



Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History A project funded by the



Reference Code:	MAGOHP/49/ANON
Oral History of:	Angelina Mayfield
Pseudonym?	Yes
Status:	Survivor
Keywords:	Sisters of Our Lady of Charity Magdalene Laundry, High Park, Drumcondra; Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry, Limerick; An Grianán Training Centre, High Park; St. Dominick's Industrial School for Girls; Good Shepherd Marycrest Hostel, Limerick; St Michael's Industrial School, Cappoquin; Waterford County Home; inter-generational incarceration in institutions; solitary confinement; sexual abuse; class hierarchies among religious sisters; psychiatric medications; institutionalisation; suicide; escape attempts; solitary confinement; food deprivation; Residential Institutions Redress Board (RIRB); non-conformity and rebelliousness; working in Magdalene Laundry for keep at Good Shepherd hostel; funerals at High Park Convent; homelessness; emigration; working as a dominatrix; alter-ego as means of coping; vaccine trials; concern for vulnerable people and animals; family estrangement due to industrial schools and laundries; Section 28 (6) of Residential Institutions Redress Act, 2002.
Date of Interview:	15 th May 2013
Transcript:	212 pages
Number/Format of Audio Files:	Three .wma files
Interviewer:	Dr Katherine O'Donnell
Records/Papers included:	Yes. Records are cross-referenced throughout the transcript.
Access Conditions:	Anonymised interviews are freely available to the public. Immediate release of transcript and anonymised audio; Interviewee's identity will not be released in the future.
Conditions Governing Reproduction:	Interviews can be reproduced, however the citation below must be used at all times.

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Notes on Redaction and Transcription Process

Interviewee Initials: AM
Interviewer Initials: KOD

Key

... = Short pause (or where words are repeated or the speaker changes direction mid-sentence)
(pause) = Long pause
blabla = spoken with great emphasis
(blabla) = Additional audible expressions, body language
[blabla] = background information that might be helpful

Notes on Redaction Process

- Named individuals have been assigned pseudonyms
- Some locations have been removed to protect the confidentiality of third parties
- Name(s) of some organisations and companies have been removed
- The name of public figure has been removed
- Some dates have been removed to protect the confidentiality of the interviewee and third parties
- Other identifying details have been removed to protect the confidentiality of third parties
- This transcript has also been redacted in accordance with Section 28 (6) of the Residential Institutions Redress Act, 2002

List of Pseudonyms

Pseudonym	Status/Relationship to Interviewee
Angelina Mayfield	Interviewee/survivor
Miss W___	Interviewee's dominatrix name
Richard Mayfield	Interviewee's father
Maureen Mayfield/Fitzpatrick	Interviewee's mother
Patricia	Interviewee's aunt
Regina	Interviewee's aunt
Alice Maguire	Interviewee's aunt
Úna Fitzpatrick	Interviewee's aunt
Sr Frances	Third Party Religious
Finbarr	Interviewee's brother
Aidan	Interviewee's brother
Kevinstown	Town where interviewee is from
Mr Dwyer/Deere	Possibly a social worker
Martha	Interviewee's sister
McCarthys	Family whose children were in St Dominick's
Deirdre McCarthy	Child in St Dominick's
Jane McCarthy	Child in St Dominick's
Father Byrne	Priest associated with St Dominick's
Dolores Hughes	Girl in St Dominick's transferred to psychiatric hospital
Brenda Egan	Girl in St Dominick's transferred to psychiatric hospital
Sr Rita Gallagher	Third Party Religious
Sr Louise O'Connell	Third Party Religious
Sr Borgia	Third Party Religious
Sr Benignus	Third Party Religious
Agatha	Name of room at St Dominick's where children were placed in solitary confinement
Charlotte	Magdalene woman who was cook in An Grianán
Helen Morrissey	Girl from St Dominick's transferred to An Grianán
O'Brien School of Commerce	School where interviewee was sent to learn typing

Miss O'Brien	Proprietor/tutor of typing school
Madeleine	Magdalene woman in Good Shepherd hostel in Limerick
Sr Kenneth/Kevin	Third Party Religious
Nick	Interviewee's former husband
Denise	Interviewee's daughter
Tanya	Internet friend of interviewee
Arnold	Man who had affair with interviewee
Bridge Housing Association	Interviewee's housing association
Cheryl Grant	Dominatrix
Mistress Stephanie	Dominatrix on video
Mistress Tina	Dominatrix
Lady Jones	Dominatrix
Mistress Phoenix	Dominatrix
Suzanne	Lady Jones's real name
Mistress Venus	Dominatrix
Miss Delta	Dominatrix
Mr Drew	Male dominant
Mistress Polly	Dominatrix
Jonathan	Interviewee's grandson
Holly	Interviewee's daughter
Carol Kelly	Girl who was physically abused in St Dominick's
Andrew	Support worker in Irish organisation in UK
Craig	Interviewee's brother-in-law
Gary Mayfield	Person who identified interviewee's mother's body
Sr Teresa Broderick	Third Party Religious
Fiona	Unclear
Sr Julia Healy	Novice who left religious life
Peter Donoghue	Trainee priest who left to marry Julia Healy
Michelle O'Halloran	Was held in An Grianán

Basic Data from Interview

Name/Pseudonym	Angelina Mayfield
When Born	1959
Born outside marriage?	No
Raised by	St Dominick's Industrial School
Education	Up to first or second year in secondary school; some training in An Grianán; was sent on courses by employer in UK.
Order (Laundries)	Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Good Shepherd Sisters
Laundries	High Park (An Grianán); Good Shepherd, Limerick (hostel)
House Name/No	Didn't say
Haircutting/punishment?	Haircutting and physical punishment in industrial school
Emigrated?	Yes
Physical ailments?	Suspects she was used in vaccine trials. Interviewee says there were psychological effects.
Of Note	Was apprehended from England after escape; use of alter-ego as coping mechanism.

<i>An Grianán first admission</i>	
From	September 1973
To	May 1975
Duration of stay	1.75 years
Age on entry	Approximately thirteen or fourteen years old
Entered Via	Good Shepherd Industrial School, Waterford
Circumstances of Departure	Transferred to Limerick

<i>Limerick</i>	
From	1975
To	1976
Duration of stay	Unclear, circa one year
Age on entry	Approximately sixteen years
Entered Via	Transferred from An Grianán
Circumstances of Departure	Transferred back to An Grianán

<i>An Grianán second admission</i>	
From	October 1976
To	Not recorded
Duration of stay	'Some months' (according to records)
Age on entry	Seventeen
Entered Via	Good Shepherd Industrial School, Waterford
Circumstances of Departure	Escaped

[Audio File 1 Begins]

[Conversation prior to interview]

KOD *...account. Okay so I'm just going to set up all the recorders here...*

AM Okay [inaudible].

KOD *...this is backup yeah, away you go. Let's see...*

AM When you say...do you mind if I talk for a minute?

KOD *No, go ahead.*

AM When you say doctors and lawyers what are they...what are they looking at when you...when it comes to this thing, what are they doing?

KOD *Oh you mean in terms of the o...the archive?*

AM Yeah, yeah.

KOD *The archive is open to anybody who wants to use it so it can be...you know...*

AM When you say use it what does that mean?

KOD *That they can read in it and listen to it.*

AM *(Coughs)* Oh right okay.

KOD *So it's open to artists or teachers or...you know, anybody who might want to kind of get educated about what...what went on.*

AM Why don't you get in touch with Joni Mitchell the singer? She did do a song for...

KOD *She did...*

AM ...Magdalene Laundries.

KOD *...actually there have been some fantastic songs. (Pause)*

AM I might try and do it [contact Joni Mitchell] as Miss W____ [pseudonym].

KOD *Yeah, do.*

AM And tell her that she needs to contact...can I give her permission to contact you?

KOD *It would be great!*

[End of conversation prior to interview]

[Consent Process]

KOD *Okay, so what I'm going to go through first of all...so I have these...you know, guiding...*

AM Yeah.

KOD *...questions here. Before starting I just want to confirm on the tape that you Angelina Mayfield [pseudonym] agree to participate in the interview out of your own free will?*

AM Yes I do.

KOD *And that you're familiar with the information and the consent forms...*

AM Yes.

KOD *...we've just gone through.*

AM Yes.

KOD *Thank you.*

[Interview begins]

KOD *Okay, so to start with it's just going to be a general question about...can you tell me something about yourself as in where and when were you born?*

AM I was...well I'm not so sure actually 'cause I'm not believing what they tell me...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...but to my knowledge...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I was born in Waterford in 1959, [exact date removed] 1959 and...St Patrick's – to my knowledge – Hospital in Waterford. And that's all, but whether or not that is true, I'm not particularly 100 per cent sure.

KOD *You have your birth cert?*

AM I have my birth...but have you not noticed in Ireland that – am I allowed say this?

KOD *Yeah anything you like.*

AM Quite weird in Ireland because when I...I'll show you my mother's death certificate and her birth certificate and her marriage certificate. They cross things out, I've never seen that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And they seem to bo...be altered as you go, so I'm not 100 per cent sure I'm believing...

KOD *Okay, the...the form.*

AM ...yes.

KOD *And what do you know about your parents?*

AM Well I know that the man was a sperm donor [interviewee's father] and he had 10 children. His first lot of children were put in the Good Shepherds in Waterford and he clearly must have met my mother 'cause she was in the Good Shepherds in Waterford with her sisters and whether or not she married him just to get away from there...but when I actually went for her autopsy and all the rest of it – the report – I discovered that she was pregnant with my sister when she married him.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I didn't know that until about a year ago so clearly she must have married him because she was pregnant because apparently in those days it wasn't...you weren't supposed to be. It was frowned on wasn't it?

KOD *And what was his name?*

AM Richard Mayfield, [pseudonym] do you want to see their certif...the birth certificates of them?

KOD *No, you can just tell me about them.*

AM Yeah, I don't really...he was an...all I remember is this old man used to come up and see me in the Good Shepherds every now and again, and my mother would see me once a year. But never...I remember not really knowing them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and only wanting to go out with them so I could get away from the Good Shepherds.

KOD *And what was your mother's name?*

AM Maureen Mayfield [pseudonym].

KOD *Maureen Mayfield.*

AM But her m...maiden name in the Good Shepherds would have been Maureen Fitzpatrick [pseudonym].

KOD *And in the Good Shepherds in Waterford she was in the residential school?*

AM She was in the residential school. Her sister Patricia [pseudonym] was in the regis...residential school, her sister Regina [pseudonym] was in the residential school, her sister Alice [pseudonym] was in the Magdalene Laundry and her sister Úna [pseudonym] who was deaf and dumb, was in the Magdalene Laundry, until they moved Úna to a place called St Otteran's which is a mental home in Waterford...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...where she died there, yeah.

KOD *So what age were you when...you're the youngest of how many, then?*

AM Well my mother...there was five of us...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I'm the youngest of five...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...yeah. According to these things that I showed you...

KOD *The file that you got sent.*

AM ...I went in there in...I was born in 1959. According to these I was there...sent in 1960, I think it was September 19...but...

KOD *You were sent in September 1960 to where?*

AM But then...the...when I spoke to Sr...am I allowed say the name?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Sr Frances [pseudonym].

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Isn't that...is that where you're going to have to blacken that out? Sr Frances.

KOD *No we can...we can use pseudonyms for them so you can...*

AM Okay...

KOD *...yeah.*

AM ...when I spoke to Sr Frances she said that I was put in there at the age of six months. So again everything is quite conflicting isn't it?

KOD *Right.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *So some records have you over a year old and other say you are six...*

AM Have me at six months, yes.

KOD *And you were put into where at the age of...when you were an infant...*

AM Good Shepherds Waterford. [St Dominick's Industrial School for Girls]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yes.

KOD *Into the residential school, okay.*

AM Into the residential school, yeah.

KOD *And were all your siblings put in there?*

AM No, my sister was put in there with me, apparently. Well, I remember her being there so...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but again I think she was seven at the time so God knows what happened to her before that I'm not really sure. My brother Finbarr [pseudonym] was put into Ferryhouse, Clonmel [St Joseph's Industrial School] have you heard of that?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And my other brother Aidan [pseudonym] was put into...and I wish I could remember...Cappoquin but I can't remember the name of the place. Is there a St Michael's in Cappoquin? [St Michael's Industrial School, Cappoquin, Co Waterford]

KOD *I don't know, but he was put into a residential school in Dublin.*

AM He was with...yeah...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...my brother was with...in Ferryhouse, was with brothers...wasn't with nuns, Finbarr...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but Aidan was with nuns in Cappoquin, it wasn't brothers.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And so had you been growing up in Waterford? Had the family been in Waterford all of this time?*

AM Kevinstown [pseudonym].

KOD *Kevinstown.*

AM Which is just outside Waterford.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yes, yes.

KOD *So when you were growing up in the residential school of the Good Shepherd in...in Waterford did you know about the Magdalene Laundry on the campus there?*

AM Oh gosh, yes. But you didn't know they were called that.

KOD *Okay.*

AM I don't know...for some reason we called them pensioners, pensions don't know why we called them that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM We didn't know that the...

KOD *Would you have called them penitents?*

AM Maybe but because we couldn't say that word we might have said pensions...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...I remember the name pensions.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And the reason that we knew about them [was] because when you had parades (*sings*) *May is the month of Mary (laughs)* you know the usual! We c...I've even got some photographs of that I must show you...

KOD *Great.*

AM ...with me. When you had that you would see the li...you all had to walk for the big...you know the veil, I don't know what you call it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and you would see them, but there was also the church.

KOD *So you would see them the...the pensioner...pensioners or the penitents, yeah.*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *And they would be part of the parade as well?*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *And where would the parade go, into Waterford City or where?*

AM No, no, only round the grounds.

KOD *Only round the grounds, okay.*

AM But when you also went into church you had three...so we came in one door...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...the nuns...and then you had a partition thing.

KOD *Partition yeah, uh huh.*

AM But you could still see over it, if you get my meaning...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know, type of thing. The nuns came in the middle...another door and the pensions as we called them, came in that door, so you could see them there.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And what did they look like?*

AM When I look back now, at the time...and I don't mean to be...honestly, I don't mean to be...insulting, they looked like frightening people. But, as you...it's only now you know, as you get older you know that that's not the case. I don't know why we were scared of them.

KOD *So, to...in the eyes of a young girl they looked frightening? Why did they look frightening to you when you were younger?*

AM Because the nuns used to threaten you to go there...put you there...and that's why they used to look frightening. But really, they didn't really when you think about it. But you...you're frightened

of everything when you're with these nuns if you...you know. So anywhere they threatened to put you...if you're so used to being with them bearing in mind I was with them from a child, a baby, anywhere that you were threatened [with] as punishment became frightening. So it wasn't the fact that *they* were really frightening but at the time because you're a child...it does become that way.

KOD *And...*

AM And I don't mean to be insulting...

KOD Yes.

AM ...anybody by saying that.

KOD *And what...what kind of clothes did they wear, or what did they look like?*

AM I remember them wearing...always really thick stockings. They kind of looked like they were falling down.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Creases.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And we used to think that was their legs.

KOD *Right!*

AM Maybe that's why...that we were frightened because we were children and having some sort of a...really weird...how can I d...you know the Hilda Ogden type of apron, that was on Coronation Street [television show]? (*Laughs*)

KOD *Yeah, yeah.*

AM But it was...not just an apron that go over them like that, I think it had a more...

KOD *It was more wrap around.*

AM ...pinafore?

KOD *Pinafore a...wrap around, yeah.*

AM Type of behaviour...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...yeah, and they all seemed to have the s...kind of same things on them and they looked *haggard*...you know, and you just wish you knew at the time, th...bless them, the reason that they looked haggard. But when you're a child you just think they looked haggard 'cause they were mad. But then again, the n...you know people outside used think we were mad so, yes.

KOD *And your time in the Good Shepherd in Waterford, did you go to school there?*

AM They sent us to...they sent me to...first of all, St John of Gods school, but that was quite weird as well because if it rained we were taken out...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...of school. But when we were actually went to school the nuns in St John of Gods would make us do their work because we came from the Good Shepherds. So when it came to picking the gooseberries or whatever work that was needed in the convent they would remove us from the school and make us to go to their convent to do their work. So I don't really remember mu...I remember...I th...I remember doing religion at school and I remember trying to fob them off and pretend that I was English so like (*laughs*) I wasn't allowed to do Irish religion because I found it boring.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I remember that actually, don't know where I thought of...maybe I was cunning and conniving¹ after all when I think of it!

KOD *Heh!*

AM Yeah I remember that. I remember...I remember doing some sort of sums, but I remember mostly having to do work in St John of Gods Convent.

KOD *And how...even when you were a small girl would you have had to work?*

AM My first memory is when I was...they said to me at the Redress Board, 'what's your first memory?' and I th...my first memory is blankets being torn up and tied to my feet with string so that I had to polish floor boards. And I think I was only about three. So yes, when you were small you had to do work, yes.

KOD *And what kind of work did you do, polishing floor boards?*

AM F...you know like big corridors, you know the cloi[sters]...they had corridors and stuff like that you'd...get...to do that. I don't know whether they had a gardener but they had a thing of making us pull out the grass with our hands and thistles, stuff like that. You had to wash stuff with carbolic soap. Even when you were little you actually had to help with those...am I allowed to say the *(whispered) sanitary towel* [inaudible whispering]?

KOD *Uh huh, uh huh.*

AM Sanitary towels.

KOD *Describe that, what was that?*

AM Made of towels, white t...they were always white, which was quite weird, because you th...but for some reason they were white, they had names on them and they had loops, they were

¹ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 10 – 1974 report from St Dominick's

made like...where...you get a towel and you just roll it up and then it had...someone would sew...had little sewing things, you could see the sewing marks at the end, I remember that, and they had some sort of loops on them and they would make you...and then you had to wash to socks with carbolic soap in the sinks.

KOD *So you had to wash those sanitary towels?*

AM Yes in a big fat boil...you know like...like, the only way I can describe it now...I think it had an electric...I d...I'm not sure but it used to get boiling hot this thing and the nun used to have to climb up on a ladder to it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So then she'd make you get up and it was *absolutely*...and poke a stick, and all these things were put into this thing and you'd be *poking* them with the stick.

KOD *And what names were on...*

AM You had to clean the church, you had to clean all the church, you had to clean the convent, I remember how we had to clean offices when I was little. I remember opening up cupboards, seeing old sweets and stealing them...on them and so yeah, so you continuously did have to work for them, yes.

KOD *And how long were you at John of Gods school?*

AM I th...when...what...what age is secondary school, it must be twelve. So I was at the Mercy Convent after that but not for very long because as you see th...they decided I had no interest² for some reason. So I must have been there until you get to...I'm not sure how the Irish thing, is it...what's the end of this...

KOD *Sixth class is the end of...*

² See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 3 – 1973 report from St Dominick's

AM Yeah...

KOD ...*primary school*.

AM ...yeah, yeah.

KOD *And what was your...your time like in the Good Shepherd residential institution? How did they celebrate your birthdays or what...what was your sleeping arrangements like?*

AM Dormitory, we all slept in a dormitory, big huge long, huge dormitory. Until I got a little bit older and they started breaking it down into three different houses. But they weren't really houses, but they called them that. But for about maybe seven, eight, nine of my years it was dormitories and...sorry, what was the other question?

KOD *What did you eat, what did you wear?*

AM Half the stuff, we didn't even know what we ate. We had to wear a school uniform when we went out to school so you'd have to wear the John of Gods school uniform, I remember...I think that was yellow and brown but I might be wrong, yellow shirt, if I can remember. So we had to wear that, but I have *no* idea and...to this day what we had to wear *out* of school. Can't remember clothes, isn't that weird?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Can't remember that at all.

KOD *What was the food like?*

AM *Disgusting* yeah, the only good thing...the only nice thing, if you lived on bread and butter you were happy with that, because that's all you ever really trusted. Potatoes, we were happy with them. But the other stuff, it was disgusting and you never got enough food, we were always hungry. So, mutton, *fatty, disgusting* mutton, I remember that. Tapioca, you wouldn't get me eating any of that rubbish now.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Dirty...I know rice pudding might be good in Marks and Spencers but in there (*laughs*) it wasn't!

KOD *Heh!*

AM I'm just trying to think what else...what other s...stuff they...bread, and they would *pile* sugar on it, *pile* loads of this sugar on it and when you came back from school, bread and jam...and I'm just trying to think what else. I think it was mostly potatoes and on your birthday you got cornflakes, a bowl of cornflakes, that's what you got for your birthday. If your mother happened to write and send you some money you were never given that money. So then they would try and make out that your mother actually never cared, you know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...type of b...thing. And then as far as I was concerned I only ever saw this woman once a year because if she wrote and there was no money in it I was given the letter.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But most of the letters were opened when they were given to you, you know.

KOD *And did your mother write much?*

AM Oh...I can't...I think possibly maybe once every two months or something.

KOD *And why were all five children taken into care?*

AM Because...this is what we were told...from...this is...I went out to Kevinstown about two or three years ago when I was...'cause of what I'd heard, and I dragged my father's first wife's family...I somehow managed to locate a few of them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM This man, the sperm donor, Richard Mayfield, his first wife can you believe it, died of malnutrition?

KOD *Gee.*

AM But I blame Kevinstown on a lot of this because apparently this man was a good singer and so they would encourage him to go to this public house, this is what they told me, they would line up these drinks for this man, not caring that he wasn't feeding or lo...looking after his own children. My mother apparently then did not have the money to keep us in the house. And now I remember, when my mother used to have these episodes, as I called them, kind of breakdown episodes. She used to go on about some home in Dungarvan...County Home? [Waterford County Home]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And she'd go on about a Mr Dwyer or Mr Deere [pseudonyms] and when she used to have her loopy fits as I called them, she would go on about this. But when I went to Ireland I discovered she was pregnant with me at the time when Martha [pseudonym] was first taken into the Good Shepherds. And Martha was in there on her own apparently, my sister. And I...because she was pregnant with me, because I'm...being the youngest she was pushed into this Dungarvan home with me...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...pregnant. So this is where I'm thinking that...'cause Martha says that she remembers being in the Good Shepherds, going out and going back in it again. So whether somebody abandoned us in the railway stations then in between you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But yes, she was...

