

Press Release: 5th July 2013

JFM Research publishes Survivor Guide to Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme

Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFM Research), the survivor advocacy group, has published a Survivor Guide to the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme, which aims to assist survivors in understanding their entitlements under the Scheme developed by Mr Justice John Quirke and announced by the government on 26th June.

In a personal capacity, the members of JFM Research have been assisting the 40 survivors in contact with us since JFM exited the political arena in May 2013. Some survivors have expressed difficulty in understanding their entitlements under the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme and have sought assistance with their applications. Therefore JFM Research has compiled this Guide to inform, empower and enable survivors and provide guidance in filling out the application form for the Scheme for those who are interested in availing of it.

The intention of this Guide is to provide information in an unbiased manner to enable survivors to make their own decisions about participating in the Scheme. JFM Research wishes to share this document freely with anyone it may benefit.

A number of survivors have indicated that they have difficulty in accessing their records from the religious orders and JFM Research has provided a sample letter at the back of the Guide to assist them in this regard.

JFM Research will also be making the Guide available to survivor groups, including those specifically representing Magdalene women. Likewise, we will be distributing it to relevant NGOs, Citizens Information Centres and Family Resource Centres.

The Survivor Guide to the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme is intended solely as an aid to survivors and is not intended to supplant or replace any official documents created by the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme or the Irish State; it is offered simply as a guide to help women to understand their entitlements.

Survivors who have not already registered with the Scheme are encouraged to do so by phoning **01-4768660**.

A copy of the survivor guide may be found on our website at

[http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/Survivor Guide to Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme.pdf](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/Survivor%20Guide%20to%20Magdalene%20Restorative%20Justice%20Scheme.pdf)

Contact Details:

Claire McGettrick [PRO], Ireland—353-(0)86-3659516, clairemcgettrick@gmail.com

Mari Steed, Philadelphia—(00)1-215-589-9329, mari_tee@yahoo.com

Katherine O'Donnell, Dublin—353-(0)1-716-7323, 087-961-2163 katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie

James M. Smith, Boston College—(00)1-617-552-1596, james.smith.2@bc.edu

Maeve O'Rourke, London—maeveorourke@gmail.com