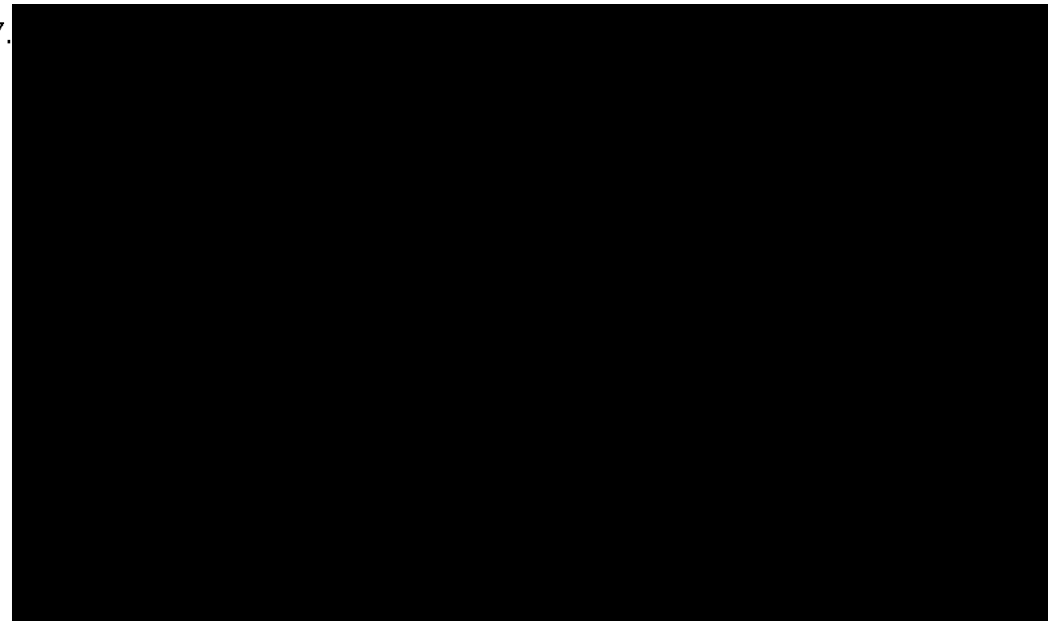
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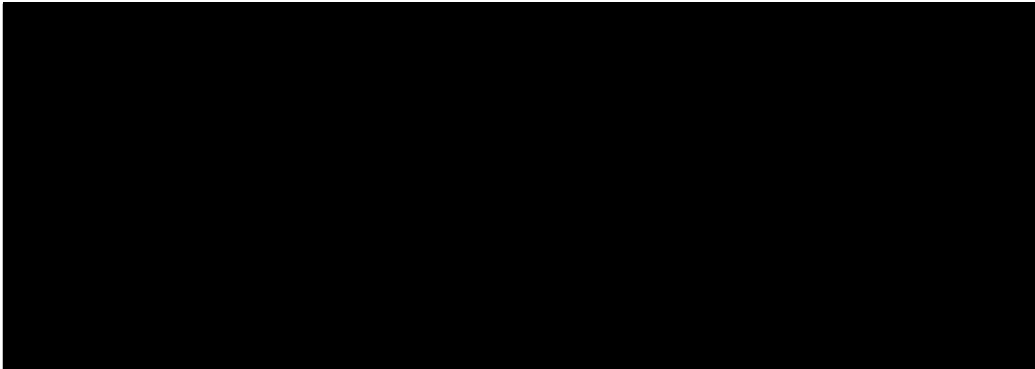
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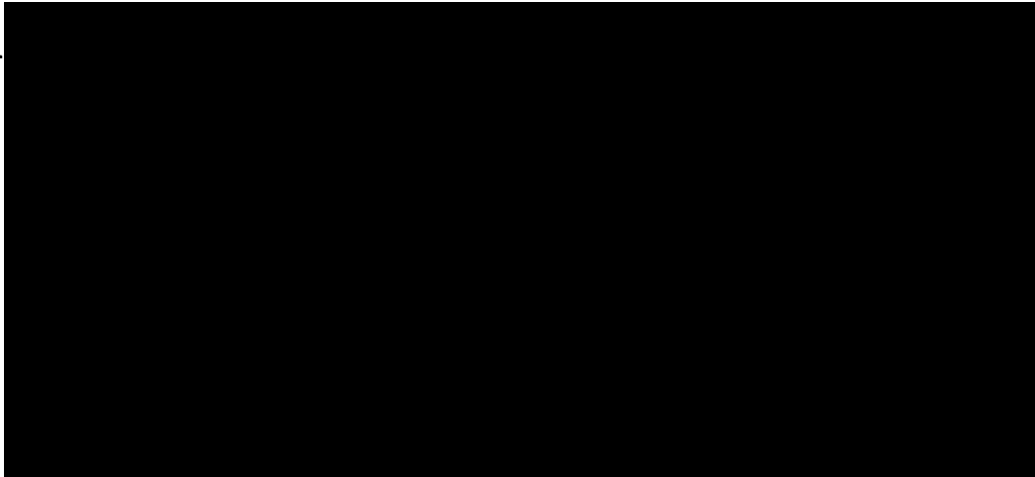
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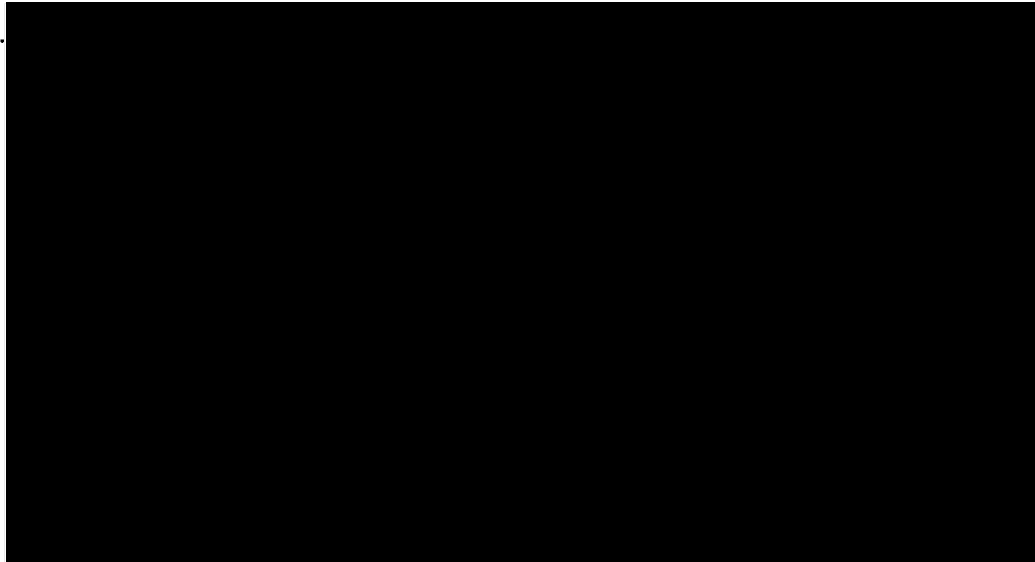
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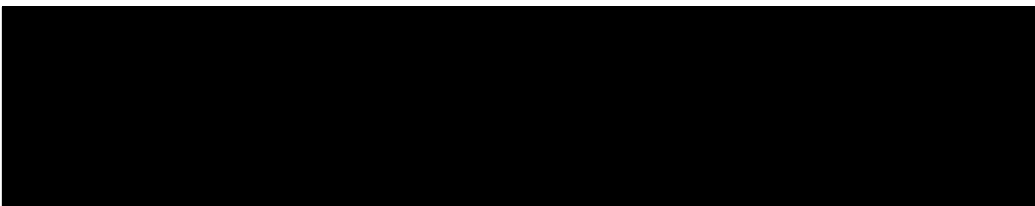
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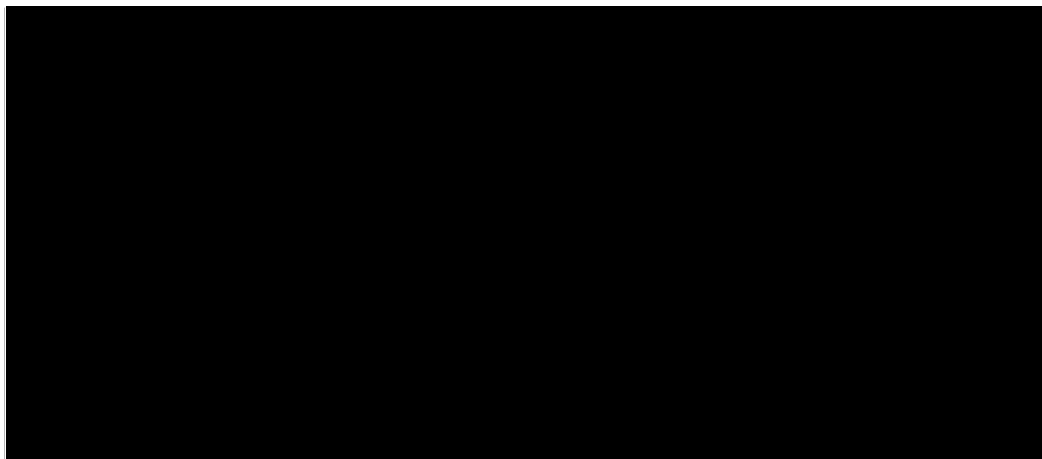
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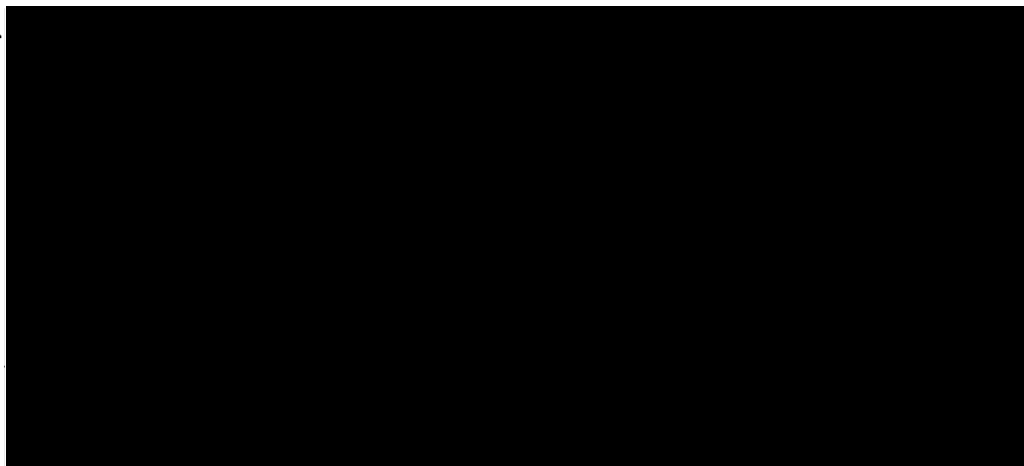