KOD *'Cause it says in the files you were abandoned in a railway station in England.³*

AM So it says, but they somehow managed to locate and bring us back to the Good Shepherds where my mother was, so I find that quite hard to believe, don't you?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM But who's going to know the truth? The way I see this, whether I was abandoned in a bin or not the end result is s...the same, isn't it really? Yeah so...

KOD *So did you get to know your mother? You said that...*

AM I got to know her when I came over here.

KOD *Okay, when you came over to England.*

AM And that was when I discovered that she was having...mental break...not men...she used to...she would voluntarily put herself into a mental home...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...because she used to drink a lot. I always remember rum and black, and she'd have this bla...this kind of rum, is it...kind of blackcurrant thing around her?

KOD *Uh huh, a moustache around her.*

AM And then she would be standing in a pub an...on a table doing naughty, bad things, I d...but I don't think she knew what she was doing, bless her. And then she used to go to...I remember her scaring me, 'cause I remember the first...on the Tube, and when you've come from Ireland Tubes are like 'wow' you know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

³ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 3 – 1973 report from St Dominick's

AM ...and she used to threaten to throw herself in front of the Tube until one day I said to her, I just got fed up with it, and I said, 'if you don't do it today I'll throw you!'

KOD *Huh!*

AM She never threatened me with that again after that. She just went and got the person and said, 'oh she's trying to threaten...' you know. But it stopped her blackmailing me and threatening me. But at the time because I was quite young, I don't think I was any help to her really to be honest with you, because I just used to be *scared* of the stuff she used to do.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause I'd come from the nuns and suddenly I've got this woman doing this. She used to go into shops for some reason, it wasn't that she was a thief, she would go into the shop and she would take something but she would *show* them what she was taking as she walked out, she made sure that they knew – the shopkeeper – so I think she was *terribly* screwed up, bless her.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And then when she got worse all she went on about was the fact that Mr Deere from Dungarvan took her children.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Yeah, sad.

KOD *So you were twelve when you went to the Mercy school you said...*

AM I think...

KOD *...just briefly, in Waterford.*

AM ...I think I was...actually I think I was younger than twelve. I reckon... 'cause...I think I was about eleven...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...ten maybe, must be eleven, yeah. Everybody else they sent which is what I could not understand...I was the only one they sent to the Mercy school that had to walk on her own, yeah, up to the Mercy from the Good Shepherds. Everyone went...else went to the Ursuline...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...and they put me there on my own, they always wanted to make me be on my own, you know, I think they used to call me a ring leader but I never knew what I was actually a ring leader of, but I had to be on my own in the Mercy, yeah. And it was horrific because, they only got...it took an hour to get there, say roughly maybe 50 minutes, but you only got an hour lunch so you're constantly being beaten by the Mercy for being late and you just had no...

KOD *So you'd go...try and go back to the Good Shepherd to get fed for lunch...*

AM No th...they made you...

KOD *...and it made you late.*

AM ...the Good Shepherds made us go back...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they wouldn't let us have a packed lunch or...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...stay in for lunch or...the Good Shepherds made us go back to eat their disgusting food at lunchtime *knowing* that we would get...and then the teachers in the Mercy they'd have these big long really thick wooden sticks and they'd wrap...it was either leather or some sort of...looked

like leather...looked like...around each end of the stick and...always worse when it was raining or cold when they *hit* you. It was *horr...*and they would hit you for being late *knowing* that it would take you that length of time to walk back to those Good Shepherds.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And how are you supposed to eat and then get back and...if you have only an hour for lunch. But because we had come from the Good Shepherds to the Mercy they would treat...I was always treated *differently* than the other girls, they would never have like, hit them in case their mums...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...hmm.

KOD *And how long were you at the Mercy secondary school?*

AM I think...I don't remember...I think I went...first and second year and then they took me out. I hated it purely because I could never make any friends and the ones I did I was never allowed if they asked me to go for dinner I always remember I was never allowed there. I was never really allowed to be their friends. And I used to find it dreadfully lonely and me...and...I...you know, it was just *horrible* because I was on my own there, whereas all the other girls were all at th...either the Ursuline or they had another school for slow people, I can't remember what it was called. But no one else was in the school alone except for me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And that's why I hated it there because it was fear more...more than anything else.

KOD *Uh huh. And how long were you there for, where did you go to?*

AM I would say about two years.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But looking at the records, when they say that I went to High Park Convent from there, it looks like I was only thirteen.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So...and I think I was at the Mercy two years.

KOD *Yeah, you could have been eleven when you went to the Mercy...*

AM Yeah.

KOD *...yeah.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *What about holidays in the Good Shepherd, when you weren't in school can you remember what...what you did on holidays?*

AM They made me work, they made us work. Th...I had to look after children in someone's home, clean people's homes. Sunday they had to...I don't know, have you ever heard of 'Sunday Mummies and Daddies'?

KOD *No.*

AM And, you know, we used to tell them how cruel some of these people were to you. And you knew the...these people were only taking you out on a Sunday to make you work for them or to sexually assault you, but at the time we didn't know it was sexual assault. And they had this...but even though you knew it was hypocrisy you d...actually didn't know that word. But you'd have these people that they would go to church and tell everyone that they were taking these orphans out for Sunday. And the nuns...and you'd say to the nuns, 'I don't want to go with these people'. And ev...on a...Sundays and whether it was once a month I can't remember w...but we called them 'Sunday Mummies and Daddies' – sad isn't it!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And they would take you to their home. Every now and again, don't get me wrong you did get a nice one that would actually...but, you know what was really weird, you were more frightened of the nice ones.

KOD *Why were you more frightened of the nice ones?*

AM 'Cause you couldn't *handle* the nice. Even though it was lovely you always were waiting for...why were they being nice, waiting for the something worse because nuns would be nice to you before they would be horrible to you. I don't know, I know it sounds really weird but it's like a psychological thing. So the nice ones, although you like them, I think I got scared of them more than the ones that weren't nice because you were waiting for the...their...their...what's the word I'm looking for...their plan or whatever they were up to. So you spent the whole day and even though it may not come and they may actually genuinely be nice you never relaxed with the nice ones 'cause you always thought they had a plan. 'Cause no one was ever nice to you so that was quite weird, yeah. And over and over again we used to tell these nuns, 'we don't want to go to these people,' but they still used to make us go.

KOD *So...*

AM There was people...there was children in the Good Shepherds, and this is the other thing I *always* remember and I think some of their sisters were in the Magdalene Laundry. The father...they were called...a...am I allowed to say their names?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM McCarthys [pseudonym] you might have to black that out.

KOD *Yeah we will, we'll change it, yeah.*

AM The father had...they were...the father had put his daughters in the Good Shepherds. Now, when you think how young we were, how we knew this, but we knew this. He had then raped his daughters, different ones, but we didn't know it was rape at the time. The children of the

daughters then were in the Good Shepherds, but the thing I remember about them is when we discovered...because I don't know how we actually were intelligent enough to know, we used to *beg* the nuns 'cause the...so the sister became the mother...

KOD *Uh huh, uh huh.*

AM ...does that make sense?

KOD *Yeah, yeah.*

AM But...and then the daughters...the...you know the...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they would be like, a little bit disabled like, one might be...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...Deirdre [pseudonym] her name was, at eight she might have breasts which she did have, yeah I remember that and she got periods and there might be that slight disability, and then there was Jane [pseudonym] I think her name was. But I remember us having to *beg* the nuns not to let them go to the Dad. They used to *keep* letting these children...*knowing* what they'd done *knowing* that the sister was really the mother and that the father was the father and the grandfather, but the nuns would still let those young children go to that Dad. That's o...one horrific thing I remember about the Good Shepherds.

KOD *And what about...you mentioned sexual assault, the Sunday Mummies and Daddies.*

AM You didn't know it was sexual assault at the time. It might be even my...may...you know they would touch you up and...not the Mums, the Da...the men.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM You know, 'oh let's try this dress on you,' and they would do it and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it's only as you got older you realised. And you knew you couldn't go back and tell the nuns because when you told them what the priests were saying to you, you would be...end up walking around with a bar of carbolic soap in your mouth.

KOD *Would you...*

AM Or you would be s...badly...they would even...I remember once I said...told them something can't remember and I was put on an altar, but the same priest I *told* them about, trying to shake the devil with the smoky stuff, out of me. And it was the same priest, how bad is that?

KOD *And what did you tell them about that priest?*

AM About the Confession and what he was saying and stuff like that.

KOD *What...*

AM But...

KOD *...did he say to you in Confession?*

AM Have you seen... and he used to say, 'have you ever seen a boy do anything dirty?' and...and then tell me what he'd seen the boy do and, 'have you ever seen a boy's...' I didn't...he obviously didn't use 'willy' but I can't even remember the n...what he used. 'Have you ever seen a boy pull,' you know, 'pull his pants down?' and, 'have you ever kissed a boy?' And you'd think, 'I'm in the Good Shepherd for God's sake how am I going to see any of that?' (*Laughs*)

KOD *And how old were you when the priest was saying that?*

AM Father...am I allowed say his name?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Fr Byrne, [pseudonym] as soon as you were allowed to go into Confession, as soon as you were...it was...was it seven?

KOD *Seven, uh huh. And so you told the nuns what he did?*

AM And y...we were punished...

KOD *And the pun...*

AM ...badly punished, yeah.

KOD *What was the punishment?*

AM Carbolic soap in your mouth to wash it out and obviously scrubbing...the punishment was always cleaning, cleaning, cleaning, cleaning. 'Cause cleanliness was next to godliness to their eyes wasn't it. Cleanin...but, telling the priest you told on him...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...which is not a good thing. And then being put on an altar and whatever that shaky stuff is...d...do...do...you know that shaky smoky stuff?

KOD *The benediction, yeah the incense.*

AM And saying, 'denounce,' is it denounce or renounce, can't remember, oh I know was it a 'nounce' anyway.

KOD *Renounce, yeah.*

AM You're thinking how...I don't even know what that means so I can't even be doing i...you know. I don't even know what the *word* means.

KOD *Renounce the devil and all his works.*

AM Yeah they would say it and they would try and...the smoky stuff...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...shake it on you and *drag* you down on your knees on the altar. So you figured that out after the first time, that you weren't going to tell nothing to them nuns again, what...those...those priests could do what they wanted...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you weren't going to say anything, and that's how it was I'm afraid, yeah.

KOD *And so during any holidays you would be sent out to work?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *To different families around Waterford?*

AM Yeah, or work for them...how...they made me paint a roof once for them. I was only about ten (*laughs*) I remember...making me climb up on a roof and paint it for them! Various different things they would make you do, especially the bad ones. 'Good girls' as they called them, seemed to have a better life than the bad girls I don't know if anyone's ever told you that. Yeah, and I think I was classed as...well...dull normalcy, mild retardation,⁴ cunning and conniving.⁵

KOD *That's what it says in your file.*

AM That's what...yeah.

KOD *And so you got tagged as a bad girl?*

AM Yeah. And when you think about it I don't...I think...b...because I smoked.

⁴ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 1 – 1973 psychologist's report

⁵ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 10 – 1974 report from St Dominick's

KOD *And how did you get the money to smoke, or where did you get the cigarettes?*

AM I ha...this is what I can't remember, how I got...I think we must have stolen them in the shop. I know that sounds dreadful, don't know how we would have done though. They used to sell them in single things.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM My sister would...'cause she worked...left and worked in St Patrick's. Because then men would...outside...and I don't know how we got money...what we did. D...remember they drugged us, so most of the time we don't actually know...whether or not, you know, I'm actually thinking I should be hypnotised, if you know of anyone, 'cause maybe I can actually tell you more about that.

KOD *To bring back memories?*

AM Yeah, because I have...I used to have a recurring nightmare about being held down by a nun and a man in a beard who was a priest doing...over me, his face over me. But I used to think it was a nightmare. But I remember, you know when you get like...to twelve and you're asking the bigger girls, 'what is...?' and you know that the nuns don't want you to have sex so you deliberate...me *personally*, maybe that was the bad side of me, anything they didn't want me to do I wa...I was determined to do.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And because...the reason was because I had seen people that had gone into mental homes if they were...if you were too good you ended up somehow in a mental home. So I worked out that...that this h...so-called God was useless 'cause he was belonging to them, so I *needed* to be on the devil's side 'cause I thought the devil's got to be better than what I'm getting...yeah? So I used to think that by doing this I'd get to the devil's side! (*Laughs*)

KOD *Heh!*

AM At the time you didn't know because I wan...you know?

KOD *And what used you do to try and get to the devil's side?*

AM Also like I used...I remember saying to my sister once, 'what it's [sic] like to have sex,' and she said it really hurt. And I was shocked that it did not. And I was convinced then that somehow I must have had sex before, not knowing I had sex.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM If that makes sense because it was like...I don't even know if I'm allowed to say 'cause s...

KOD *Yeah, do.*

AM ...it just went in and out as if I'd been doing it forever and I was only about twelve!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *So the first time you had sex you were twelve?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And...*

AM I did it so that I could go back and tell the nuns.

KOD *And who did you have sex with?*

AM I can't say that. It was a boy...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it was a boy, it was not his fault.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM You know, it wasn't, but, as they say, yeah.

KOD *But you seduced him, you knew what to do?*

AM Kind of...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...yeah. Evil of me isn't it, yes, yes. But at the time you didn't even know it wasn't allowed, when you were twelve, no one told you that. There was no like...you know, you just knew you weren't allowed full stop...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but not...you weren't allowed because of age, or you weren't allowed because of...you just knew you weren't allowed because the *nuns* didn't want you to because that made you dirty, horrible, evil, whatever, yeah.

KOD *And you deliberately had sex and then went to the nuns to tell...*

AM *(Laughs)* Yeah!

KOD *...so you could tell them.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And what happened you then, were you told...*

AM I think that's when they put me to High Park.

KOD *Okay.*

AM Or beaten. You'd get...they used to have these keys and they would pull them out on an elastic piece of...an elastic thingy...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and they...I think they used them like knuckle busters [knuckle dusters].

KOD *So they'd have the keys out...*

AM They'd also hit you...

KOD *...at their waist and they'd pull it out.*

AM ...and I can always remember the pain in the temple of my head, temple of my head. If you had long hair they would get...th...they had a scissors on another side...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...the elastic would come out (*laughs*) and if you had long hair you would be *grabbed* and your hair would be cut just so you wouldn't look like a girl anymore.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah, hmm, yeah.

KOD *So they had these keys and the scissors on elastics at their waist?*

AM Yes, and I think they used the keys like knuckle...but I remember I the keys over my head *constantly*, I remember...they'd lock you up in places that you were scared of. So they worked out about what you...what we were scared of and that's where you ended up. That was their way of...I think that was their way I suppose, of thinking they could stop you.

KOD *And what places were you afraid of...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...that they would lock you up in?*

AM A furnace.

KOD *A furnace?*

AM Yeah they had a furnace and they had all of their boiler type pipes. *Rats* used to be there, *oh gosh!* And I remember they had three little holes in the door for some reason, you know, older girls would have told you that somebody would have appeared or they would have seen...so that even made you *more* scared because you were actually scaring yourself...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but at the time you didn't realise that was the reason. Whereas if you could go back now you could go in there and face it, you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But as a child you were *scared* of everything, even though being scared of everything, I don't know why I kept defying them. I worked out that defying them would not put me in a mental home.

KOD *So you thought that being good, you would end up in a mental home?*

AM Yes.

KOD *Where do you think you got that idea?*

AM Because I would lie at night and hear them take the people to the mental home...screaming, 'please don't,' and I used to be waiting for them to take me. When you went to sleep...that's the

other reason they scared you, was you always had to go to sleep...as...just in case you died in the night, I don't know if you've heard of that...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...like this... (*Crosses arms across chest*)

KOD *With your arms crossed over your...*

AM ...so you...how could you not be scared, like this... (*Crosses arms across chest*)

KOD *...your chest, yeah, uh huh.*

AM ...like this, so that the...if you did die in the night you were prepared. But at the time we didn't think, it was obviously because of the rigor mortis thing and if...

KOD *Uh huh, your arms would be folded across you.*

AM ...they wanted you like that...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...so if you died in the night. And sometimes you'd wake up and the girl would be missing.

KOD *And...*

AM So you'd be lying there thinking, 'when is it my turn?'

KOD *And you'd hear the girl being taken away?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And how did you know she was...*

AM There was one girl called Dolores Hughes. [Pseudonym]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I know because she's still alive. And it was only when we got older we actually visited her in the mental home and that's when I discovered that they put Úna my aunt from the Magdalene Laundry into the mental home because she was deaf and dumb. So when we went to visit Úna we would visit Dolores Hughes. And then there was another girl called Bren...Brenda Egan [pseudonym] I think her name was, and again...and both of them were good girls.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *Really* good girls like, over the top good, and so I worked out that the only way that I wasn't going to be in the mental home was to defy these nuns. In my head anyway.

KOD *And when did you go and visit those girls and your aunt in the mental home?*

AM Well when my mother used to come over to see me, clearly she would...in the beginning...when you are younger you don't want to, but...St John of Gods for a start would...because St John...I think St Ultan's was very close to St John of Gods...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...if I can remember, so for some reason St John of Gods would make us go and help the mental home people.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I would see Dolores Hughes then and it was only when my mother came over and I realised that Úna Fitzpatrick... 'cause remember mother...my mother only became Mayfield [Fitzpatrick was interviewee's mother's maiden name] because she married that sperm donor. I hope you don't mind me saying, but I can't even bring myself to say...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...anything other than that. And so then I discovered that Úna, who was deaf and dumb, that she was in the same place as Bren...Brenda and Dolores Hughes.

KOD *So even when you were a schoolgirl under the age of eleven or twelve you knew that two girls were taken from the Good Shepherd into the mental home?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And they were good girls?*

AM And you knew it happened...I think they deliberately did it at night when you were sleeping so you'd hear it, 'cause that's like more fear isn't it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know, and you'd be just thinking...you *know* it's going to be you, you know you're going to be next and you have to *defy* these bitches, well at the time we didn't call them bitches (*laughs*) but...can't remember what we called them – bears, pigs, everything! But you *knew* they were so good and you thought to yourself, 'if they are so good and that's happening to them...' because Bren...apparently Brenda got back out eventually. Sr Rita [pseudonym] was telling me, so really I don't...all she had was like...if I can remember, Brenda Egan...I think that Dolores Hughes had had (*whispered*) a baby, I think she'd had a baby that's why they put her there I think.

KOD *Dolores Hughes even though she was a good girl she had a baby?*

AM I think she had a...I don't know yeah, but she might have been raped.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Don't mean she's not good if you get my meaning, you know?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Priests could have raped her for all you know. So it's not...something...s...I'm not getting it...something happened I'm not really sure, with that girl but...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Brenda was a bit simple.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So she was good...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...in...my eyes.

KOD *Yeah, yeah.*

AM Maybe I was just far more astute than a lot of other people so I could see.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Maybe, but Brenda was...you know like, you get like...there was one nun S...called Sr Louise [pseudonym], and I carry her picture around, she'd dead now. And she was the...she's the nun that was hand...that I was handed to as a baby. But she was the most *innocent* thing I've met in the *whole* of my life, the most sweetest. But because she was a minion (*laughs*) as I called them – you had hierarchy clearly with nuns, I only worked this out as I got older and she was just doing the cook[ing] – so, the *minion* nuns were nice because they had nothing to do with the children.

KOD *So Sr Louise was a cook.*

AM So it's very similar to Brenda being innocent where...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I don't think I was innocent...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...if that makes any sense to you.

KOD *Yeah, it does.*

AM I was inquisitive, I was *brazen*, as they called it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But they'd *like* to think I was dull normalcy and mild retardation and they *wanted* that on me but clearly...because they were getting money from the Health Board.

KOD *You mentioned that they gave you drugs.⁶*

AM Hmm.

KOD *Will you talk some more about that?*

AM Well do you want to know the name?

KOD *Yeah.*

[Unidentified noise]

AM Am I allowed to... [inaudible]

KOD *Sure, I can stop this.*

⁶ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 3 – 1973 report from St Dominick's

[Interview paused]

AM Would you like a sandwich...while I do this...would you like a sandwich, would you like a cheese sandwich, do you like cheese?

KOD *Yeah I would actually. Okay...*

AM Cheese and pickle?

KOD *...we'll stop this now.*

AM Yeah just for a minute.

KOD *Yeah.*

[Audio File 1 Ends 43:05]

[Audio File 2 Begins]

[Interview Resumes]

KOD *So according to the file⁷ here...*

AM And look at the year that was...

KOD *She was...*

AM ...yeah.

⁷ MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 3 – 1973 report from St Dominick's

KOD *...in 1973...so you would have been fourteen, Dominick's Residential Home, Waterford, according to this letter in your file, 'she was given a tonic and is on Tryptizol,' T-R-Y-P-T-I-Z-O-L, and you looked this up on the internet and it's an antidepressant. Tryp...Tis...tizol tablets.*

[Audio File 2 Ends 00:29]

[Interview Paused]

[Audio File 3 Begins]

[End of conversation prior to interview resuming]

AM Even though we all have mothers and fathers.

[Interview Resumes]

KOD *So let's just start it again. (Clears throat) So to go back to...you know...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...you were talking about Sr Louise...*

AM Yeah.

KOD *...and how kind she was.*

AM She was sweet. Sh...can I show you her?

KOD *Yeah, do.*

AM You know why she was sweet?

KOD *Why was she sweet?*

[Interviewee leaves to retrieve photograph, continues speaking from a distance]

AM Innocence. I often say, the only prayer I say to this God is, 'you better be real for Sr Louise's sake'.

KOD *(Laughs)* So you say to God, 'you better be real for Sr Louise's sake'.

AM 'Cause she's given up all her life for fuck [sake] and so, 'you better be real!' *(Laughs)*

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM Because I tell you what, the innocence of this nun right...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...her room got burgled once apparently, and she had this prayer money in an envelope...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and she had written 'prayer money' – and she had other money in the room – but she could *not believe* that they took money that had [been] marked 'prayer,' that's the *innocence!*

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And to me that kind of innocence used to be simple and...but it made her so real.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM If that makes any sense to you.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Yeah? Compared to the other sneaky, horrible, evil...

KOD *You said at Lent she...*

AM *...bitches...*

KOD *...Lent when she was on a fast she used to come with sweets to you.*

AM *Little box of brown sweets, the little box of sweets and she'd give me them.*

KOD *And what would you do with the sweets?*

AM *Give them to all the girls that were with me. [Sound of shuffling papers] Whoever...how many girls, g...even if we only got half a sweet, I remember even...cut in half the sweet. She only died recent...well not recently. [Showing photograph] That's Sr Louise. Never went to her funeral though.*

KOD *Ah, she looks lovely.*

AM *(Coughs) She was the most innocent, sweetest...this...look, that's why I keep these, that's the only reason why I keep these.*

KOD *Rosary beads.*

AM *'Cause she got them...she...she believed she got them blessed by the Pope, but I think, 'oh you're so sw...bless you, naive'.*

KOD *Heh!*

AM *(Pause) But she was a minion as they say, in that hierarchy.*

KOD *What do you mean by a minion?*

AM *They treated her like a skivvy. You know, you had...the nuns must have had a hierarchy, you had your Reverend Mother and they must have had levels.*

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But the ones that would do the washing up or the cooking or the cleaning...she was one of the lower grade and that's why she was sweet. And you know, maybe she would have become horrible if she got higher, I don't know but sh...her whole life she was the lower grade.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But she was nothing to do with the children, that's the other reason she was sweet. But she'd come over and ask me not to get into trouble every now and again.

KOD *So she was a cook, you said.*

AM I think she was an assistant.

KOD *Assistant cook...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...okay.*

AM I think she was more of a...'cause if I ever went over there to do anything I would see her doing all the cleaning, the pots, and her...a big huge apron on her and then this other nun trying to boss her around and we...I used to always be having a go at this other nun for daring...bossing her around, you know.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM So she was sweet. And because she was innocent...and for some reason she had this thing about *me* because when I went in as a baby I was handed to her.

KOD *And did she mind you?*

AM No, 'cause she was working for the n...she'd just come over and see me every now and again.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause even Sr Rita, when I was speaking to her the other week after getting back, she said, 'Sr Louise would never stop talking about how you were six months old, and this little tiny baby, and it was *her* baby,' you know, and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but then as I grew, as I say, older she would come over and ask me not to be getting into so much trouble, 'cause I was getting into trouble, and she used to say, 'can't you just be like...whoever wasn't getting into trouble!'

KOD *Heh!*

AM You know.

KOD *You mentioned that when you cleaned the convent you'd open up presses...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...that you'd seen presses?*

AM Cupboards...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...yeah, yeah. A shop, that's all I can describe it. A storeroom like a sh...you know you have the shop...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and then if you have the storeroom where they keep their...that's what you'd see...you just couldn't believe it.

KOD *They...*

AM And when you had to clean the...where the priest ate, his food, and I remember once he left a piece of bacon, we were going to steal it. And the nun, rather than let us have it, put it in the bin and we actually took it out of the bin! *(Laughs)* Because we'd never tasted anything or smelt anything so good. You couldn't...you know...and they used to...you didn't even know that it was bacon. You just knew that this priest was getting all this wonderful food and you just were not. They seemed to have some *major, major* respect for priests and I could never get that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because we would see the priests with bottles of whiskey in their cars and go to Confession and them saying stuff to us and...and they couldn't...I...we could never get what they...why they couldn't see what we could see. So in the end you just think, 'well hmm, you're not...don't say anything 'cause you're only going to get into trouble anyway,' so just let th...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...then you try and find a way to get something out of it really, I guess.

KOD *So when...just was we were stopping the kind of, first part of the interview we were looking at the fact that you were on antidepressants in...*

AM Yes.

KOD *...1973.*

AM Yes. But I don't remember why. But according to them, they're saying because I wasn't interested in school.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I w...I...I remember not remembering after a while. I don't know how to explain that to you other than the way I'm saying it. I remember not remembering.

KOD *And when was that time, when you remember not remembering?*

AM When I was taking these...but it wasn't them, because I looked up the colour of what these tab[lets] they've never been yellow and they've never had Roche [brand name]. When I was taking these things called...and I looked it up in the internet and it says Roche is the name of the company. So then I went into what colour tablets in 1973 did Roche produce and it came back Valium.

KOD *So you think you were also getting Valium?*

AM Yes, Sister in High Park Convent, yes.

KOD So...

AM I think that they were doing that because if they saw any intelligence in you they didn't like it.

KOD *So when did you get transferred from the Mercy secondary school, you said after two years you were sent to High Park.*

AM Yeah. But even though their letters are saying when I was fourteen, but I was younger...I'm sure I was thirteen when I got transferred to High Park.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because they kicked me out and made me work before I was transferred...Mercy school.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I don't know whether I got kicked out or whether the nun...going by that letter,⁸ it looks like the nun encouraged the nun to get rid of me doesn't it? I don't really know how that worked...panned out, but they said I had no interest in school. I mean they'd never get away with that now, would they...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but that's what they said. But...but I had no help at school. I had no interest in the nuns, I had no interest in...I remember not having any interest in being *alive*.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause what else did we have when you think about it. As you're getting older you see, you're out...they're forcing you on the outside world to school, but they're not letting you be *part* of that. So it's like you're th...out there but you *can't*...so because they're not letting you be part of it as such and especially if they make you go to school on your own, you are the *only* one there from the Good Shepherds, and an orphanage...

[Sound of siren in background]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and can you imagine how that feels?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM They've got friends...Christmas time th...you'd...you'd hear all about their presents and...

KOD *What was Christmas like for you?*

AM Nothing. I...the only good thing about Christmas was that you didn't see...hardly see the nuns. That was really good, 'cause that was worth the Christmas behaviour.

⁸ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 2 and 3

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Because they spent most of the time in the convent then, and for some reason they were not...they were actually were nice. But considering it was [a] short space of time that you saw them...so to me Christmas was good because you didn't spend much time with them.

KOD *Did you get any presents?*

AM I don't remember getting presents for Christmas time. You'd think I'd remember if I did, didn't [sic] you? I remember when I was very young getting a doll from some...every now and again you'd go to a family, for maybe two or three nights. I remember going to this one family and I remember getting a doll. I remember coming back and the nun taking it off me. And I remember doing a...you know, the throwing your toys out of the pram behaviour, sulking. But I don't know why she took it off me. But I remember that for some reason.

KOD *So did you have any Santa Claus?*

AM Oh yeah. Excuse me, I'm sorry to be eating [during the interview]. Something called the round table men.

KOD *Oh yeah.*

AM Round Table Club

KOD *The Rotary [Rotary Club] uh huh.*

AM Is that what they call them?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Came once a year. I remember not wanting to sit on their knee. *(Laughs) I remember that!* Yeah, they came once a year and they dressed up as this person [Santa Claus] that you just...meant nothing to you, yeah. Then you got kind of...presents, well a present not presents,

a present. They used to give you a party. They would set up the food, they would set up everything, the nuns did none of it, they did it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Hmm. And I think they were called from the round table or you say the R...is that the same thing rotary, round table?

KOD *It could be, yeah.*

AM We used to call them the Dublin men.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM That's all we know. We knew they came from Dublin, we kn...knew they came down from a coach...in a coach, and we knew they had something to do with the round...whatever you call it.

KOD *Maybe they were Knights of Columbanus.*

AM No idea, they...we just called them Dublin men. But they were...as I say, they gave you a present. Hmm.

KOD *So when you went to High Park, you went to An Grianán, the training centre, is that right?*

AM They sent me to An Grianán, yes.

KOD *You think you were...*

AM You know what shocked me about that, all the girls that were at An Grianán were on remand and I hadn't done anything. And I...you know, there was one girl she had killed her sister and she was on trial for killing her sister, or *accused* of killing her sister. There was s...you know, girls on remand for hitting – what is it they call...that's the first time I heard about GBH.

KOD *Oh, grievous bodily harm.*

AM I didn't even know what it meant...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...until I went there. And I had done *no crime whatsoever*.

KOD *Well, you told the nuns you'd had sex.*

AM Is that a crime?

KOD *No.*

AM Oh, I didn't...thought about that you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM That w...is that why you think why they took me out of school?

KOD *I don't know.*

AM Yeah, but I hadn't done a crime like the court of law type of crime, if you get my meaning.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM I'd done nothing and suddenly I'm in...stuck with...in a situation with girls that are in court over things that you just think, 'I've never even *heard* of these things'. I was like the *innocent* one to them, you know. And the saddest thing is the nun, Borgia, [pseudonym] she was a tiny little thing, I h...evil bitch I hated her. She used to wear heels about that height.

KOD *Inches high.*

AM *Really* high. Like her uniform thingy, whatever they call...the habit used to be just...just below her knee, you know?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Big, huge, red car driving around in and...her nie...nephew would come and she'd be feeding her nephew, her sister. When you went on holiday you were forced to go to [location redacted] to her family. So everything to do was her family. But she only had time for high profile cases i.e. if the girl...as I said because she had been accused of murdering her sister and what all...that had happened ab...if I can remember rightly (*coughs*) she was walking...she was the step-sister, they were trying to say she was jealous because the mother...you know when they got married or whatever...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ... jealous...her Dad. She was going along a bridge and she took her little younger sister with her. And her sister apparently went on the bridge to show...to look out and she said when she turned around the sister was gone in the river but she was accused of deliberately making that happen, this girl. But because the press were around her...so anyone that was a high profile case and the press were around...because she was clearly getting money maybe, Borgia would never make them go to the laundry. It was only the people like...the *minions* like us, who had done nothing.

KOD *And how many were in the...*

AM (*Coughs*)

KOD *...An Grianán with you?*

AM (*Pause*) I'm just trying to work out the dormitories. (*Pause*) Six...seventeen, twenty?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I might be wrong, just approximately. Seventeen to twenty.

KOD *And you were sent from there to work in the laundry?*

AM Yeah, how it would it work...you'd have duties...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...two of you, only the ones that got the laundries [duty] normally were the ones that came from residential schools. So you never had...s...like...the school that they said you were going [to] was downstairs. Upstairs-downstairs. In the morning you had...I can't even remember...I think it was religion. I can't even remember what it was but it was only for an hour – [Sr] Benignus [pseudonym]. And in the afternoon you had two hours to...something...typing and then you had the laundry, the rest 'til six o'clock in the evening. If you were helping in the kitchen to do the...you had no school. So you were like on a rotary system.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But for some reason, the people that came from the residential schools rather than the ones that had parents, for some of them came from outside Dublin, you know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...that lived with their parents and everything, they didn't seem to...so much...to get the laundries work that we did for some reason. I never understood that.

KOD *And so you worked in the laundry most afternoons or morning and afternoon?*

AM For about a year you would get...if you had the duty of the laundry you'd get morning and afternoon, if you didn't you'd just get the afternoon.

KOD *Okay.*

AM And then somehow it stopped for a year, or for about six months. I don't know whether somebody got involved in it. But guess what she had made...had you doing then? She had you going out with tins, claiming...I don't know if it was for handicapped...begging, knocking on doors for money. So if you weren't doing that you were making money for her some other way.

KOD *So you were going out....*

AM Singing in the...you know...

KOD *...collecting money...*

AM *...carol singing...*

KOD *...for a charity?*

AM She said it was for a charity. But you never actually knew what charity it was for because you just handed it to her. Hmm. She said it was for charity.

KOD *And so you'd do that almost daily, after...*

AM *Evening, isn't that weird?*

KOD *Evening, uh huh.*

AM She would drive you to...really...all over Dublin. The...is there Glasne...Glas...think...places beginning with G I remember...

KOD *Glasnevin?*

AM *...and there's another one that's quite posh.*

KOD *Glasthule?*

AM Isn't there another [one] beginning with G that's quite posh? Something town...something town, but there was always wealthy...

KOD *Glenageary?*

AM ...wealthy hous...wealthy areas, and she's make you knock on the doors and...

KOD *So you'd go door to door?*

AM Door to door, begging on the street, Christmas time carol singing. Begging basically with your tins on the street.

KOD *So for a year you would have worked laundry mornings...*

AM And...

KOD *...and if it was the duty...*

AM Depends, yeah.

KOD *...all afternoons. And then it stopped after a year?*

AM I don't know whether it just stopped or whether she just moved to that to do that...

KOD *Moved to...*

AM ...but I ended up...

KOD *...uh huh.*

AM ...back in the laundry again.

KOD *So after six months you were back in the laundry again.*

AM And I was actually sleeping with them then.

KOD *And you were sleeping over in the Mag...with the Magdalenes.*

AM Yeah, it was like that...I don't know whether they had various...but where they had a door from the Grianán to them...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...you go in the door and you're almost in their bedroom.

KOD *Okay.*

AM If you get my meaning.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM But, it was only when I collapsed...that I had to...she let me not sleep with them anymore. I don't know why, may...th...maybe she got into trouble over it or something. But she couldn't even take me out after I collapsed because she had filled up the bedrooms with everyone so there wasn't even a spare cubicle for me with the girls so she couldn't even pretend to put me in there. And I remember waking up and seeing this nun there looking really guilty, sitting in a chair pretending, telling me...claiming a doctor had come. But I remember this girl called Tracy [pseudonym] telling me that she never got a doctor for me. But claiming this doctor had come and sitting there looking really guilty. And it was only after that that she decided to let me try the J.A. Hickey⁹ [clothing company in Dublin] thing because I kept saying I did not want to work in a café.¹⁰

[Phone rings]

KOD *Pause for a bit...*

AM [Inaudible whispering] (*Laughs*)

KOD (*Laughs*)

⁹ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 25

¹⁰ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 21 and 22 – draft letter from An Grianán to potential employer, in which the letter writer says the interviewee keeps 'begging' for a 'proper job'

AM Ah I wish I had slaves!

KOD *Heh!*

AM Priests should be my slaves.

KOD *Heh!*

AM You know when I worked in the chat lines...you can put that in there.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM You could always work...tell when a priest phoned up [the sex line] 'cause he'd say, 'God bless you my child,' after he'd come! (*Laughs*) *Oh dirty wankers! Sorry! Hello! Sorry!* You have to laugh about it sometimes or you'd go mad wouldn't you, hmm.

KOD *So what was the work in the laundry like? Can you remember your first day there or your kind of initial...*

AM I remember (*pause*) heat but damp at the same time. I remember the *dirty* smell. I remember seeing...you know like you see in the hotels when they put the la...big huge things...of things with sheets and sheets and sheets in them?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I think when you started off you had to do the menial, you know, then you moved up so you would be the one that would be putting the dirty sheets...I don't know whether into something and then pulling them through that mangelly [mangle] thing...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...or sorting them out into maybe hotels or putting them into the...wherever they were. I remember doing Mountjoy Prison; that has always stuck, Mountjoy Prison. So that must have

been High Park Convent because I doubt if Mountjoy Prison, considering...I looked it up and that's Dublin...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...would it...would they have sent theirs to Limerick?

KOD *I doubt it, I'd say it was High Park. And how do you know that it was Mountjoy Prison?*

AM Had it written all over the uniform thing...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...had a uni...there was the uniforms and on it would have Mountjoy Prison and even on the sheety things. The...I don't know whether they sewed it or how tha...it would have Mountjoy Prison. So you knew...I don't know what...I...I think that before we just assumed that the laundry was for the people, all of us.

KOD *Uh huh, you didn't realise it was commercial?*

AM Didn't realise that I...well you didn't even know that word.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM You didn't realise that hotels and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know, I don't even know if you know they had bakeries too and they used to get money from them. Did you not know tha...the Good Shepherds in Waterford had a bakery and they used to s...be baking bread and cakes and selling them out, selling them to...make us work with them for the bakery as well.

KOD *Huh!*

AM But I didn't realise that they were...it was a business, I assumed that the laundry was...because if you think of how many of us in the Good Shepherds, how many Magdalenes as well and how many nuns. So you just assumed that the laundry was...

KOD *Part of the workings of the campus.*

AM ...yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah, no one ever...you know, it was only when you went in and you started seeing things like man...you never even questioned it though. And you'd see hotels' names on the sheets and you'd see...and you used...and it was only as you get a little bit...you think...you're not actually seeing anything to do with us...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and then you realise well of course you're washing your own damn clothes, but it doesn't...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...d...y...it never made...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...made sense, do you know? But never...there used to be maybe one little nun that would help, and the one that used...she...the other one used to be just sitting watching, sitting on this chair, not doing nothing other than *barking* her orders at you, hmm.

KOD *And what was the atmosphere like in the...*

AM Some of the girls were sweet, some of them were frightening, some of them were...it was just wor...it was...now that I look back at it, conveyer belt is the only way I can describe it to you.

You had to have this done at this time (*bangs table in time with words*) it had to be *this, this, this*. I guess that is in a business anyway but...and some of them, but some of them...but they never would...you could never have a normal conversation with the Magdalene ladies. You could never just sit down and have a break and have a cup of tea and...because it was *constant* as if they were...scared, *had to be done, had to be done, had to be done*, as if they were programmed. And that's when I realised then when I saw that, in the High Park laundries, I thought, 'you're never going to get me in these places'. And then I had to...I used to be continuously planning...either suicide or running away. Now my planning of suicide was to build up these yellow tablets that this nun was pushing at me and pretend I'd taken them and then...or run away, so I decided that the running away bit sounded better (*laughs*) I'm a bit of a coward, I didn't want to commit suicide.

KOD *And did you ever try and run away? Did you ever run away?*

AM Oh yeah, I tried to run away in Waterford loads of times and I was apparently six. Planned it even when I was six I was t...running away and they would bring you straight...you know? First of all they had this big wall and they used to have cemented glass. Did anyone ever tell you about that?

KOD *Was this in Waterford?*

AM Yeah...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...cemented...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it was either cemented broken.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But what was quite weird about this wall, on the inside it didn't look like a high wall and obviously we weren't intelligent enough to work this one out and so you could see – I've got a [clothing] label here and it's really annoying me, you know when you do that itchy thing?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Sorry! *(Laughs) (Adjusts label)*

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM So you'd be able to st...just stand and look over the wall but the drop was *ooh*, kind of...*really* down. And so you'd work out that, okay, these nuns may have this glass, you'd get a stone you could smash the glass, so that's no biggie...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...type of thing, you know. But it took us a while to work that one out but we did *(laughs)* and then I don't know where we used to get these ropes from, heaven knows where we would find these ropes and we would tie the rope on the tree and try and get out. But because it would take us so long, probably not realising that the nun would be *watching* us planning this...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...so by the time we got down that policeman was down there ready and then trying to make us get back up the same way! *(Laughs)*

KOD *So there would be a Guard waiting at the other side of the rope?*

AM Yeah, and then I ran away another time to one of the girls that I thought was my friend that used to be there and believe me she told those nuns, she phoned up those nuns and got me back.

KOD *So you went to a school friend's house?*

AM Well, she'd left, she wasn't a friend she was much bigger than me, but she used to...I think she was in charge of me you know, they had people they would be in charge of...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and I thought she actually liked me, I thought...and then when she left and she got married I decided that I was going to run away. I was in St John of Gods at the time so I can't have been that old.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I decided that I couldn't go and leave the girls that were being bullied by the nuns...that were scared. So I decided that I was going to take them with me! (*Laughs*) We got to her house and she bloody well got us, *oh* that was dreadful, 'cause when you ran away the punishment was quite bad, you know.

KOD *And how many did you bring with you that time?*

AM I think there was about four of us.

KOD *And what was the punishment?*

AM Locked up in a room, no food. We were locked up in...oh they had a name for [the room] ...Agath... [pseudonym] I can't even remember, You know, they always had saints' names, it beganned [sic] A-G-A-T-H...

KOD *Agatha? [Pseudonym]*

AM Is that it? Something like that, is that a saint?

KOD *Uh huh, Agatha.*

AM Something, yeah, you know. The Irish say it differently, don't they?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I remember the time we were locked up for that, my father had come to see me and he'd brought sweets, probably out of his guilt...I...it's the first time I said father, it's sperm donor.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And they let us out...*me* out, didn't tell him about the others, and I was saying...remember saying to this man, 'as soon as...you need to tell them they can't be locking us up and as soon as you go we're going to be locked up again'. And he wouldn't leave me. He was saying, 'no they won't, they promised,' and you know, but I couldn't...I couldn't involve him in the other girls 'cause he wouldn't get involved. So I thought, 'right, the only thing I can do is...'cause all th...all they'd given us was bread anyway...is to get these sweets and put them down my knickers'. So that when th... [put me] back in at least it would mean the girls had something.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM We were locked up for two, three days for that but that wasn't enough, and then we had to clean, clean, clean. Punishment was always cleaning. And it was...it would be cleaning...there would be different degrees of punishment and cleaning, you know. And it was always...you'd either have to go into the...they had a demesne, a thing called a demesne, it's like a field?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I've never heard that word ever since you know. And you had big...I've never seen such big thistles, but Ireland seemed to be full of 'em. And they would make you pick them up either with newspaper and your whole hands would be...you know. (*Makes a gesture with her hands to suggest they are in pain*)

KOD *Throbbing.*

AM Or they would make you work on the farm. Or the other thing they had...they'd had when you were little, they'd go...they had a farm and they had only pigs and chickens and when you were little you'd have to see the little baby chicken and you'd really love it, yeah? And if they knew

that...there was one nun that she was so evil...they would make you kill the chicken. I even put that into the Redress Board they could not believe it. And if you didn't want to she would get your hand like that and she would put her hand over your hand and she did the twisting of the neck. And then think you're going to eat that chicken. Considering you always knew...you know, they were evil, evil, evil, evil. So they would make you do scrubbing, scrubbing, you know a scrubbing brush and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...hands and knees scrubbing each maybe...either floor board or whatever it is. And you know, they had these windows with little...and you'd have to get a t...old tooth brush and scrub all around the wood and scrub the skirting and...always on your hands and knees, scrub, scrub, scrub. That was your punishment. And then you wouldn't get proper...obviously you wouldn't get proper food, or you wouldn't get to do...you were just cleaning, cleaning, cleaning. But sometimes you know, it became therapeutic, to be honest with you, at least you're away from them bitches.