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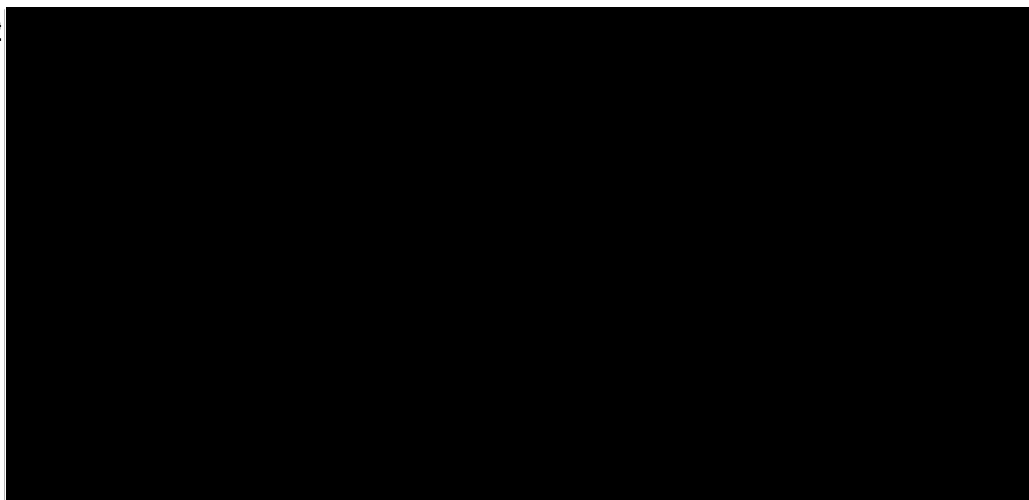
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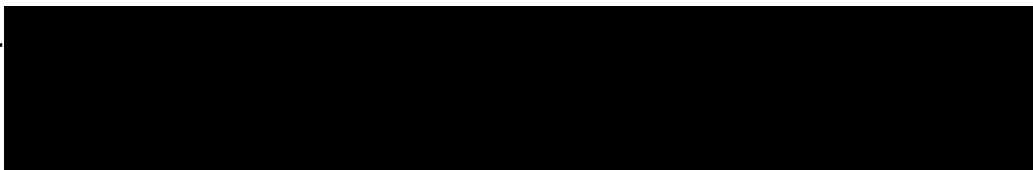
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**Life after care**

24. As a result of all these evil things that were done to me, I am now on medication for nightmares and to stop me getting angry. I have tried to take my own life a number of times. I will be left with these scars for the rest of my life. The child inside me is crying out for answers and closure once and for all because it is driving me mad. My family are very annoyed and know there is something wrong with me but it is only now coming to light. I can't look forward until I get closure and these people are caught for what they did to me as a child. I don't think I will ever forgive those people but I am trying. I have done an eight week course on healing. The medication and the course are helpful but it is going to take time and it is not going to happen overnight.

25. I have previously reported the abuse I have suffered to the police.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

**HIA 149**

Dated

6/5/2014