KOD *Heh!*

AM Do you know what I mean? But I found High Park Convent to be worse. Because I'd got a bit older and I started maybe being more astute and I started seeing the evil of them then. Whereas in [the] Good Shepherds because I was there from a child, well from a baby, it didn't dawn on me that anything else was supposed to be different.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But when...whereas in the Good Shepherds I didn't see the greed side of it because I wasn't old enough maybe or because there was too many of us or obviously they hid that in the convent side. But in High Park Convent and the Grianán Training Centre...because as soon as you became a good typist you were made to type and you started sussing out how greedy this woman, this nun Sr Borgia was. Like for instance if you...when I worked for J.A. Hickey's, we weren't allowed our wages. We were only allowed the bus fare to go back to work again and lunch money for...'cause obviously that was too far away to go...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...back there to them for lunch. So you were actually...so in the end there was no incentive to actually go to work because no matter where you went if you worked in the laundry you were working for them, if you worked *outside* you were working for them. And I remember one week deciding that she could sod off and I was going to buy a pair...the first platform shoes! (*Laughs*) And I...and this is how sneaky she used to be, she would suddenly...someone...she'd find out somehow that you'd been like that and she would hold a meeting and she'd open up this Bible – for some reason she'd try and convince you that the Bible told her that you bought some f...platform shoes.

KOD *Heh!*

[Sound of siren in background]

AM But she wouldn't say the name of the person and this is how she would do it, 'each and every one of you are going to be punished until the person stands up to say'. And you'd be thinking, 'okay,' and I used go like this (*laughs*) I couldn't help it, I used to get the Bible and I'd go, 'what page is that on?'

KOD (*Laughs*)

AM And she wouldn't know, and I'd be going, 'well what page, just tell me the page that that's on, where these...'cause the Lord...' 'It's not in your Bible, it's in my Bible.' (*Laughs*) And I'd say, 'could I have a look at that Bible?' And then she would take it and she would burn...burnt my platform shoes, couldn't have them. I'd no incentive to work for her. And then I decided I wanted to do exams in typing...intermediate you know, type of thing. And as I said...when I put to her...and I actually got [a] distinction and I remember the day I got the certificate and because it wasn't...she didn't particularly like me, Borgia, well none of the nuns did because I always kind of had an answer for them and I always tried to get them back in some way. And the girl, Jacqueline Corrigan [pseudonym] her name was, she [Borgia] wanted her to get the distinction and she didn't want me to get it. And when she'd...came in and she said...held out the certificates, and I...she...I got the dis...dis...distinction, she refused to give me my certificate...certificate, I never ever saw it, *never ever* wanted me to do that. She wanted me to

be dull normalcy, mild retardation, working in a café, a laundry, amounting to nothing. I could never figure that out until I saw those invoices.¹¹

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Hmm.

KOD *What in...tell us about the invoices.*

AM And I don't reckon that was...whereas you see Jacqueline Corrigan was not from a residential school.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM She had...she came from a mother.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I reckon that they couldn't...this is my...when I look at it now, the people that came from mothers, I don't think they were able to claim for...Health Board wise...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...but the people that came from...'cause remember we were always in a residential school, I reckon it was like a continuous...and so to them they couldn't *have* us amount to anything could they?

KOD *'Cause they wanted to keep claiming...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...the capitation grant from the Health Board is that what you're s...telling me?*

¹¹ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 4, 7, 19 and 23 – records from South Eastern Health Board

AM Yeah, but I also think they were claiming from the Education Board too...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...because health is for health is it not? They were telling them they were educating us so I reckon there's invoices out there from both. This is my opinion.

KOD *Uh huh.*

[Sound of paper rustling intermittently]

AM Because by...you know, putting me on drugs, doing this, putting me as dull norm...that's all to do with the Health Board. But where's the education side? So there's got to be even far more than what...and I reckon seriously that these reports were not...not kept...you know the psychia...even though they're not...

KOD *Psychologist's report.*

AM ...some of them [psychiatrists] that would say damning stuff against you were not really from...for instance, J.A. Hickey¹² headed here...headed thing, yeah...

KOD *Headed notepaper, yeah.*

AM Why isn't [sic] the psychologist [psychologist's report]¹³ got headed notepa[per]? And I remember when she used to make us try...

KOD *Well there's an address down at the bottom of the...*

AM Yeah, but you still would expect even in that day, would you not?

KOD *Uh huh.*

¹² See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 25 – letter from JA Hickey terminating employment

¹³ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 1, 12-15 – psychologists' reports

AM That's what I would expect anyway.

KOD *So, just to take you back to the laundry, you said some of the girls...and they were quite sweet, and others seemed to be frightening, did you...*

AM Well some of them were.

KOD *...get to know any of the names or did you develop any kind of friendships there or...?*

AM No, 'cause you weren't really...you weren't kind of really allowed to talk to them.

[Sound of mobile phone interference]

KOD *Did they talk amongst themselves?*

AM Yeah but they were always giving out to each other...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...that's what I did notice. They weren't...you never see them sit down and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it was always like as if they were barking orders at each other. So they would bark orders at you.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And then at night-time I used to find very fearful. Very. [Inaudible]

KOD *This is when you were sleeping in the dormitory with them?*

AM Yeah, when they...I was...I had to sleep in the cubicle with them. 'Cause I was probably the youngest and I knew then when she put me there that that was her plan that if I didn't get away that...you know, she was *gradually* easing her way in to me. But at night-time it was like as if they were different people than when they were in the laundry. At night-time you'd hear the *howling* and the *crying*, bless them and...but because you're young, you took that as a madness.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And in your head you just did not want to be like that, you did not want this...you know, and every now and again you'd...you'd see them between your cubicle...opening, so you'd pretend you're asleep kind of thing, even going to the toilet, you were terrified. Everything was fear, fear, fear, fear.

KOD *And so you'd hear them how...the Magdalene women howling and crying at night?*

AM Yeah, yeah. That was horrible. Yeah and the daytime and you'd think, I mean...you never worked out whether you were working with the same women in the laundry, when you had to do the laundry, or whether you were sleeping with different women, 'cause they weren't *howling* in the day.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But at night you'd either hear howling or you'd hear...a bit of craziness...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...you know, someone screaming out over something or fighting, *fighting, gosh they did fight!* And they fought over...I always remember they used to fight over...'*you took my thing,*' you know, '*you took this belong...*' I guess they never really owned and when they did own...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it was like...but at the time...I feel really bad saying this but I never understood it, I was just another, probably junior one that never understood it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But the...you know, but they all had this...it w...I don't know if you ever watched Dr Who? The Cybermen, they all became...it was like as if there was no different personality. Does that make sense to you?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM I think that was forced upon them.

KOD *Will we call it institutionalisation?*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *Is that a word that would...*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *...make sense?*

AM I mean, even my sister used to say to me, 'why can't you be good, why can't you be like me, why don't you...why...why don't you just toe the line?' I used to think, 'well why are up fucking putting up with it?' But for some reason I just could not be what they were trying to make me to be. I've no idea why I couldn't be it because let's face it, if anyone should have been like that it should have been me 'cause they had me from the age of approximately six months.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So if anyone should have turned me into this robotic thing it should...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it should have been *me* that should have been like that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But for some reason they never managed it and I never understood why, 'cause it's not as if I knew any other life. Whereas my sister *did* know [an]other life but she was even 'good' as I used to call it. I used to look at her and I used to think, 'I'm so not going to be like you,' 'cause she ended up working in the same...a cleaner all her life and so I used to think, 'I'm not going to be like you either'.

KOD *And in the laundry did you get to know...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...did you eat with them?*

AM No you had to go back to Grianán.

KOD *Uh huh.*

[Intermittent sound of mobile phone interference]

AM You had a break with them and it was like milky tea. It was different in the Limerick laundry though because I was allowed to eat...not eat as lu...kind of eat, lunch but even though had to bring it yourself. Break, not lunch...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...break, with the outside girls...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...for some reason, I don't know why I was allowed that in the Limerick laundry, because I wasn't allowed that in the Drumcondra laundry.

KOD *And how many women were there? Did...did you call them Magdalene women? Or what did you call them?*

AM Called them pensions.

KOD *Pensions again.*

AM Hmm.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM That's all we ever knew them as.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But we never knew why we called them that.

KOD *Uh huh. How many...*

AM 'Cause...

KOD *...of them were there?*

AM I think loads, because the whole church...when you'd see them in the church – and they'd be looking over...would be full up of the whole church and I thought...you s...it seemed a *hell* of a lot more than An Grianán Training Centre.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *Loads and loads and loads, even one of them was working as our cook in the Grianán Training Centre.*

KOD *And...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...so you said they were kind of robotic?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *And did they all...*

AM But they'd no...

KOD *...look alike or...?*

AM ...but the thing is some of them really loved those nuns.

KOD *Some of them loved the...yeah.*

AM Did you ever come across that? Charlotte [pseudonym] who used to work as the cook in An Grianán Training Centre, she would *suck up* to Borgia and I used to think, 'God she's such a *suck up*,' and...and I used to say to her sometimes, 'I don't know...why are you sucking up to that bitch, Sr Bo...' 'cause I tell you...but I worked it out then, Sr Borgia got her out of the laundry, which meant she had a cubicle which meant she'd...although she was working for nothing – I think in fact she used to give her a tiny bit of pocket money – but it meant she was out of that laundry didn't it. Some of them would do a lot of sucking up you know, to them. They wouldn't get any of them really having a go at them like we would.

KOD *Was there a hierarchy among them?*

AM *(Coughs)* Yeah, yeah, you could see that...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...yeah 'cause you could see them giving out to the others, yeah.

KOD *So there was some that were more in charge of the others.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *Did they have a special name?*

AM We never knew their names. They were all...seemed to be names of saints. Were they?

KOD *Uh huh, yeah.*

AM Always lots of Marys.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And there was lo...I don't remember like Annes, maybe there was but there was lots of Marys and lots of Mary Murphy or Mary Magdalene or Mary...I remember that, and Charlotte was...we used to call her, don't even remember her other name, she was a little chubby woman and she...th...Borgia got her out of the laundry but...but purely just to cook.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But she never...when you got the...they used to say, 'you're not allow...don't talk'. The nun used to always say that. *'Don't talk, don't talk,'* you know, 'just get on with your work, *don't talk.*' And then you'd be looking over at her and you'd think, 'she's such a lazy cow sitting there doing nothing,' reading or knitting or sewing something, you know.

KOD *And were they...*

AM But the other thing...and when I think back...of it, I never saw anyone doing maintenance on the machines.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Did they just actually just work very well or something, 'cause I don't remember seeing men coming to do maintenance on those machines. Unless they made the women do them.

KOD *I don't know.*

AM Have you ever asked them [a] question about that?

KOD *No.*

AM 'Cause it makes you wonder how they allowed the men to mix if they d...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know.

KOD *And did you get any sense of any of the stories of the...penitents?*

AM Well I just knew the story of my two aunts, I knew the story of Alice who did get out and get married.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM My mother's sister. I knew the story of...but no they wouldn't discuss...it was like t...it was being with robots. It's as if they felt that was the job that they had to do when the day was over. I don't know...don't even know – 'cause we had to go back to Grianán then – whether they had an evening like...relaxation or...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I don't know what they had to do then.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But then we'd go back to Grianán. Then I would have to...we would have to do whatever duties back there. Then come bedtime I would have to go back and sleep with them, and that's how it was. And then I'd be lying there...you'd either hear them fighting over something...I just assumed they did what we did in the evening [which] was to be around a television.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But did they get television?

KOD *The tel...I don't know if the tel...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...the years that we're talking about now are what, seventy-three...*

AM Seventy...

KOD *...seventy-four...*

[Sound of mobile phone interference]

AM *...seventy...yeah...five, she was still claiming seventy-seven. Hmm.*

KOD *So how many years were you in An Grianán and the laundry?*

AM I left...came over here, ran away and they got me back.

KOD *So you ran away, you got out of An Grianán and you managed to run away and you managed to run to England?*

AM Yeah *(laughs)* got on a boat!

KOD *How did you manage that, tell us?*

AM Sister gave me the money...

KOD *Did...*

AM ...got on the boat, my sister Martha gave me the money to get on the boat.

KOD *Was she living in Dublin or...?*

AM Yes, she was working in Dublin then after that.

KOD *So how did you escape from the campus?*

AM Just went out the Grace P...they had two entrances, two...one was High Park at the back and one was Grace Park Road I remember. And they never watched the Grace Park Road one because the nuns used to only ever use that one. And it was us...it was the 'pensions' as we called them, Magdalenes and us that used the back gate so I scarpered out the front. And my s...I got on a boat...

KOD *So you went to your sister Martha and she gave you the...where was she?*

AM Oh we had arranged...I'd seen my sister before that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So we'd arranged that was going to be happening and she was going to give me the money to get on the boat, to find out about my mother, and [I] came over to England.

KOD *And how did you know where she was living or how...what...was it arranged? Did you meet her somewhere?*

AM Oh no, I knew Martha was living...she was working in St Vincent's Hospital, Drumcondra [St Vincent's Psychiatric Hospital, Fairview] which was apparently...'cause I actually worked there when I came back again...and it had mad nuns in it, I remember that. You know, so nuns were there like, effing [swearing] that was quite funny, I found that very amusing.

KOD *Heh!*

AM And she was working in St Vincent's Hospital in Drumcondra, 'cause after I'd moved...she moved away from Waterford from St Patrick's Hospital to St Vincent's Hospital and so...because she was that close, the nun then...Borgia, used to send...every now and again we had to go and help old ladies as well, we were always working as carers.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And then she decided to get...like we got [to] a stage we were having a bike and we could ride her bike. Well it wasn't really *our* bike, it was *the use* of the bike. And so if I was going to Drumcondra to do the carers, could quite easily to slip into St Vincent's Hospital, it's not very far. Or Martha...she'd allow Martha up to see me once a month but then she thought Martha was too much of an influence on me...bad influence or some sort of thing. I just think they hated families getting together to be quite honest with you.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So then...

KOD *So you...*

AM ...before...in the meantime before that, remember she had me in Limerick as well.

KOD *Yeah, so tell me about Limerick...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...when did she move you to Limerick?*

AM See this is where I'm really confused 'cause when you see that it says '75.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So maybe it was because I know I went there, I know I ended up back in Grianán.

KOD *So you would have been about sixteen in...*

AM Helen Morrissey [pseudonym] was coming to...no I don't think I was sixteen, 'cause then...if you were sixteen they kick you out don't they?

KOD *I don't know.*

AM Unless you are a Magdalene.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Maybe I was...and obviously Helen Morrissey...I heard that Helen Morrissey was coming to High Park Convent

KOD *From Waterford Good Shepherd.*

AM From Waterford, yeah. But I never knew that they were planning...that's the reason I had to leave because I knew Helen Morrissey and that's the...obviously you see, the letter¹⁴ that is the reason why I had to leave. I think that's why they sent me to a place called O'Brien School of Commerce [pseudonym] which was a private college where outside people go. But they had a pla...also a place in Limerick called Clare Street and Clare Street called...can't remember...it's a hostel, [Good Shepherd Marycrest Hostel, Limerick] can't remember the name of the hostel. But outside people would go who were using O'B...who were paying for O'Brien's college, but they would pay the nuns to live in the hostel.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And so obviously they decided that I was going to be going...and it was just to learn...the School of Commerce with shorthand and typing. Well I wasn't very good obviously at shorthand

¹⁴ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 16 – letter from Mayfield Residential Home, Waterford

and the main...her main job really, Miss O'Brien, [pseudonym] was to do the typing. Well when she...right...everybody would start (*speaks in exasperated tone*) 'a, s, d, f, semi-colon,' but I'd already got to...st...it...and I used to be sitting there thinking, 'oh this is so *boring*,' you know.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM And she was saying, 'why?' *eugh, you know*, and I used to say, 'cause I can *do it*', and I would show her you know, because I am a very fast typist. And so she s...carried on thinking, 'maybe you can do shorthand,' but I was absolutely *useless* at shorthand, really I couldn't...I didn't li...you know when you don't like something you're not going to grasp it are you?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And if you find it boring there's no way on earth you're going to grasp it. So for three months...she just couldn't handle it after that, decided that she didn't want me at her college. So the nuns, because they had...I don't know what kind of arrangement they made whether...how they paid her for that course – it was only a nine months course anyway – I don't know what happened but they decided that I had to work in the laundry to pay for my room in Clare Street. But when there were holidays the girls would go to their own families obviously, it was like as if you were in uni and you get out of digs.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And...

KOD *So are we talking...*

AM ...so...

KOD *...weekends and...or what kind of holidays?*

AM You know, summer holidays...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...from school, it was like school holidays. They would go home to their parents...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they wouldn't be staying in the hostel then. So the nuns made money out of charging them for a room like digs.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM So when I wasn't going to O'Brien then I was really...'cause it was really quite weird, I was moved right upstairs out of...'cause there was the nuns sleeping there, I was no longer classed as a...one of them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I was then classed as...'cause I was doing laundry, helping with the kitchen, washing up after the people that I'd actually gone to school with!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And then she said, 'right, if you need to stay here...' that was fine in the summer when they went on holiday but then she decided that she wanted to rent *that* room out as well. So then I was put outside the place and I don't know whether...something to do with the Magdalenes and what...while I was working in the laundry in Limerick. And then I left there.

KOD *And was it like a Magdalene...was it...*

AM It was a Magdalene Laundry...

KOD *It was.*

AM ...St Mary's is th...

KOD *Okay.*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *And were you sleeping there?*

AM *I was sleeping with...in the hostel...*

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *...part.*

KOD *But you were working in the l...in the Magdalene Laundry?*

AM *Yeah, and then they had another Magdalene lady sleeping with me in the hostel part with me called Madeleine, [pseudonym] who blamed me for killing a dog she had, which I didn't really kill it, but she blamed me for that. 'Cause what had happened was the dog was in heat and she'd locked...tied it up outside and it *poured* down with rain and I looked out the window and I saw this dog shivering, locked...tied up and I thought, 'I'm not having that,' and I went straight out to release the dog, to bring it back in, the dog escaped from my...got herself pregnant and died. *Oh my God!**

KOD *Hmm.*

AM *And I was blamed for that, hmm.*

KOD *So it died afterwards?*

AM *Died...g...yeah, gave birth and then died. Because she was...yeah...because I think like...*

KOD *So Madeleine was able to keep a dog?*

AM *Yeah 'cause she worked...was living in the hostel part.*

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I think as it was progressing there were look...there were...things were changing *slightly* for them.

KOD *So this was around the year 1975?*

AM Seventy...yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Hmm. But I found the Limerick laundry better than Drumcondra, than High Park. High Park was just...it *smelt* of evil, it *felt* of evil, it was just a horrific...it was like an asylum. It's the only way I can describe it to you.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And the reason that Limerick...

KOD *By asylum you mean a mental asylum, psychiatric hospital?*

AM Maybe, but in a way where you just...you know where you...you feel you're in something, even in your life you can get that and there's no way out...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and that can be an asylum to you. It's like a...it's really weird. High Park was just horrid. Whereas for some reason Limerick felt freer, even the laundry.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM The girls seemed happier than they...they seemed brighter dressed than...and I found that Limerick laundry was actually bearable...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...to work but I never got...because I never got any money, in the weekends I'd work in a café, I used to say, 'I'm not working in your laundry in the weekends'. So I had to try and earn...you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM All these girls were going out places and I had no money to go anywhere. So I decided that I was going to take in Limerick City and I said to the nun, 'that's the only way you're going to get me to do any more work in your laundry is to le...you've got to let me work in the weekends, so I can actually earn money,' and so I earned money in cafés. And they would feed me anyway so I knew I didn't have to pay for my food... (*Laughs*)

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...with...you know, and you...as I say, everything that you did f...in these places from day dot you had to work for.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Whereas the nuns didn't. And that's what you could never get in your head, *everything*, from a child having blankets tied to her feet, to an old lady working in the laundry. But those nuns never worked for sod, all except for the min...I call them, not the minions, not that they were minions but, the lower grade nuns did.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But the hierarchy nuns they never...yeah, they had even...I even knew what a bursar was, isn't that effing sad, should be on a ship shouldn't it?

KOD (*Laughs*)

AM But they had *bursars*...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know that?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Which...I've never met a bursar again in my life only in the Good...in the Good Shepherds, High Park Convent and the Limerick place, they all had bursars. What is a bursar? Something to do with money innit?

KOD *Yeah, we have them in the university.*

AM Do you, is that just an Irish thing?

KOD *No it's...it's...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *It's a role in English...*

AM I've never met a bursar in England

KOD *Well you'd find them in English universities I'd say. We still call...we still use that title in Ireland.*

AM Is that just not an accountant?

KOD *Yeah, it...they're in charge of the money. The bursar's office is where the money goes through.*

AM You know, and then when I read about like, my brother in Cappoquin and I read how the nun was an alcoholic and...did you read any of that? It's just horrific! And you think all this going on b...and you never even knew.

KOD *Hmm. So tell me about...more about the Limerick laundry. Was there the same amount of women as High Park?*

AM Yeah, I think so. But you never noticed there was the same amount of m...w...women.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It wasn't so...High Park Convent they seemed to all be grouped together in the church, in the laundry, in the...do you know what I mean?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Limerick, they were kind of scattered. I know that sounds really weird but Limerick was different. I remember the accent was dreadful. *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM The Limerick accent was dreadful, I never understood it. I remember that part of it. But then for some reason when it came to having your break they didn't want me sitting with the Magdalenes, they made me sit with m...the outside girls.

KOD *And so there was...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...h...there was hired help?*

AM They had hired help, yeah. But they were paying them peanuts 'cause they were...I remember s...when I was sitting with them they were moaning.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I guess at the time it was the only job they could get. But...so I'd...I've worked out that maybe in Limerick 'cause they were paying them peanuts or paying them money that maybe the Magdalenes were getting paid, I don't know if they were getting paid.

KOD *(Shakes head to signal 'no')*

AM They weren't? I know I wasn't getting paid from them 'cause I had to do the café in th...in the weekend. But they did have a...I remember them looking happier...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...in Limerick. But the nuns were nicer. I remember Sr Kenneth...or Kevin, Kevin [pseudonyms] over the hostel. And I used to really actually get on well with her and she used to make me laugh because she was the most bluntest bitch ever.

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM But there was no crap about her. Whereas she was the most innocent one ever. *(Points to photograph of Sr Louise)*

KOD *Hmm, Louise was the m...innocent one, yeah.*

AM Yeah, there was the odd...don't get me wrong, they weren't all horrid.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM These nuns, they weren't all horrid. The majority of them were horrid but not...as I say, all of them. And I don't remember the...in the Limerick Laundry the n...girls being unhapp...I remember them...I think the nuns used to help more in the Limerick laundry. I don't remember them being fighting or as *aggressive* as the High Park Convent Magdalene women.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM They always appeared to me...I think that's was the word I was trying to look, for they always appeared to be as being *aggressive*.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Unhappy. Fighting over the littlest thing that they might think they should own and...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I guess the only things they had as a belonging or...you know. Hmm. But as I said, I remember the smell, I remember Mountjoy Prison, I remember hotels. Is there a Julie's Hotel in Dublin?

KOD *I don't know, probably, Jury's?*

AM I remember sheets...having to spin through sheets.

KOD *What about the Limerick laundry?*

AM I never remember having to do...I remember doing shirts in Limerick. It was mostly...I...I was only on shirts for some...I don't remember who the shirts belonged to, but I remember having to put them on this thing, folding them, putting them in the cellophane thingy...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and that was my job, was the shirts. Never had to do sheets there, other people were doing them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I have no idea who they belonged to, these shirts, but they w...that was my thing. But it just seemed to be a whole different kind of laundry.

KOD *Was there the same pressure to...pressurised to do work, was there the same silence?*

AM Oh God yeah, yeah.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Not so much silence with the...and...and break time.

KOD *You had breaks.*

AM 'Cause...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...even though you may have had a cup of tea in the High Park bit you weren't allowed to talk. But in the Limerick one because I was having...the...the outside girls they called them, they had a separate room, they wouldn't even let them have a break with the...you know? And they would be...come out of the laundry and go into this room and shut the door.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I used to think that was a bit horrid, so I would go back out thinking...'cause I used to feel kind of guilty...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...'cause I didn't f...I used to s...I don't know why I feel guilty...used to feel guilty, or mean or...sitting with them. I wouldn't...didn't mind if the door was open but if they'd shut them out I didn't like that. So then I used to go back out with them even though I was not...didn't have to.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause I found that quite mean. Yeah. But they still seemed happier. And as I said there didn't seem to be so many, maybe they were just spread out more. And they seemed to wear...I remember brighter clothes in Limerick (*laughs*) they seemed to wear...the ones in High Park used to work in their clothes all I can think of is dull.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM No colour. No make-up, not that they would want to, but...maybe they would, I don't know. And all looking *haggard*.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM *Knackered. No smile, no expression.* That's when I say cybermen.

KOD *Uh huh. And in Limerick it was different?*

AM Seemed to be, yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Even the nuns were different. The nuns were...they seemed to be freer. Maybe that's what made them nicer?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I don't know how it worked but High Park Convent was a totally...remember Limerick was Good Shepherds, Waterford was Good Shepherds, maybe it's because I was deep down inside a Good Shepherd girl because I'd been brought up by them. High Park Convent was not Good Shepherds.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So *maybe* that is the difference between the Good Shepherds...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...even though they were ho...the nun...the...get me...don't get me wrong, the women had to work for nothing, but maybe the nuns were a bit nicer in the Good Shepherds. I don't know if you ever heard of that, I don't know, but High Park...

KOD *Yeah, people say that there's differences...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...between the orders all right.*

AM High Park Convent was...I found every area of High Park Convent horrid, every nun horrid. I can't honestly say I met a nice nun in High Park Convent. Whereas I can pick out nice nuns in Waterford and I can pick out nice nuns in Limerick.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But *not one* nice one in High Park Convent. And it...always...constant funerals in High Park convent, of the Magdalenes.

KOD *Yeah?*

AM Hmm, I remember that.

KOD *What kind of...what was the funerals like?*

AM *Oh God frightening!* You couldn't sleep after them. They used to make us go to them, we didn't even know half of them. And they would go round this little...they used to...seem to be having them once a week, the funerals, hmm. The graves weren't very...very...you know, the nuns...you look at the nuns graves and they quite posh aren't they?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And then you look at the Magdalene graves and they're like paupers' graves, if you get my meaning.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But *now* if you go down to the nuns' graves in Waterford... 'cause when I heard this... she died, I went down a year... as I was in Waterford to see my sister.

KOD *Sr Louise, yeah.*

AM Hmm, as I was in Waterford to see my sister, because apparently she used to... when I went to see this nu... Sr Louise before, about four years before she died she used to tell me that I used to say things to her when she was little. She used to have these boxes where you pull out drawers or something and that I would say to her, 'can I have that box when you die?' And she'd say, 'yeah'. And apparently every day I used to say to her, 'are you de... have you died yet?' (*Laughs*)

KOD (*Laughs*)

AM 'Cause I wanted this box! She never even gave me the bloody box when she did die!

KOD *Heh!*

AM But when I went down to put some f... 'cause I thought, 'why didn't they tell me that she was ill,' I would have likened [sic] to have said something to her, you know, thanks or something. But they didn't tell me that she was ill and then she d... died of... so I went down to put something on her grave. I think it was a rose, *I think I put a black rose!* (*Laughs*) I had this thing for black roses 'cause I didn't want to be the same as everyone else with their pretty flowers so I think I put a black rose down...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...for her grave. It doesn't mean that I think she's horrible or anything.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I couldn't believe the *difference* in the graves nowadays¹⁵ to...that they give the nuns to the big, huge h...stones that were like...when we used to go to the funerals that we were made to go, it was just your average...it was very similar to the Magdalene nowadays...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...so her grave was like a Magdalene Laundry grave, it was just a basic, plain...

KOD *So Sr Louise's grave was very basic and plain.*

AM Oh God y...well maybe it was because she was a minion.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *(Laughs)* You know!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM You don't know do you?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And that's...that's the only time I kind of really prayed is I think...I...is to say, 'you better be real for this nun giving up her bloody life for you'. 'Cause she *really, really, really* believed in it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And she would say...this is how...it was very, very funny, she would send me letters and I'd open them up and the holy pictures would go *flying* out! *(Laughs)*

KOD *(Laughs)*

¹⁵ Religious sisters from the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity are still buried in individual plots on the High Park grounds, whereas the Good Shepherd sisters in Waterford are buried in communal plots.

AM And on the first of the letter 'May the Lord...' *every single letter* from the time I left Good Shepherds to Grianán, to Limerick, to England, to being married, and every s...'May the Lord bestow,' was the first line, 'all his graces and the blessings upon you'. But what was very...my husband was very much of a hypocrite and we went back to see her and we were walking along and she said to me, 'Angelina [pseudonym] what church do you go to?' and I said, 'I don't'. But my husband didn't realise that I had said that and Sr Rita at the time – they were the only two that I had any respect for – she...I...Sr Louise sort of...as I was walking up further, she kind of stepped back to talk to my husband – ex – and she said to him, 'and Nick [pseudonym] what church do you go to?' and he said, 'the same as Angelina'.

KOD *Heh!*

AM So Sr Rita came to me and said, 'you never guess what's happened,' I said, 'what?' and so she told me. So I sa...when I caught up with him I said, 'you're such a hypocrite aren't you?' I said, 'because...' he pretended he didn't smoke when I was like 'fag ash Lil' in front of them!

KOD *Heh!*

AM And I...he said, 'what?' and I said, 'you know I told her I didn't go to church and you told her that you went to the same as me,' and he was...he was horrified he couldn't *believe* that...'cause he was trying to suck up to them, 'cause I don't know why 'cause they kept saying to me, 'aren't you so lucky to have such...' and I'm thinking, 'well *no*, isn't he lucky to have such a t...person like *me!*' And as soon as I told her that he cheated on me, I knew it before, 'oh you should have always left him'. And you thought, '*oh my God these nuns, hypocrites!*'

KOD *(Laughs) And when...*

AM But yeah...

KOD *...when did you get...move back from Limerick to...to Drumcondra?*

AM You see the...this must be...'cause she was claiming for me in 1977, that invoice is 1977.¹⁶

¹⁶ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Page 23 – South Eastern Health Board Remittance advice

KOD *So they were s...they were still claiming that you were in An Grianán to the Health Board...*

AM Yeah, I've got to have been...

KOD *...in 1977, but you were down in Limerick at that stage?*

AM Well I don't know if I was in Limerick 'cause it's got 1977 on that...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...invoice.

KOD *Yeah it does, June 27th. So did you move back from Limerick to An Grianán?*

AM But then my daughter was born in 1980. And I was way over here.

KOD *So you weren't in Ireland in 1977?*

AM I don't think I was you know. This is what...'cause if you think about it, [unidentified sound] I came over here three days...years later, had a child, 'cause I was actually married. Am I working these dates out...my daughter was born...my first daughter was born in 1980...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...Denise [pseudonym] and my second daughter was born in '84. Denise is thirty-three now.

KOD *So...so you were in Limerick, did you...did they move you back to Drumcondra?*

AM Yeah, because...the girl...they want...they made more money out of the girls coming in and they needed the room so they just said, 'we can't...you can't stay here anymore,' and I couldn't afford a...they weren't paying me in the laundry, they were then offering to pay me for the laundry but the amount of money that they were...I couldn't have got anywhere to live for what they were...I think it was only about a fiver or some sort of weird...it wasn't anything after.

KOD *So it was pocket money more than a wage?*

AM Yeah, yeah...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...but I had nowhere to stay. And I didn't want to stay in the Magdalene again. I think that was what they were aiming to get me to do...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...going from the hostel. And I was...j...and I know it sounds really...but I was just too scared to stay in Limerick.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM You know, and I used to think, Alice ended up there and you think Úna ended up there and I thought I...all I could see myself was...same with my mother, even now, I don't want to be like them, I don't know if you ever go through that. But it becomes like an...an obsession that you can't be like them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So anything that you think someone is putting you in that situation you have to get out of. So for some reason I don't know if I ended up back there then, I can't...but I...I gave birth to my first daughter in 1980.

KOD *So d...so you can't remember if you went back from Limerick to...*

AM Oh I know I went back.

KOD *And...and did you escape then...*

AM Yeah.

KOD *...was that the time you escaped?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *So you organised with Martha to go to her...*

AM No the first time I organised with Martha when I...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...was even younger, to run away, that was...

KOD *Before Limerick?*

AM Yeah but I just decided to...I left...I remember leaving a note for Borgia to say that, 'I'm...I'm not taking this shit any more, I'm off!' And I remember only making sure she didn't get it until I was gone. But I don't remember it being that year.

KOD *So...so you escaped that time but were you brought back, or...?*

AM No. But...

KOD *Where did you go to?*

AM What, from the second time round?

KOD *No the first time.*

AM Well the first time I was brought back I...I actually went to London and lived on the streets. And it was even a better begging, not prostitution begging. And you were allowed...there was a place called Centrepont [homeless charity] in Soho...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and they were...used to allow you go in eight hour...three times a month it allowed you to use it 'cause obviously it had other people to allow. And you were allowed to go in at 8 o'clock at night and you had to leave at 8 o'clock in the morning and they gave you soup and you had a bed and that was *wow*, it was like *wow* you know. But you knew you could only do it three times a month [unidentified sound] they had to care for the other people. And then the other times you became friendly with the people that were begging on the streets, my age.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But at that time we were allowed to sleep in stations, and in that year we were allowed to sleep in...you know, whereas now you're not allowed obviously to do that.

KOD *And what age were you then when you first ran away?*

AM When I first ran away I'm s...I was on the streets at fourteen. But th...I don't think I was there very long. And somehow...I don't know how they got me back, whether some charity got hold of me, I can't remember how they got me back, but they got me back. And then the second time they didn't get me back. Because as I said, I was living on the streets and...even though my mother was in...working in a hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex every now and again I would get money off of her but I didn't want...I didn't want to...I couldn't really st...she only had one room in the hospital where they supplied her with the room. For a few nights I s...kind of topped [tossed] and turned and I thought, 'you just don't want to be staying here'. So then I would go back, I'd made friends on the streets, and you know, better in numbers I guess, isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And Centrepoint, a place called Centrep...I believe it's still there now I hear.

KOD *And what age were you the second time?*

AM I thought I was...I can't even remember. *(Pause)* Wh...I...maybe I was seventeen, eighteen, I can't even remember.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM I got married at twenty-one. I was pregnant when I got married but that's not...not the reason I got married believe me, 'cause I didn't give...it wasn't like in *Maureen's* day.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I have no shame over anything and I couldn't give a *damn* what people think, shaming me, you know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...type...when it comes to...I always think what's the point having regrets, doing something and then regretting it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I wouldn't do anything that I thought was...that I would regret afterwards...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...type...so that wasn't the reason that I got married. It wasn't like Ireland, where you had to get married if you were pregnant.

KOD *So...*

AM But the times are really confusing.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM See even...even then because when you think about it I was on drugs with these nuns, not...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...drugs of my choice. But even when I read that Tryp...I can't even say it, what is it, Trypotzizol [Tryptizol]...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...or whatever drug? Did you know you're only supposed to have that for three months and then it's so addictive, when you read up on it, that you have to have special treatment to be weaned off of it. And I thought, 'my God, how the hell did I get off that drug?' And then that Roche thing, 'cause even at the time I remember telling Sr Rita, 'Sr Borgia's putting me on Valium'. I d...think I heard the name at the time, but I had no confirmation that it was Valium. The only confirmation I had [was] that it was a yellow tablet and it was Roche...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...was written on it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And as I said it's only when you get the clever old internet and you start asking...okay and you dig in and you dig in and you say, 'which tablet is this colour in 1973'...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and I discovered obviously...and the only one that has come up is...was Valium.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Which is quite...you know.

KOD *So you...you...when you escaped the second time you got to London and then you never were back there.*

AM You don't want to hear about none of the rest of that. Turn that off and I'll tell you and then you can tell me if you want to hear about it.

KOD *No, I want to hear about it.*

AM No, but turn off that first, please.

KOD *Okay, sure, of course.*

[Interview paused at 01:12:42]

[Interview resumes at 01:12:44]

AM Got married, yes.

KOD *You got married at the age of twenty-one.*

AM Yeah. And I...I got married in July and gave birth two months later to my daughter. Hmm.

KOD *That's...*

AM So I was heavily pregnant, yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Way out there to make sure that...and I wasn't in a church – registry office. 'Cause I remember once going to a church in...actually...England, 'cause Sis...this nun Sr Rita, you know I told you her friend...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...her mother had died and she asked me if I would get a Mass said for her and then she made one request I thought was *very evil* of her but because it's not a lie, she said, 'would you go...would you please go to Confession before you get the Mass?' I thought, '*oh my God!*'

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM So I s...I thought, 'I can't,' so I went to Confession, this time I said it, my husb...husband was outside and the kids. I said, 'okay Father I really haven't got time to give you twenty years of sins so how about you just forgive me,' thinking that was all I needed to do and...oh no, you don...that wasn't it. He wouldn't...th...he wasn't having that. He said, 'are you married to a Catholic?' I said, 'no Father'. You wouldn't believe what this man said, and by the time I'd finished I didn't even give him my Confession. He said, 'are you married, is your divorce...is your h...is your husband divorced?' And I said, 'yes,' thinking, 'that's...not that it's any of your damn business, can you just sign this Mass card please?' I said. *(Laughs)*

KOD *Hmm.*

AM And he said...oh he told me I should be living with my husband as brother and sister, dah de dah de dah. Well I te...I swore at this priest and I s...I was *demanding* his boss's name which I knew was the Pope in [the] Vatican anyway! *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM And I come out of this Confession box and this women, 'oh Jesus Mary and Joseph, oh!' she was trying to pray for me.

KOD *Heh!*

AM So I still never got my Mass card said for this nun. I'm thinking, 'oh, what am I going to...' so okay, so I decided that I wasn't going to risk this whole thing again. So I phoned her up and I said, 'you can forget the Confession, it's off, th...there's not going to be a Confession'. So I phoned up another priest and explained to him and I said, 'all I want you to do is sign a damn card for the Mass'. 'Only you have to come to the church,' he says. So, I...I said 'well I'll come and I'll sit at the back then,' and I didn't really want to go to the Mass. I said, 'okay, I'll come and I'll sit in the back,' and he said, 'well can I introduce you?' and I said, 'no, you cannot'. I said, 'I will sneak in the back'. And I couldn't believe it when I get [sic] there, this *bloody* priest introduced me to the whole church and I'm trying to get under the thing like this. *(Laughs)*

[Sound of interviewee hiding under table] *Oh my God*, and I said to him, 'never again,' even after when we came out and I said, 'can you sign the damn, bloody document now please for me,' 'cause it's all I wanted! And I...I remember saying to Sr Rita, 'don't ever ask me to get Mass said for *anyone* again, I don't care how much dead they are!'

KOD *Heh!*

AM Because I had to go through that.

KOD *So you're friends with Sr Rita from the Good Shepherds?*

AM Oh yeah, and then I had a row with her for years and I didn't talk to her, yeah. Sr Rita was one of the younger nuns when I was in the Good Shepherds.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And she was really...bubbly, compared to the others, yeah?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Hmm. I've never lied about anything. She knows all about the whole W___ thing! *(Laughs)*

KOD *And what is the whole W___ thing? Tell us about that.*

AM 'Cause no, we can't say that because they'd work out who I am.

KOD *Yeah, do you want to keep that off the record too?*

AM Oh no, yeah, yeah.

KOD *Hang on.*

[Interview paused 01:16:12]

[Interview resumes 01:16:13]¹⁷

AM Now this is wee W_____.

KOD *No, I think it is better to have you read it out.*¹⁸

AM No *please*...

KOD *Okay, sure.*

AM ...*please, please*. I actually made them all...what I'm going to do though...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I've decided is...on this one [webpage] I'm going to put the song from Joni Mitchell in it.

KOD *Oh lovely.*

AM So what I can do is go on YouTube and get that...

KOD *Uh huh...*

AM ...and I can...

KOD ...*and make that a link.*

AM No not a link, I will actually...I'm actually trying to...I would make it...is it 'Magdalene' isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

[Interviewee looks up Joni Mitchell song on YouTube]

¹⁷ After a discussion the interviewee decided to speak about her experience as a dominatrix

¹⁸ See page 113

AM I don't...sometimes I don't know how to...look I've been ch...checking...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...all these things out. 'Magdalene, YouTube'. [Google search] Told you that I bullshitted my way into everything...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...don't even know how I even know how to spell to be quite honest with you.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Now I put Joni...I don't even know what this is, oh look, that is Joni Mitchell.

KOD *Joni Mitchell singing Magdalene.*

[Sound of Joni Mitchell video in background]

KOD *Hmm.*

AM I want the...there used to be one that was...

KOD *That's her singing...*

AM ...my thing is...yeah, I know but my...sometimes my machine is...

KOD *There it goes.*

AM ...really...I know but look what's happening, I have to stop, this does this every now and again look...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...'cause it's a really old machine. So I have to wait until that stops doing this...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...freezy thing that it's doing (*pause*) okay it stopped now. There used to have...be one which showed you the Magdalene Laundries as she was singing it. Is that it there?

KOD *Yeah it's the Magdalene grave in...*

AM No but there used to be one that...

KOD *...High Park.*

AM ...showed you the Good Shepherds...

KOD *That's an old...*

AM Is that an old one where she's singing it? I think I prefer it to that...her singing...standing on stage...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...what do you think...which...that one?

KOD *This is definitely...*

AM This one?

KOD *...this is a photograph of the High Park graves.*

[Sound of YouTube advertisement]

AM Don't want all that.

KOD *It's an ad.*

AM Yeah. [Inaudible] That's a long ad isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh, it's okay, it's nearly done. There you go.*

[Joni Mitchell song begins to play on YouTube and continues in background]

AM Now what I can do...this is Twitter as you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM That's me there – what is it, 7,494 followers.

KOD *Wow!*

AM So I'm worth following if you want something pumped.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Now I can pump this...I think they'd pay more attention...

KOD *If it was Joni? [Video of Joni Mitchell singing on stage as opposed to video of song showing images of graves]*

AM ...yeah.

KOD *Yeah, I think so too.*

AM No disrespect but I think...

KOD *I think so too.*

AM ...they'd get bored with that.

KOD *Yeah, I think so. Doesn't look...*

AM So I think...is that her there?

KOD *Yeah, that's Joni singing.*

AM Or in a concert or something you know.

[New video begins to play in background]

KOD *There we go, that looks great.*

[On video Joni Mitchell explains her song about the Magdalene Laundries, video continues to play in background]

AM Now then, all I have to do here...'cause this is my site wee W____, well I'm just the admin here now...but as such...but it is...and then they...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...all do their...where do you think I should put it, down there? *(Pause)* I think I can embed it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I don't want it as a link, I want to embed it. I know how to do this, this is a different way I'm going to kind of...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...just save this a minute, forgive me a minute while I do this. Excuse these women 'cause they do do...wee W____.

KOD *No that's okay.*

AM Right, I can share a video (*pause*) is it vanilla? [Video of women on website] I guess it is. I'm hoping they're going to let me embed this...yes! Good, good, good. So this is where I'm going to embed that into this, I just have to take that and go back into that. (*Pause*) This is another dominatrix doing...you see...this how...they look like teachers.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Wonder do the Magdalenes [nuns] know how they...this one ended up! (*Laughs*)

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Now, I think I can put her [Joni Mitchell video] here.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM What shall I say, 'see Jo...' I g...I want to make a reference to it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...so if I put that there even though that's the embedded code...

(*Pause*)

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM How do you spell her name again?

KOD *J-o-n-i M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.*

AM There's not an 'e'?

KOD *No.*

[Interviewee continues to type]

AM Magdalene, I could never spell it right but anyway. Have I spelled it right?

KOD *Yeah, perfect.*

AM Right, so if I do that...she comes in like that [embedded on screen] rather than a link.

KOD *Lovely. Uh huh.*

AM So then. [Joni Mitchell begins to sing] Good song isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And then I'll tell my followers...especially ones that have got more followers than me.

KOD *Heh!*

AM Has he got more than me, no he's got less than me, but I know he's a Joni Mitchell fan...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...and I know so is...he...all these people that are leaving me messages here...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and these are direct messages and these are like private messages and these are tweety, Twitter messages...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...belong to the website.

KOD *Brilliant.*

AM But a lot of them are...it's global so it's America, everywhere.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And him and his friend, I know her name, Tanya [pseudonym]. [Sound of interviewee typing] I think there's a Magdalene Laundry thing here, isn't there? Would that be it?

KOD *I don't know.*

AM No...

KOD *No.*

AM ...that's not it.

KOD *Justice is it, under JFM [Justice for Magdalenes], Justice...no...*

AM No, I'm not...they can't...they're not following me so I won't have it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...it's only people that are following. Magda...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Think how bad the nuns were to actually *dare* come out and call people prostitutes?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'd say I've got the right one there. *(Pause)* It goes over.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'll just...shrink it.

KOD *Heh!*

AM 'Cause you know you can shorten that on Twitter, you don't have to have just 148 characters.

KOD *No? Uh huh.*

AM Now, let's find her on Twitter...on YouTube again...s...so then if anyone wants to see the YouTube it's still there...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...under Joni Mitchell isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *(Pause)* And then you can read why I became Miss W_____.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'll just say, 'roll up ladies'. *(Pause)* Who do y...who want...who needs support, what's the name of your other friend that needs support?

KOD *Justice for Magdalenes?*

AM But I've got no site for them...I wonder is Joni Mitchell on Twitter...

KOD *I don't know.*

AM ...I'm going to find it out if she is.

[Interviewee looks up Joni Mitchell on Twitter and shows it to interviewer]

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Is that her?

KOD *Yeah.*

(Pause)

AM *(Laughs)* I'll talk to her as if I know her forever.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM What do you want to say?

KOD *Just say...*

AM Justice for Magdalenes...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...are grateful...

KOD *Yeah, just...no apostrophe there...*

AM ...need you to...no...

KOD *...just...*

AM ...there...

KOD *...love your song.*

[Interviewee continues to type]

AM And need your sponsorship?

[Video ends]

KOD *No, just say, 'and thank you'.*

AM Okay I may as well plug this then...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...as well.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM So that she sees it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and then twelve, so if I go...I might get rid of the twelve and not have this...this, and then shrink. *(Pause)* See...clever me...

KOD *Heh!*

AM ...how those nuns think I wouldn't amount to anything.

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM Hmm? I'm sure they'll answer...she won't, let's face it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM They all quite like the blogs...so there you go, do you want to read that?

KOD *Okay. So...*

AM While I...

KOD *...reading the blog into the record.*

AM You know, if you want to use...you've more than welcome to take that if you want to read it, or...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...you just have to scroll, you know how to scroll down.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'm going to go out so I'm not blowing smoke into you, to have a cigarette...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...if you want to...yeah.

[Interviewer begins to read from interviewee's blog]

KOD *'Hello all...*

AM If you...use...

KOD *...I've spent the last four weeks dealing with my past. I felt very vulnerable in this time as I had to be myself and not Miss W___, hence my absence. But I want to share with you why I became Miss W___, listening to Joni Mitchell singing about the Magdalene Laundries. I was taken into an industrial school in Waterford Ireland at the age of a year, the same place my mother and her four sisters were brought up in. The nuns in the reports I have seen claim I was dumped in a railway station in England. That has yet to be proved. I spent 12 years in Waterford Ireland and in the last four weeks I discovered the nuns took me out of school because they claimed I had no interest in it. They then moved me to a Magdalene Laundry called High Park Convent, An Grianán Training Centre they called it. We had to work in the*

laundry there for no money. The nuns were cruel mentally, physically and emotionally. I also discovered that they put me on an antidepressant tablet at the age of thirteen, branding me with mild retardation and dull normalcy. But I alt...also discovered why they did this as I was sent the invoices they sent to the Health Board which showed how much they were claiming to keep me this way. They said I would amount to nothing. I never got to know my family much due to us all being in industrial schools. I found it really hard in life having no one but recently I've s...I've started to get to know some of them, but I've missed out on so much. I found it extremely difficult to make friends and still do. So the small amount of money the Redress Board gave me no choice but to take has not made up for any of this. The nuns were raking in the money whilst we worked in their laundries. They used to make us beg for money on the streets, claiming it was charity for...with tins in Dublin. We never saw the charity this money went to. They paraded us to trainee priests to dance with them at the dances they had. Yet when I went to the Redress [Board] all they appeared to be interested in was why I became a dominatrix. My mother's body was found in a river in Ireland in 1981. Again, no investigation was held into her death. And I am sure it was because she was one of the industrial rejects, as we all were in those places. So I've decided to get that case opened up too. The reason I became Miss W___ was because I could not handle the world being me. I knew that no one could hurt Miss W___, so for years I could forget what happened to me in my childhood. The Irish Government then set up a Redress Board to pay compensation to the victims. But the Redress Board were also bullies. The nuns did not have to go to these hearings, yet they were allowed to deny the charges in statements. Neither did the...the legal team go to the meetings...their legal team go to the meetings, which means the Redress Board were clearly on their side. They paid me [amount removed] Euro for all those years and then said I had to sign something to say I would not discuss what went on there, again trying to silence us. I took the money in 2005 as I was told there was nowhere else to go for compensation. The g...Redress Board also claimed I would amount to nothing and was suffering mild retardation etc. So I signed the document and told them I would speak out one day. I'm now claiming compensation for being made to work in the Magdalene Laundries for no pay, hence me being forced to read the letters the nuns sent to each other about me and finding the invoices the Health Board paid to the nuns. Sixteen members of my family went through these industrial schools, I was the last and the youngest. I wanted to share with you what I've been doing the last four weeks and why it was really difficult for me as then I had to become the child that was in those places, the child that was abused, the child that was scared. Being Miss W___ meant that I could be someone else who was never abused and who no one would abuse. I also think the nuns were paid for vaccine trials

on us as I have five vaccine marks on my arm and I am also investigating this. The Redress Board said if I spoke out I could end up in prison. But I have now decided to speak out as my other me, the real me, needs to heal and not hide behind Miss W___ anymore. The Redress Board treated us in the face...in this farce of a compensation court, as the accused rather than the victims. Their expenses amounted to more than what they offered the victims. I will not be silenced anymore. So maybe the handcuffs will end up on me after speaking out, slaves.

AM Heh!

KOD *Thank you for your patience and for reading this, I've lots more to add but that will come later.'*
And then, 'see this report and link'. Okay so...

AM Is that okay?

KOD *...excellent.*

AM Does that explain...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...kind of...all you needed from...to know about that?

KOD *Yeah, I mean, I think we'll use...*

AM This is the side of wee W___ and it's basically...I run it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...as Miss W___ admin...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they all join and...

KOD *So people join...*

AM ...they have their little slaves on there...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And...

KOD *So all these female dominatrixes join your site...*

AM Yeah.

KOD *...and they put up their ads.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *Okay.*

AM They have a store.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM We don't make any money from when they do live sessions 'cause that would make me a pimp and I'm not a pimp.

KOD *Okay.*

AM But we have a store.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM They sell their stuff on the store. Some of them...can you believe it that some – I don't know if I'm allowed say this thing...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...because this is Irish but I'll go along – they will even...her stockings, they'd be used, worn, torn and she'll sell them for a tenner...

KOD *Wow.*

AM ...and these fools will buy them – men, and they'll wear them. And so it could be...Lord Chancellor of the Exchequer could be wearing her stockings while he's our judge...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...'cause every one of these peop...m...people that stand on their hier...hierarchy of hypocrites...and the good thing about being a dominatrix is you can actually bring...see the hypocrites in life, if you get my meaning.

KOD *I do, so...*

AM So what we do is we take 36 per cent of what they sell...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...in the store like on eBay.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But we do nothing...we don't take any money from...

KOD *For any of their live videos or...*

AM N...oh videos, if they sell them in the store we take money from them.

KOD *Sure.*

AM But if they meet the guys...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and they do live whipping sessions that's nothing to do with us.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM All we do is we supply...we create the site, if the guy joins...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...first thing I say to him, 'you can only join here if you're capable of paying these woman, if you are a poor person I will know within a week and you'll be gone.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Go and find yourself a site that caters for poor people,' because in the end of the day these women are not interested in talking to them for nothing.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM They won't even say...like, one guy said once jokingly he said, 'M...' even to me, 'Mis...Mistress can I say...' even though I'm admin on there and... 'Miss W___ may I say hello to you,' and jokingly I said, 'not for free you can't'. 'Well how much?' I said, '400, 400 quid for you to say hello to me'. I couldn't believe it, that he actually went through the PayPal, paid his 400 quid, and he says, 'hello,' I said, 'time's up,' just to see how far I can push it, and the problem is – well not a problem – once you push it that far it makes you want to go further and say, 'okay now I'm going to charge you for every letter you type to me'. But they w...so you say to these [men], 'if you join the site these women do not want...they're not here to talk to you for small talk, they don't want to know about your vanilla life, they don't want to know about your wife or your problems or your this or your that. All they want to know first of all is can you afford their time and can you go into their store, and all we want to know is what use are you to this site

because if you can't buy something in their store you are of no use to me'. And it's not that I'm mean or anything but...

KOD *So you don't want anybody just hanging out on the site?*

AM Watching their free videos for free, no.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because they go off and Twitter...they can tweet...Twitter that and get it for free can't they?

KOD *And do you charge them to register onto the site?*

AM No, that's why...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I do it that way, they can come on for free...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but unless they're going to be of some use to the women...and if I say to the women every now and again, I'll look at the list of slaves 'cause I put them all on this list and...everyone to me is 'slave' I don't...they don't have names, 'cause even like when you get the famous ones that will try and think that you're going to *care* that they're famous you know, I mean [name of actress removed] tried to have an argument with me on Twitter, so I pretended I didn't...never even heard of her 'cause I thought, 'I'm not even going to entertain you thinking that just because you're famous,' so we...I...we say to them, 'everybody that comes on to our site, it doesn't matter...status...whatever status you are in your vanilla li...life, you leave in your vanilla life, when you come to us you are "slave" you don't have a name other...' basically similar to the Magdalene Laundries! (*Laughs*) I was thinking of giving them the apostle names just to do that, just for amusement, for my own sake. But as I say they are slave, slave, slave, slave.

KOD *And is it only men who are slaves or are there also women who want to be slaves?*

AM Very rare women, very and very...and women, if they...they call them submissives, and the women that do become submissives actually charge the men to be their submissive! *(Laughs)*
So...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...no it's men, men, men. And it's never your average milkman. I mean they might think they're in...they have a fetish because they think it's really good on Twitter to follow somebody like me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I only follow about a thousand and I don't know, I never asked them people to follow me anyway...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and I say to them...'cause you see the problem that I have when I go on Twitter...to me I'm in my own...on my own so when I'm typing on Twitter I forget that these people are reading.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause the way I look at it, if I don't read their rubbish, then it doesn't even *dawn* on me that they might possibly read mine.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I type as I feel, I type as I talk, I type as I think, you know! *(Laughs)* I might put, 'soapbox day today,' and blah blah blah if I see something on the news that annoys me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Or...you know about dogs...or cruelty to dogs or...I will type s...stuff about that. And then they will follow...I'm sure it's because of the [dominatrix] name that they follow maybe, I'm not really...or maybe for what I type, I'm not sure why they follow me.

KOD *And when did you start this website?*

AM *(Coughs)* About two years ago.

KOD *About two years ago.*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *And how did you get the idea?*

AM Before that I was Miss W___ on a website...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...so...before that. I got the idea of the W___ bit was...when I used to work in accountancy things and agencies – I would never work for a company because I never wanted a company to tie me down or tell me...I have this thing, it must be the nuns again...you can tape away if you want...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but if someone says to me to come into work at 9 o'clock I immediately think, 'how dare you tell me when to!' *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM I can't help it! So I'll say, 'excuse me actually no, I'll start at 10 and if you don't like that I don't work for you, simple as that'. If they say, 'come in at ten,' I'll say, 'excuse me I'll start at 9'. It's just something when people tell me what to do, I don't know why. I blame the nuns on that. So I decided I'd work for agencies rather than companies, whereas with an agency if I woke up one

morning and I didn't feel like going I just phone the agency up and say, 'I'm not going in today,' and they have to explain it to the company...whether or n...I go back to the company or not, that's another thing. But I don't care.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I don't have the guilt of standing there in front of a boss and saying, 'oh d...' you know...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...type of thing and so whenever I used to work in vanilla I would work for agencies. But every agency I went...job I went into, I found that I was capable of taking over the boss, and that made me [have a] lack of respect for him...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and I started off then with...somebody came up with the phone cha...or no...when I used be phoning up for say somebody owed him money a couple of times, quite a few times, people would ask me have I ever thought about being a dominatrix on a phone! Because if somebody...like I only ever worked for companies that owed money, not individuals because I find that's too...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...vulnerable people then are involved aren't they. But when it came to companies I always had a way if somebody owed...even if the invoice was ten years old I would get that money no matter what. Even...you know...and I knew I had the knack of...when they started saying that someone else started saying about phone chats so I started of first of all with doing fetish phone chats. They weren't allowed to, excuse my expression, come or anything, 'cause that's not the rule of dominatrix, those men are not allowed to actually squirt their load! They have to...these women will not undress for them. These men, they can un...they'll whip them, they'll kick them, they'll spit on them, they'll treat them like a...lock them up in a cage. I can show you some videos that might hor...do you want to see some video...horrify you, maybe not. But they won't let them actually shoot their load like a prostitute would...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...because to them, those men are there to amuse the women and the women enjoy that. The men are not there for their own sexual gratification, even though deep down they actually are.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But w...you find when you're a dominatrix that, if you...the more belittling you are to that person the more that you become higher to him. And then when you figure out that they're [sic] actually got...they're running major companies in their vanilla lives, the psychology of it becomes interesting. And I think that's what made me stay in it. But then because I wanted to work from home I started this [website] but I didn't want to...I didn't want to see the slaves myself anymore, I did used to but I didn't want to do it anymore. So I thought by running this site, letting them all join, advertising their stuff, their whatever. Making sure...which I've got at the bottom that live sessions have got *nothing* to do with us, we are not pimps we make *no* money from them and so working out on eBay and everyone else they can sell stuff and they take 30 per cent or 10 per cent or whatever. But when you're an adult site it's very very hard to get a mer...bank...a merchant banker...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and the ones...as soon as I say for the...we got [name of company removed] I don't know if you ever heard of them, they're quite worldwide, global. Now if I was selling tea bags for instance, or sweets, [name of company removed] would only be charging me 3 per cent and I would be going to maybe PayPal and all the rest of them. But because it's an adult site it's quite...they've upped it to 15 per cent. And so, because they charge me 15 per cent I have to charge them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...36 per cent, because what I have to do then is...15 per cent of my 36 has to go to [name of company removed] 6 per cent has to go to the people that actually pay out the girls for what they...what they've sold...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...well that will only leave me with the rest to try and get...I have technical and...so I'm not making hardly mak...any...hardly any money. So in the end I decided I needed an investor who would pay me a wage...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and that he would put the money into it. So that...and that's...so I get paid a wage. But the only I've...the investor I found was a slave 'cause I thought, 'if I find a slave who will do exactly what I say without any questions,' 'cause he's a slave, that's what his role in life is. He may go home to his vanilla li...wife and act all vanilla but when...for some reason it's very...it's really weird, you could get the most intelligent man who runs the biggest o companies yet he'll come in front of someone like me or Miss...you know, any of them [other dominatrixes]...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and he becomes the most fumbling, stupid idiot in front of us. He has no brain, no sense, no nothing. And you just can't believe that this is the man that can be that on one hand...yeah, when he becomes this slavey person, a submissive, in front of us, he becomes this fumbling dickhead.

KOD *And what is the psychology? Why...why does that happen?*

AM Well I...I w...I've asked a few of them, 'why are you such a fool?' (*Laughs*) You know!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Why are you like this? 'Cause I would never get it together with one of you'. (*Coughs*) And they say that because in their vanilla life they might have hundred, two hundred, three hundred staff and they're, 'yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir'. But they know that deep down inside that none of those people are genuine to them and they know that the only reason that they're getting that is because they're be boss. Whereas then they suddenly become...and no one will argue back

with them as such and no one will...and so it must after a while become boring I would say. It's like...for instance look at our side, I always look upon this...but if you're in the adult industry as a job and I think that...I've spoken to prostitutes and they've said the same thing, people don't really realise, that's not...we are not what we do for a living, I always say this, we are not what we do for a living. But you will find the people in the adult industry are far more innocent than the ones that are not, because when we're not working all I want to do is play Zelda [computer game] and be with my grandchildren. I wouldn't even want to go out with a guy, I wouldn't even want to see a guy, I wouldn't even want to...no one to talk anything sexual with me 'cause I have had it, I don't even want to touch that machine.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Yet the people that work in the vanilla jobs, *aching, desperate* to go into the whole...not all of them but you...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know, so it's like...to us we are far more innocent than the vanillas even though it doesn't look like we are.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Does that make sense to you?

KOD *Yeah. And so...*

AM And prostitutes are the same thing because really deep down they're doing this for money, but when it comes to stop work for a prostitute they don't even want to touch the guy. They don't want to touch...most of them don't want to touch their boyfriends, because they want nothing to do with sex if they're not working.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And so this is why and you...when you start learning that side of it you find the psychology side of it is...it's quite interesting isn't it?

KOD *Yeah. So it's because they're getting a lot of subservient people obeying their orders and licking up to them in their vanilla life...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...they want to do that kind of...*

AM They want someone that will...

KOD *...boss them.*

AM ...yeah, that is their release. So some of them...

KOD *You think that they're released from the...*

AM ...you have these different fetishes...

KOD *...from the fact that they're kind of trapped in a totally ungenune...*

AM Yeah...

KOD *...or false ...*

AM ...yeah, yeah.

KOD *...sets of relationships.*

AM Hmm. Because they go to work every day, it's...it's like...even their wife might be like...like Arnold... [Pseudonym]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...wifey won't even let him like use the phone, it's quite funny quite hilarious and now...he was a top solicitor, he is retired now. But now he'll be in this coal shed, (*whispered*) 'hello, hello,' and he saying, 'I'm just doing the washing and...sh sh sh sh sh,' you know. He was in Poland for...and he continuously texts you saying, 'I miss talking to you,' or...'cause he knows that he ain't going to get...he's not going to get any bullshit from me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'm not going to be doing any fake kind of crap to him. I couldn't care less if it was Jesus Christ out there on that Twitter. He gives me anything I'll give him crap back. Whereas vanillas have a tendency...if a star come...follows them or talks to them, to be overwhelmed by it. But nothing overwhelms me other than vulnerability, people that are innocent, people that are sweet. Stars and all this...I'd have no...makes no difference who those people are to me, if they come my way and come to my site they're slaves. I have no...couldn't care less who they are in their status life or in their vanilla life or...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...what their status was. Whereas vanillas t...have a tendency to be overwhelmed by famous people don't they?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM You see I don't. Maybe that's why...and I deny that it does...your average dominatrix they look upon this as the slave they don't even want to know their name and nine times out of ten they probably either wearing a mask themselves or put a mask on them they don't want to care they will never, ever, ever divulge who they are and it's not...because they could make money out of them, it's the fact they will never give that slave the pleasure of thinking he is somebody because if they did that that person would not be the slave anymore, he would become higher than her so they have to treat every single one of them as a nothing. Most of them want it as nothing anyway. You watch these videos, there's...and you'll see...

KOD *And how did you get into this? You started with the...in the accountancy...*

AM I started in the...oh no, I started in accountancy and I used...and I got bored with... [inaudible]

KOD *...and then you went on to...on to fetish, the...*

AM I worked in...

KOD *...phone lines.*

AM Hmm.

KOD *And did anybody train you in...*

AM No.

KOD *...into being...you did...so did it come naturally?*

AM The nuns did! *(Laughs)*

KOD *The nuns did. I was going to ask that. So how do you think does it relates to your time in the industrial schools, in the Magdalene, or does it?*

AM *(Pause)* I think the hard...you know the hard nuns, I think you can sometimes think of how they would be and how there was no expression with them and how they had no feeling whatsoever. I think when you become that person and if that...they want that, then you can become...you can look upon them...or it might e...be even bits of loads of them, but you can...if you, you can become that person knowing that you always have Angelina to go back to.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I think if you were a hard person in your vanilla life I don't think you could be a dominatrix. Because you can't be soft as a dominatrix and I don't think you could do it 24/7.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I believe...this is why I know, and from working with them for so long, that the women that are dominatrix are the ones that are quite kind and very compassionate and understanding because they wouldn't be able to be this hard bitch 24/7.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So if you have something evil like a nun or a...you know that you get some evil people that are not very nice...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...I don't think they could become that. I became it as I said, because of...I needed...I...I needed this other person to fight organisations.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I thought, see...even though I don't go into the organisations as Miss W____, they still think I'm Angelina Mayfield.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But in *my* head I'm not...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and when I feel that I can't...if I feel that they are getting the better of me and making me vulnerable, for a while I will just sit and think about this and maybe I might even have a panic fit. And I don't know how it happens or even, some days like, I might just sit and cry for two days and then suddenly this person just comes out and when she comes out she just fights like...but I do it in such an intelligent way rather than in an aggressive way. And then when I'm fighting organisations I am fighting always in my head, the nuns. Bridge Housing Association [pseudonym] who is the people who are my housing people, they are the nuns. I have a file this size when I got [sic] against them. When their gas man came and because I was fighting them

and I...because something to do with...loads of things and so the gas manager came to look at my gas and I had a pair of dominatrix shoes on my thing as an ornament, I'll show you them in a minute. And he had the audacity...but I was so happy he did it because I thought, 'you sucker I am so the wrong person you took on to sexually harass'. He says, 'I don't suppose you'd wear,' big fucking fat man he was as well, 'you'd wear them for me,' and I thought, 'God, thank...thank you for giving me this dickhead, now I've got them'. So I...what is it they call...they call entrapment, I let him talk, didn't wear them for him, and I let him tell me that he was going around all these vulnerable people who needed housing and that if they were nice to him he'd be really nice to them, and I thought, (*whispered*) 'you sucker, you've so got the wrong person here'. So I said, 'I tell you what we'll do, write down your email address there,' 'cause I wanted his hand writing, I said, 'and we'll chat about this further,' (*laughs*) and I let him drop himself *right* in it and then I had Bridge Housing Association. And I said...and I'll show you the man now on the thingy [interviewee gets up to retrieve file] and so I knew that if I couldn't fight them on one thing...so I told them, 'this time round I'm going to be bringing up all the historic stuff about what...the way you are,' this is my file here on Bridge Housing Association.

KOD *Wow!*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *Okay, about...*

[Interviewee leafing through papers]

AM I had to organise it all. Then they had to pay me compensation of £3,000 for one thing and...'cause I fought them – without a solicitor and I made them take out...get my boiler, I made them put a combi-boiler in for nothing, I made them do my flat, I made them paint my flat, I made them clean my carpets and I said, 'carry on,' I said, 'each time you carry on I'll be making you,' but that again was Miss W___ making them do these things. So then what happened was this chap here as I'll show you here, *oh*, when he did that, they then turned around and they said to me...and I knew from when that man...you know I was telling you that man sent me on these courses...this guy sent me on these courses, yeah...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...and so I learned from these courses that he sent me on that if you write letters to companies or anyone, if you put down 'without prejudice' on the letter, that letter can't be taken into a court of law, well Bridge Housing Association didn't seem to know...understand that, so...in the end I was actually feeling sorry for him, telling him do it, I said, 'I will j...I will eat you alive,' I said, 'you,' I said, 'I wouldn't want to go against me when I start,' I said, 'so you really wouldn't want to go against me, I said, 'because I wouldn't want to go against me,' but they still didn't do it. Then they told me that...they first of all denied the gas man did this, and then they told me they sacked the gas man. Well, two months later I see this...he's a gas *manager* now, I see this gas manager in their magazine, you can imagine what I thought after them writing to me. There he is – I kept it. I then made them write to say they were lying...they...I said, 'you have to now write to say you lied to me about sacking him'. I said, 'how *dare* you'. I said, 'and you're gon...how stupid you're going to be looking,' 'cause I was...I was dealing with the *head* of housing not just anyone and he's a gas manager. So then they had to write to say, 'we...sorry to say we...we thought we'd sacked him but we realise that he hasn't been sacked'. So I thought, 'you're even making yourself look worse for this'. So now because they've screwed with me again I've told them yest...on Friday I'm bringing up every historic thing that I've got...of my *huge* file! (*Laughs*) So you see Miss W____...but as Angelina I could sit here and cry and not do anything.

KOD *And when did you find this alter ego, as you've called her, Miss W____?*

AM When I...my husband started...my divorce...he...the divorce was really nasty. I told you, in the divorce when he tried to take my children and this...and I sat there and I said...and he put me through so much hell y...I...you have no idea the hell that man put me through, and because he put me through so much hell...but because I was...I...ev...he...and what was so sad was he used to smoke cannabis with me, yet he thought he could take my children and say I was a bad mother because every now and again we smoked cannabis. I don't drink, he's a drinker, I don't take drugs, 'cause I don't regard cannabis as drugs. And you know, as far as I was concerned if that was going to chill me out, just to chill out every now and again, and so when I discovered that time in court and he said that and the judge said to me, 'can you explain to me about artificial stimulants,' I think it must have been that moment I became it [Miss W____] and I thought, 'oh Jesus you've got to get me out of this'. And somebody got up, but I r...I remember standing up and the stuff coming out saying about th...you know...

KOD *What did you say? Tell us.*

AM *(Laughs)* I said that the artificial 'stimuli' as I call it because I find that a funnier name I said, 'the thing is your honour, I used to collect vibrators and dildoes,' and I said, 'and he knew... 'cause he did, 'cause,' I said, 'when I met him he was...he knew I was collecting them, I have about 150,' I went, 'yellow, 10 inches,' and I said, 'do you want to know anymore,' I said, 'yellow, blue,' I was naming all the colours, I said, 'and I artificially stimulate myself with them but I never thought that I was a...I was breaking the law'. '*Oh no, no, no*, of course not!' And I said, 'anyway,' so the s...I said, 'do you want me,' I said, 'I tell you what, when we come to court tomorrow I can bring you in some'. Of course he didn't want to know *anymore* and the court was laughing about it and my husband was trying to say, 'that's not what...' but he did not want me to be going on, he didn't...he wanted to g...move on, '*move on, move on*,' from that. And that's what I told them there. And then he sacked a solicitor for laughing at him, but he...you know what was the funny thing his solicitor came over to me afterwards and shook my hand and she said, 'you really have amused me'. I said, 'well I've amused myself'. So then my solicitor said, 'where does that come from,' I said, 'I have no idea where that came from'. And even I felt on the way home, I of...'*where did that come from, who is that person*,' you know. And then I started to sor...you know, gradually...becoming this other person, and I realised that as this other person people couldn't bully me anymore. Don't get me wrong, as Angelina they can, but as this other person they can't. Sometimes I can't always go into her though. Like if I...my children play up on me I can never use her against them, so they are capable of hurting me badly you know, my children. But when it comes to organisations that I think are unfair like Bridge Housing Association, the housing association, or like this month I said to them, 'you can fuck off if you think you're getting any rent from me,' because I tell you what happened, I was reporting my neighbour who's been beating his wife up and who's got a pit-bull dog. 'Under no circumstances,' I told them, 'under no circumstances, because he's so dangerous, must you name me'. Put it...and I also reported them to the governing body of Bridge Housing Association who is the housing, and Bridge Housing Association decided that because they've hated me because of the past, that they would tell that couple that s...a few of us reported them, but I went one further, after me specifically telling them not to name me. So now I've told them, I've gone to them and I've told them that I will be seeking *obscene* damages this time from them for putting me into immediate danger and because of this lesson every Irish agency, England and Ireland this week are going to be bombarding me, so I got every Irish agency to call them up, every counsellor I've ever been [to] call them up, we've been bombarding them

because they have put me in this danger, 'what are you going to do about it?' So I told them I will be...I will not be with you...your company for very long but I will not be moving either until I go for obscene damages for what you've done to me. So right now I'm fighting Bridge Housing Association again, so the next time you see me there'll be another one of them.

KOD *Another folder of...*

AM So I said, 'and this month you're not going to get a penny of rent from me because I'm going to be using it to y...pay for a solicitor to go against you. So go *suck* on that'. And then after...sometimes after a while I just sit and think, 'I can't take it'. They've cut my satellite, they've cut my phone over this couple, you know. And then sh...he tried to kick my door in. But now...he's now saying he's scared of me because I have this...this leg spreaders from the slaves, the next time he c...he didn't...I was standing there holding this damned thing! (*Laughs*)

KOD *A leg spreader?*

AM Yeah, telling the police I was going to whack him with it if he came near me. I said to the police, 'what force can I use if he comes near me,' and they said you're allowed to use force if someone tries to break into your home. But they've kind of stayed away from me now because I th...they think I'm some sort of mad Irishwoman. But when you're on...you have to *become* these people to defend yourself, it's not that you want to, because I want to live a peaceful sweet life but nobody lets me, you know?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM And so that's why I become this person.

KOD *And how did you come into meeting other female dominatrixes?*

AM I joined Twitter, and because I had become Miss W___ years ago anyway...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...we had...you know, I had joined various other sites and when you join various different sites and you s...get used to the same names...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...that are joining the sites and they get used to you and stuff like that, and so you become...you either make it or break it, I...they...they either respect you or they don't, you know, and for some reason they respect me 'cause they know I take no crap from the slaves, I won't allow the slaves to sit there and waste their time...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...whereas other sites won't even get involved in that, they go onto another site and the other site will just let the slave torment them for their free time and I will just...won't allow that, I'll just delete the slave...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and I will say on Twitter, 'if you've got no money do not join our site, these girls are not interested in you, 'cause they are there to make money,' you know. And you think, 'well okay if you say that up front it's not the fact that you're trying to deceive them'. The girls are not there to make small talk with these per...people. The girls don't give a damn about their wives or their children or their lives. They're there to make money from them you know, and that's how t...I...I work it.

KOD *And...and you did female dominatrix like in vanilla life, in real life or...*

AM Well no I...well I don't know...you can't do that in real life really can you...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...you mean with my husband or something?

KOD *No, you...you never actually...it's always been virtual...*

AM Oh no, no, I've done real...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...yeah. I've got tools to show you...

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM ...if you want to see, I've got tools! *(Laughs)* I've got...yeah, I've done real [interviewee moves away from recorder] but I found it...*oh* tedious I used to be looking at the clock thinking, '*oh God, boring,*' 'cause they're dreadfully boring company you know, [interviewee moves to other room, speaking from a distance] put it in, can you imagine being around someone continuously saying, 'yes mistress, no miss, three bags full mistress'. How much of that do you think you can handle? Do you know what I mean?

KOD *So it's...you're saying it's desperately tedious, it's desperately boring.*

AM I find it desperately boring.

KOD *'Cause they're saying, 'yes Miss, no Miss, three bags full Miss'.*

[Interviewee returns with items from when she worked as a dominatrix]

KOD *Okay, that's a really bejewelled whip.*

AM That's the way you have to go, and you go, like this *(cracks whip)* '*down slave!*' Dreadfully boring, me sitting there going...and if they...I used to find...this is a leg spreader, you can attach chains to it.

KOD *Okay.*

AM But...yeah.

KOD *It's gold, yeah.*

AM And I have loads of different things in there. Yeah because what's happening is you're with this chap and he say books three hours I just think, 'no way would I let them book three hours...be stuck with that boring guy for three hours'. How much of that whipping can you do b...s...b...before you bore yourself to death? [Interviewee returns to recording device] And all I say...if they actually had a...this is what I say to you, they may think that they're interesting men in their vanilla life but when they come in front of a domina[trix] they're the most boring fumbling idiots. 'Yes, Miss, no Miss,' and you...I used to think, '*oh God!*' And I used to have my thing and I used to go...*oh*...and in the end, you know what I'd say to them, 'okay you know what I'm going to do slave, I'm going to charge you for boring me,' and they'd go, 'sorry Miss,' and they'd actually pay, and you think, '*oh God please stop boring me!*' And I said, 'don't you have a n...don't you have a personality?' 'Yes Mistress.' You're waiting for more and you think...just think, 'I can't handle this,' and that's why I thought...the reason I got out because they...three hours would become ten hours when you're with someone that's agreeing, and then you understood why that guy who has come to you (*laughs*) was bored from other people in *his* life so...and that's why I *never* get with them as a relationship...*boring*, because then they would want that side of the relationship you know, so you could then understand why the vanilla guy was going the other way. But I would never go with the dominatrix man either 'cause there's no way no one would get their hands bloody whipping me and that's for sure, after...you know. But, you just want someone with a personality that is going to say more than 'yes Miss, no Miss, thank you Miss, yes Mistress, okay Mistress,' and you just think, (*whispered*) '*I'll slap your face if you say that line again*'. And that one hour, as I said to you, suddenly becomes three hours and even when you say to them, 'you know something Slave, you're actually really boring me now?' 'Sorry Mistress.' *God!* Then some...sometimes you just say, 'go in the corner I'm going out to have a joint because until you learn not to bore me,' (*laughs*) I would go like this, 'until you learn not to bore me, go in the corner – don't talk!' Some of them [dominatrices] would lock them up in cages and then leave them there, go out of their flat, leave them locked up in a cage and come back when the hour was up (*laughs*) when the three hours are up. So it is extremely boring, and if you see the videos...you pick a video that you want to watch and I'm telling you, I'm not joking...some of them are a bit more kind of sexual as such. She's using a strap-on on him and even that's boring, you just think, '*oh you're so boring!*' This Cheryl Grant, [pseudonym] she's quite funny. But I find that Mistress Stephanie [pseudonym] is the best, this is her there. I find that her videos are the best because she actually kind of talks to them and

she...I just find them extremely amusing. *(Points to website)* There she is, Mistress Stephanie. They leave me loads of messages saying things and I just think, 'oh I can't be bothered talking to you ladies right now'. They expect sometimes so much from me. And these are now her videos. And it's the way she tal[ks]. Now you're not going to believe this, I'll put the sound down, but you won't believe what this man is paying for. To give you an i[dea]...I'll put the sound slightly down.

KOD *Will I turn the thing [recorder] off or...*

AM Now you watch what he's paying for. I'll turn the sound slightly up so you can see what she's saying to him...slightly... [Sound of video in background] Watch what she does to him. Do you want me to make it loud...bigger so you can hear it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM How do I make this...

[Sound of video louder in background]

KOD *Oh.*

AM He's paid 300 quid for that...and you know it's real because you can see she does different angles. What's she saying to him? 'Yes Mistress, yes Mistress.'

[Dialogue pauses intermittently as video continues to play in the background]

AM 'Good boy!' [Imitating video] *(Pause)* Oh! She loves that. *(Pause)* He's paid her 300 quid for that. Do you blame some of these women? They don't even have to t...you know, they don't even have get undressed do they! *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM That's something she probably goes shopping in!

KOD *And he doesn't mind his picture being shown on the internet either?*

AM No. [Imitating video] 'Yes Mistress,' do you see what I'm saying, that's all he says. How could you be around that all the time? That's why I thought...I stopped it, I got bored. 'Yes Mistress! Yes Mistress!'

KOD *And how many years did you do it for?*

AM *(Coughs)* Before I moved here I only did phone...real life about two years. [Sound of video continues on background] And then they show you...and the other thing is I used to say to her, 'you need watch it because if you damage or rupt...rupture him...'

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and he's got a wife...' *(Laughs at dominatrix laughing in video)* They actually love it when you laugh at them as well, they think that's really funny. *(Pause)* Do see what I mean?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So do you...it's like money for old rope isn't it? *(Laughs)*

KOD *Or old stockings!*

AM Yeah, yeah *(laughs)* but this is another one that's really funny what she does too, she gets these pegs, and it's the things that she says to them...I find extremely amusing...and she'll get these pegs and...I think this might be the one I'm not sure, whether she puts the pegs all over his, [sound of loud music starting on video] oh no that's not the one...got music for that one [inaudible] on that one. There was another one. There's one where she's just sitting there and all she's doing is smoking. All she's doing in this one is smoking, doing nothing else but smoking. But they pay for that. Now she's putting her videos in [inaudible]...

KOD *Do they pay to download that video personal thing?*

AM And that's all she's doing – look, 'cause they've a smoking fetish. And she's had to give up smoking though. And I said to her, 'what you...the new smoking law states that in your work place... *(Laughs)*

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM ...you can't actually...if there's more than two people you can't smoke! So those m...those men could actually...if you get...if they get pissed off with you, could get you done for that'.

KOD *For smoking?*

AM In the workplace.

KOD *In the workplace. Hmm.*

AM But that's all she's doing, some of it is gone a bit *(pause)* and they pay for that. She also sells...this is how ba...sad these men are, so to explain to you why we would have no respect for these lunatics...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...none of us would, she smells...she sells bags of cigarette butts that she...with her lipstick on them, that she has smoked, for \$20, because [name of company removed] comes in dollars. And then you got Mistress Tina [pseudonym] she's really funny. Lady Jones [pseudonym] is very funny, but Mistress Tina, she locked what...four of five of them in various cages. See these are all waiting to join but I won't let them in. So I leave them sitting there for a while. I say, 'you're not getting in because you don't look like you've got any money, your...your words don't tell me you've got any money,' *(laughs)* and then they go, 'please Mistress, please Mistress,' *(types in a search)* what's her name, Mistress Phoenix [pseudonym] I think. So I just say, 'well I'm not in n...in no hurry, you just wait'. And they go...they might go on to Twitter saying...thinking that badmouthing a dominatrix is going to bring...

KOD *Heh!*

AM ...make a difference. And I said the only reas...the only time you will make a difference with us – and don't worry that's just a cigarette by the way, I just take the tip off it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...is – this is funny – is if he called us nice.

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM Calling us a bitch is hardly...you know, th...you get...it's hardly going to upset us is it, on Twitter. 'That one is a bitch she won't let me in!' Doh!

KOD *Heh!*

[Dialogue pauses intermittently as video continues to play in the background]

AM *(Laughs)* Look, watch that, he's in a cage. *(Pause)* Look at all her equipment. I think the English accent is very strict as well isn't it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM [Imitating video] 'Whipping boy!' *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM So they just give them a little...they're just the trailers, them ones are not for sale, they're just the trailers.

KOD *Do you think it's a particularly English thing, dominatrix, or...*

AM Well no because I mean they're...

KOD *...it's everywhere?*

AM ...this is a global site...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and we have them from France, from America. The Americans are useless dominatrix[es] though. I find the English are far better. It's a fact the accent is better for a start. But the American girls don't seem to have that...they seem to be more...going along the prostitute line rather than the...the English women will not allow these men to touch them. And they have to be certain [number of] feet [away] and if they want to bite the nipple yeah, that's fine they decide to do that, some of them do, but most of them won't even *touch* them. They even have *gloves*, they won't even... 'don't you think [about] touch[ing] my b...' I used to go like this, 'do you *think* that you...your DNA will be *anywhere* near me!' (*Laughs*) I would go! Now I heard on the...which is very funny, someone in Ireland sent me a news clipping to say there was one in Ireland and that there was one in Ireland and that the press got hold of her and chased her out of Ireland somewhere. But what was v...the bit...part I found extremely amusing was that when the press did that, two or three thousand slaves wrote to the press and asked the press if they knew of another one! (*Laughs*) Because they were all missing their...

KOD *Their dominatrix?*

AM ...yeah.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM But you probably find a lot of priests would go to them.

KOD *You...you think you had a lot of priests on the...*

AM There used to...

KOD *...fetish...*

AM ...I know there used to be priests, who else is going to say, 'oh bless you my child,' you just could tell it was a priest with that Irish accent, whereas...you know, and there's...so yeah

it...although you think it is English, but then you'll get people like you know, what's her name, she's American, (*points to various different women on computer screen*) she's English, I don't even know what lang...what she is. So you'll get people like...what's her name, I'm just trying to think of that lady's name, it will come to me. And she's French. So no I don't think...I think...I just find that the Amer...the English ones are better, Lady Jones, her real name is Suzanne [pseudonym]. And the...they phone me as well, we'll talk, we'll chat for...different things, you know. (*Points to another woman on screen*) Now she's more...I think maybe fetish, her whipping skills are not as good as you will see...Mistress Stephanie or Mistress Phoenix or the others, so they all have their different...what...as to what they are. Mistress Venus [pseudonym] she's more of a rock mistress I think maybe, look she's more of a rock band...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...type mistress. Haven't seen her on there for ages actually, I didn't even know she was still there. So then the...you have...just depends on what they are, I've a list of them. Let's see if I can find their list and then we can find out who I think are the best ones. But I think the reason that...I think the reason that these people are the best, the English, I think the accent makes them sound more stern.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Do you not find that?

KOD *Yeah, more cut-glass...*

AM (*Points to another video*) Look, 'everyone's Irish on St Patrick's Day'. I do all blogs for all different things...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...look I've got...but...have you ever seen this St Patrick's video?

KOD *No.*

AM So funny, ah, it made...that's why I put it up every time. [Sound of video playing in background] I'm trying to make it bigger for you for a minute. *(Coughs)* Under the candle...it's all Guinness! *(Laughs)* I just find that really amusing that. [Video ends] Do you know that St Patrick wasn't even Irish? I didn't even know that until I looked it up. Did you know he wasn't even Irish?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I used to say to them that you're more English...than Irish than St Patrick, even the English!

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM But I honestly did not know. So diff...various different blogs I write about 'rinsing guys', their toys, their...you know, so you've got the list of males and the list of females here. Each time they join I'll put them on the list if I can be bothered. So you've got Miss Delta [pseudonym] now she's going to come into the site w...she's my technical girl...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...lady and she's more into the fetish, the masks, whatever. Mr Drew [pseudonym] is very extreme. So I find...Mistress Polly [pseudonym] she's very...more like burlesque even though that's not so burlesque of her, but she's more vintage, cross-dressing, she deals with more cross-dressing type of thing, she's only put one video up there because she actually sells most of hers on her own site. Most of them don't have their own sites, or they don't have a facility.

KOD *Jeez you've got...*

AM These are all of these d...

KOD *...loads there.*

AM ...these are all the ladies...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...there from the...this is the UK ladies, yeah...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...this is the clubs, and then we've got...down to the United States ladies, they're all them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland there's two...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...Italy, Netherlands and Spain. And they've all joined the site. So America, I guess is as many as in...so they all have different kind of thing...they all do different things, you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM One might be more extreme than the other and one might be...you know, I guess they don't all want to offer in the same way.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM I just find that the English have that *voice* that makes you want to stand to attention. Whereas if you have...and I find...you know what I used to find very amusing, when an Irishman would come on the phone for... 'cause they still offer phone chats on there, they will charge £1.50 per minute for the man to phone them up. But when you ha...when you have an Irish guy, the things you can do (*whispered*) – the whole '*wanky wanky*' thing on the phone – and I...I used to be honestly laughing my head...even though I am Irish, the accent used to just make me crack up 'cause the way...when they're in that sexual mood, the things that they come out with are so *hilarious* I could never ever be serious with an Irish bloke, you know. I don't think you get many Irish slaves somehow. For some reason, I'm not really sure why you don't get many of them. Miss Delta she...she's now going to come into the site with me 'cause she does all my technical stuff. She's a webmistress...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and she's quite good and she sold...see those thing's she's got on her there?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And they were torn, she sold them to some guy and it was very, very funny. And that's just masks you see?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM She sold them to some guy, those stockings there, for \$250 and then we made him go on cam to show them, how he was putting them on and we knew the minute he put them on his big toe they were going to split...and he was...in the end...and this guy he w...he was running...something to do...I think he was quite high up in [name of company removed] and you think, 'you're so stupid,' 'cause when you look at Facebook and you can see him with his family and he's director of this and we've got him on this cam on my site, it's very, very funny and he's trying to get his stockings on, and they're split in two, so his whole \$250 went down the drain in one second. But when you think...they've got more money than sense, why do they do it? And that's why I think I've got no respect for these people. And I don't believe these women respect them either, 'cause I was talking to another lady and I said to her, 'would you ever have a slave as a partner?' and she said, 'you must be joking they would bore me,' so I thought, 'so it's not just me then'. They get their money off them and all they want to do is to get away from them, they don't want nothing more to do with them.

KOD *And the other dominatrixes, would you think they have a kind of similar background to you or...?*

AM *(Coughs)* No, no. I think that [they] might have a background as in...you might have had a guy that might have beaten them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I know...the background of Mistress Stephanie for instance, she used to be a submissive female, and apparently she used to be a self-harmer. I've never been a self-harmer, my daughter was though. And because...and when she was a submissive female she moved in with this dominatrix woman and her husband, to be their submissive and ended up robbing the husband from the dominatrix, going off and becoming a dominatrix and she still lives with that woman's husband now. So you th...I don't know what makes them do it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Suz...Suzanne, Lady Jones, I must ask her when I speak to her on the phone, what made her do it but I think she would say money. But then when I ask her about her family...'cause I remember the...'cause she phones me a lot, sometimes too much obviously, and she...I asked her about her family once and she never, ever, ever, she's got no children, she's married to someone that's way, way older than her who almost had a heart attack the other night and she's got no mention of her mother, or when I say, 'are you seeing your Mum at Christmas?' I remember, and she was, 'oh I don't even have anything to do with that woman'. So I don't think that any of them have got stable, loving backgrounds.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM If you get my meaning.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM *(Coughs)* And you might get...have girls, one that might have been a prostitute and had enough and thinking, 'these girls have made me realise that I can actually get more money for doing nothing rather than getting money for doing...' this is why I used to say to those pro[stitutes], 'I don't know why you allow those men to touch you,' you know, 'you can actually get more money for *never* even allowing these men to touch you than allowing them to actually even go *near* you'.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And so I'm always saying that on Twitter to prostitutes that...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...to try and make them see that they can actually...but they have to have the mental attitude don't they?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And that's the problem, maybe they don't have the mental attitude, I'm not sure.

KOD *And when you're in touch with Sr Rita from Waterford Good Shepherd...*

AM Yeah she knows about Miss W____! *(Laughs)* She knows about Miss W____.

KOD *(Laughs) ...what does she think of it?*

AM She says to me in an email the day you sh...the other day, you sh...the other day...she said...she asked me to pray for her, I said j...I said, 'no'. I said, 'that person that you want me to pray to never listens to me'. And I said, 'anyway, the person that used to pray for me was dead now'. She was my...

KOD *Sr Louise...*

AM Yeah, she used to do all the praying for me.

KOD *...O'Connor. [Pseudonym]*

AM Yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And she said, 'you know, you have no idea Angelina, God would love to hear you, you'd make him laugh' she goes! *(Laughs)*

KOD *You'd make him laugh?*

AM Yeah, she seems to think...yeah...even...'cause I say to her about Miss W____, I'm always telling her to go on the site... *(Laughs)*

KOD *Heh!*

AM ...'cause I think, 'I'd love to shock you bitches after what you've done to me'. Because when you live with them and they say, 'you can't do this, you can't do that, you can't...' you just want to *really* then go from that extreme to that extreme.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM If you have the...does that make sense to you?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And so, yeah...so...and when I went to the Redress Board they asked me the same question, 'do you think that you became a dominatrix because of the nuns?' and I said, 'I think I became a dominatrix because I'd like to whip some priests actually'. And they just looked at me and I thought, 'just to see what you have to say to that then,' and I said, 'and in fact, you look...the more I look at you *(laughs)* I think the more...you're looking quite a...an attractive person to be whip...being whip...you know, for me to whip'. And I...you kn...and I was convinced then you can always tell who's...who you can turn as well, very sad isn't it? Sometimes you get...like even in an organisation and you just think, 'okay I'm not getting anywhere with this chappie so let's turn him,' and then you...for some reason you do it and you think, 'what is *wrong* with me, why am I doing this?'

KOD *Would you mean, turn them?*

AM *(Coughs)* So, you can turn them just in certain things you say.

KOD *Turn them from being dominant over you into submissive?*

AM Yeah. They *think* they're dominant over me but they haven't actually, because that's the...when they talk to Angelina they think they're dominant over me and then you just...it's quite funny to turn that back on them.

KOD *And give us an example of that.*

AM *(Pauses to think)*

KOD *Like the DSS?*

AM Yeah, yeah.

KOD *So...*

AM I think the only reason I didn't go further with the Redress Board was because they had dr...grounded [ground] me, drained me, I was drained from the travel, I was drained from the fact that I was *really* annoyed that I never met my barrister until half an hour before I actually went into the place. I found that *really*...so in my head it was more annoyance than...so I think yeah, with them. But yeah you can turn...I...I'm just find...trying to give you an example...idiot that came round here thinking here was a vulnerable woman...I was a vulnerable...and he was so used to vulnerable women in these type of...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...social housing. Like that, he was like some little pussy.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM You know, you can actually do that and s...you don't want to do it to them but sometimes they deserve to be actually turned into submissive little stupid boy[s] and then just throw them away type of thing, do you know?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I would have no respect for any submissive male, and that's what's so sad. I would never want to be with one, I...even though I run the site for them, I would never, ever want to be...have anything to do with any of them, I never want to be with them, I just find them dr...tedious, I find them boring. Then you will get the ones...some of them are qu...lie a lot, that's the other thing I don't particularly like about some of them. And these are the people that have all r...you know when you see that, they'll tell you what's viewed, so you'll see who's viewed...so like...whose viewed what...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you can see all that. But I...I've talked to a lot of the ladies and I say to them...and isn't it very funny how the dom...these ladies, all of their husbands and partners are very, very strong men.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM None of them have teamed up with a submissive man. So what does that...yet the...and the submissive men when they go home to their wives, *they're* very strong men.

KOD *So in terms...*

AM I did have something funny though that happened to one of them, do you want to hear about it?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM You see at Easter time we used to do this thing of 'lay the egg'! (*Laughs*) And I...some guy got the egg stuck and he couldn't lay it. '*Cluck, cluck, cluck!*' So he ended up in casualty 'cause he couldn't lay the egg. And [the] casualty doctor phoned – I don't know why he gave my phone number – and the casualty doctor phoned me up laughing his head off and he said...asked if I was Miss W____. And I said, 'yes'. And he said that, 'I've got one of your clients here who has given me your number, and the only reason I'm phoning you up...' I said...and before he even g...I said, 'stop right there,' I said, 'how *dare* he give you my number first of all,' '...is because we're trying to get this egg out...' I s... 'out of him'. I said, 'okay before we go any further how dare you help him'.

KOD *Heh!*

AM I said, 'you don't see me coming down breaking your patients' arms when you fix them, so you have no right to help him'. I said, 'in the end of the day he put the egg up,' I... 'cause I didn't actually do it, I said to him. "cause you're acting like a chicken (*clicks fingers*) go and boil an egg, insert it, now lay it and cluck like a chicken, *cluck, cluck!*' I was going, '*cluck, cluck, cluck!*' (*Laughs*) And he couldn't get the egg [out] so I sent him in a taxi to casualty and I wouldn't go with him 'cause I don't wan...don't want to meet his wife do !! (*Laughs*) So...and I was laughing and he said, 'and the thing is we were just laughing so much that we've gone in there, he's been half an hour and every time we go in to try and help him all we're doing is laughing and I'm phoning you up to ask you please do not send me down anymore of your clients like this'. And I said, 'and please do not be doing that to us, let him lay it himself'. I said, 'go on,' I said, 'tell him to cluck,' I was going! (*Laughs*) I says, 'it's s...very similar,' I said, 'doctor, to me coming up and breaking the arms that you fix,' I said, 'how would you like me to do that?' I said, 'so you have no right helping him,' I said, 'you tell him to bloody lay that egg'. (*Laughs*) He was saying...he said, 'it's taken us...honestly,' he said, 'every time we go in there,' he said, 'I find it an extremely funny...what you done, but I'm begging of you and I'm asking you please don't send us any more of these kind of things'. (*Laughs*)

KOD *And what happened? Did you ever find out?*

AM Yeah. And then they s...apparently said to him, 'you need...' they got...they th...got...removed it for him. And then they told him that he needs to s...give himself a rest for a week. He's on the phone the next day saying, 'Mistress can I make another appointment?' [Sound of mobile phone interference] I said, 'and now you...' I said, 'now we're going to get an ostrich egg'. (*Laughs*) I wouldn't let him come back for weeks after that, because I thought, '*oh my God,*' you know. Yeah, so they meet...when they're in these hospitals you wouldn't believe what they c...what they actually meet, 'cause I said...I said to the do...the...the slave, 'there's no way on earth I'm going down,' I said, 'take yourself off down to casualty, I'm not going with you'. I said, 'you're the one that inserted it'. 'Cause he...the doctor said, 'he said you inserted it,' I said, 'okay put him on that phone'. I said, 'how dare you s...' I said, 'tell the doctor while I'm listening to you, who inserted the egg'. And he goes, 'I did Mistress'. I said, 'when you...next time I see you, you little shit,' I was going to him, (*laughs*) 'for giving that doctor my number you are so going to be in trouble'. I said, 'in fact you know the tr...' 'cause *their* worse punishment is us

[sound of mobile phone interference] getting rid of them or us never taking them back, or us never talking to them. All the beatings in the world is not punishment to them, that's *reward* to them. It's quite weird isn't it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...psychological[ly]. So you begin to wonder what's on their side, but then you think well what about the men, it's not just...they've all gone to public or private school, think about this, what has made *them* like that?

KOD *And how do you think...*

AM And it's not just beating, they like to be pissed on, or...it's just...v...I'm not jo...foot fetish.

KOD *...do you think it's part of their schooling has made them like that?*

[Interviewee moves away from recording device and speaks from a distance]

AM Yeah and as people, you know...and do you know what's very sad, they might have a par...they might have a partner for instance yeah, and you think that your partner is really, really vanilla, and the woman might think her partner is really, really vanilla. Look at Max Mosley, what happened to him and then it came out that he was a submissive. His wife of 40 years never even knew that he was a submissive. And just because he went to someone who sold the story to the press, did it come out that he was a submissive. So these people that are living with their husbands, thinking that their husbands are quite normal, I find that part the saddest of all.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Don't you? You know, 'cause you think that you're not even realising that the guy that you're with...and this is because when they meet instead of finding out th...instead of finding out what's your fetish, they have to find out, 'what colour do you like?' Who gives a fuck what colours you'd like? (*Laughs*) In my...because I'm used to this world now I...maybe that's hardened me up. I think girls need to stop bloody...they need to wake up, because what will make them split up with their guys is if they don't get to find out the sexual side of them first.

Sod what they like for breakfast, sod what colours they like, sod what music they like, because none of that's going to be making their divorce, or making them cheat. It's th...if they can't tell their wife...Arnold, for instance – this is really annoying me I don't know what's going on with this – Arnold for instance, he can't tell his wife he's into certain things. He's been married to this woman for...he's now s...for 50 years, how *sad* is that? He can't approach his wife to tell her...th...he calls her...he says she follows him around like a dog, and he's going like this, (*makes gesture*) would you like your husband to be talking to you...about you like that? I say to him, 'you're disg...you *disgust* me the way you speak about this woman,' I said, 'and all you're doing is make me even realise *more* that I would *never* be with you,' (*laughs*) you know?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM He can't...and that's why I said...used to say to my daughters, 'when you meet a guy, stop trying to find out what music he likes,' and you know, 'I know you want to know that but that isn't going to be the thing that's going to make him cheat on you. If you do not find out what his fetish is and what he's into,' I said, 'and then he'd be...' and then what happens is they get into a relationship and by then they think it's... 'oh I can't tell my wife now,' or, 'I t...can't tell my girlfriend now 'cause it's gone too far 'cause I didn't tell her in the beginning'. It might be a simple fetish like foot fetish or smoking fetish or...it could be a simple fetish but they still need it. So then because they then feel they can't approach wifey girlfriend, they then cheat. They'll go and they'll hire her, or they'll go and they'll go on to Twitter as an alias that nobody will know. Then wifey f...or girlfriend finds out, and so then the whole dishonesty steps into it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Whereas if they could turn to the woman and say, 'right I've got these fetishes but...and I know you may not like them,' but then they feel too *ashamed* so I think that is far the reason why people cheat on their wives. I don't think it's anything to do with anything other than...they cannot approach their wife about their sexual preferences. That's my opinion, being...li...from working...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...in the adult world. Yeah. Says the person who hasn't had a guy in God knows how long but that's not the point!

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I study it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Do you know?

KOD *And, do you think that...that...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...your time in the institutions and in the laundry affected you psychologically, or how did it affect you psychologically?*

AM Well I can't make friends very easily. I'm always alone. In me, in my head, if you get my meaning.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM When you think about it, they would never let me make friends, when I got to Dublin, Waterford, they moved me away from my family. They...when I got to Dublin, when they knew a friend that was coming along that I would be okay with, they moved me to Limerick.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It just goes on and on and on. I find it very, very hard to...although Suzanne and all these people might think they're my...I say to them, 'you're not my friend you're my acquaintance'.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause you know, a friend to me is someone that I can trust, someone I can have fun with and that I trust completely with. Whereas talking to one...I don't regard these people [in the adult world] as my friends.

KOD *And do you have friends?*

AM Not many, no. No, not that I can trust 100 per cent no, no. I find that the institution has turned me into two people. Quite weird, that outside world don't...I find that I...I can't *toler...tolerate* hypocrisy, I can't tolerate fakeness. Whereas vanilla people seem to be able to, 'cause that's how you have to do it sometimes in your work life, don't you? But I don't...I'm not able, so it does, it affects a lot, because I can't acc...accept being around it because we had it all our lives with them.

KOD *Bu...*

AM And we're still having it w...in our lives with inst...redress and everything aren't we?

KOD *Isn't the dominatrix...isn't that fake, or is that...*

AM Well, no I don't find that fake though.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because when I become her....well that's why I gave up the...the live one because I didn't like doing it so, doing this, at least all I have to do is sit on a laptop and let them in and either...you know, promote their stuff or whatever. So no, I don't find that fake 'cause apparently these women actually enjoy whipping them. So that's their other side of them isn't it? Why do you think what...in what way would you say fake?

KOD *I don't know, I'm just as[king], it...because it's...you're dressing up and it's role play, and it's...*

AM Yeah well if you're seeing them yeah that's...I didn't like that bit of...part of it. And then you're bored with them. Yeah, I didn't...never, ever like that part of it but, even on the phones I used to think that was tolerable because I...it was...I wasn't having to do really anything other than get

something and whack it on the table or something you know. But even then that would not be fake, 'cause I would actually want to be doing that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I don't think these women are being fake. I think they actually enjoy it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM When it comes to...because they know...even though they say a lot of them are boring, but I think they enjoy the money. I think that overtakes everything. I guess it's nice to become...if in your job your job for instance you can go home and you're not that person anymore are you?

KOD *I don't know, I mean I think a professional...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...tends to be that person.*

AM Do you?

KOD *I think so. I think teachers tend to be always teachers, even...*

AM What, even at home they can't just become Mary who just wants to play video games or who just wants to go out and get pissed or...you think they're always teachers?

KOD *Yeah, I do.*

AM Hmm.

KOD *I think they become their profession.*

AM Do you think that's a good thing?

KOD *(Pause) I don't know. I...I think it's an aspect of them, I don't think it's their whole self, but I think it's...the training goes so deep.*

AM Do you think you've become...what do you think?

KOD *I think I'm very much an academic.*

AM *(Coughs)* Could you explain to me what an academic is?

KOD *Someone who lectures in a university, who's always trying to ask questions that they think everybody should...that...that are important for understanding society and people.*

AM Give me a 'for instance' you're always asking me [for] a 'for instance'.

KOD *So for instance I'm trying to ask...I'm trying to understand in talking with you, what your experience was like and trying to get you to explain to me what y...how you think your experiences affected you and how your experience is, it's...*

AM It's made me isolated.

KOD *...important for us to understand...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...what my country...our country is like you know, how...why...how did this happen, could this happen again? What...*

AM Do you think it could happen again?

KOD *I think...I think every single culture and society has vulnerable people, the mad, the bad, the dangerous to know, the people that get locked up...*

AM What I want to ask you is, right...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...do you know you...you'd get the priests when it did happen, it was reported even when it happened, they would move them to Africa or whatever. Who's caring for them now?

KOD *Uh huh, exactly.*

AM Has anybody spoke up for them?

KOD *That's one of the reasons I'm interested in this kind of project, it's...this is...*

AM Because they're still being abused out there, these lunatics are still out there. Who...where's the redress set up for Cel...Sr...at the time they used to say Ceylon, I think it's now Sri Lanka isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Th...I mean I've heard of some *horrific* priests that have been moved away to African countries and not once have we heard for...a...compensation, who's out there protecting them?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Who's talking up for them?

KOD *One of the questions I'm really interested in is...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...what are the skills and what are the talents that you have that have led you to survive and thrive, considering the experiences you've had, 'cause you are amazing, you're remarkable.*

AM *(Laughs)* I've no skills, I was a cleaner! Bel...I've s...I've had so many jobs I tell you. Started off as cleaning, but that's because I choose to do that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Sometimes I find I need menial jobs to...I find it therapy.

KOD *Get it out of your head?*

AM Yeah.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But it's different if I decide to clean rather than someone telling me to clean isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I've had stalls you know, like selling second-hand baby clothes. What made me do the...I think survival made me be who I am.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because from start to finish in those places you are surviving *every single day*. You're not living. And how it's affected me now is I've n...don't know how to live, I just know how to survive. And I seem to never stop surviving, I really wish I could live and have peace and...but it seems to be that all I ever do is survive.

KOD *And what's the difference between surviving and living, what would living be like?*

AM Living would be...you'd have peace I think, and you wouldn't be always having to fight something or fight for something or...surviving is you're continuously, daily having to just get through that day or get through that fight or get through this...you know, I'd like...love to be able to just *live*. I guess that doesn't make sense to you does it?

KOD *Hmm, it does.*

AM Are others like that?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And you continuously feel you're surviving, maybe you're not even...maybe it's me myself or maybe it's us ourselves that are...put ourselves into this...and we don't know how to stop it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I don't know. But you know, I...I look even at Arnold's life even though...I mean...even then again I think, '*cheat!*' (*Laughs*) You know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I can't help it...fucking...I just...*eugh!* Even though, he made...he used to cheat with me, I haven't se...like... even though I've seen him, we're only friends now, because he can't bear me to continuously call him a cheat! But I even think the fact that he's phoning me, whispering to me on the phone in a coal shed, in a toilet, and his wife doesn't know about it, I find...that is cheating to me. He can't see that though...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I...but I do. So when I see his life I think, 'well hang on a minute, his life isn't really much better than mine is it?' I might envy the fact that his...you know, they've got each other, but really would I want a husband to be doing that to me? No, 'cause I had one like that. So I feel that that place has made me lonely.

KOD *And did you ever feel at peace with your husband or with your girls?*

AM Oh with my girls, yeah. But you know what, more my grandchildren 'cause girls are a bit bitchy, boys...I've got three grandsons. Simple aren't they, boys. All they want is to play games and I'm really good at video games, 'cause I made sure I was. My aim always was that I would be just as good them at every video game so when they came to me, that they would find *me* just as interesting as their mates, rather than some granny or...that's why you have Jonathan, [pseudonym] they phone me all the time and they might...the first thing...right, you know this

game...and the whole thing I have to stay there for half an hour and we're talking about this game and they're going on. But Jonathan I think has been just diagnosed today with Asperger's, just mild Asperger's. But I said to Holly [pseudonym] it probably would suit...it probably is best for him to be diagnosed with that, 'cause he is about to go to secondary school and he's a bit big for his age. He never used to be and yet after this operation whatever happened he became big after the operation. And he wears glasses, so he gets bullied a lot. So ha...being diagnosed as mild Asperger's means the school has to help him more and has to be aware more...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...if he is bullied, rather than if you're not diagnosed with this mild...

KOD *Uh huh, uh huh.*

AM ...so...but I find that with my gr...I find the most peaceful, most at home, and most peaceful, people that I...in their company is my three grandsons, isn't that weird?

KOD *No, that's great.*

AM Because they don't do fake to me, I don't do fake to them. We go to the pictures, we do things, 'shall we go out here, shall we play this video...' they play their video games. There's no arguments with me...and my daughters they've girls and they can be bitchy and they can be...it's different for girls.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Boys are so simple I find. But it does worry me when they grow older it might not be the same type of behaviour, but I find that what those nuns have done to us, I don't know if there's many in...out there the same. And then you get organisations [Irish centres] they open up like [name of Irish centre in interviewee's city removed], useless. [Name of Irish centre in nearby location removed] is really good. [Name of Irish centre in interviewee's city removed] are useless and they're paying these organisations to open up with people who've never ever experienced it and you shouldn't even be running them. You know, I even said to [name of Irish centre in

interviewee's city removed] today, 'you're just nothing but useless'. And I said, 'and I will be reporting you as well,' I said, 'you have *no* idea how to treat survivors, people like you that have no idea, should not even be running these places'. But I find that it's made me very blunt and I can't *bear* people lying, because I lived lies for so long that I can't bear people lying to me over the most simplest of things isn't that s...strange?

KOD *And what do you mean you had people lying to you for so long?*

AM Well the nuns lied. We discovered the amount of lies...we thought...you know, they used to beat us for lying, lying was so bad and then you read all your stuff and you hear that they're the biggest liars of all. You know, and I find that really horrible, I mean...because we haven't done the copying because that [photocopier] doesn't work, you can actually take the file with you and br...send it back to me if you like.

KOD *Okay, I will.*

AM But I really want you to see the other things that he has got. [Support worker in Irish centre]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM If you think about it, this is why the only one...she's never lied to me, this one. (*Points to photo of Sr Louise*)

KOD *Sr Louise.*

AM Yeah...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...she's never lied to me, don't know why I keep her little thing actually.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Because she was too simple to lie.

KOD B...

AM But it does affect...it affects relationships.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Hmm. And it affects...mentally it affects you. And then it makes you feel as if you're not worthy, it makes you feel that you actually are mental and you're constantly telling yourself...instead of telling yourself positive things, you tell yourself negative things so you have to then become this other [person] to survive the mental side of and the emotional side of it. You actually have to become another person to get through because Angelina is too vulnerable and Miss W___ is not.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I know this may sound so weird to you, but I bet that inside you there's an alter-ego, is there?

KOD *Yeah, I think everybody is split. I think we...you know, all kinds of splits, not just one split.*

AM Say for instance you have something emotionally or mentally you can't handle, what do you...how do you do it, how do you work it?

KOD *I used to have an African American friend who said, 'I ain't having it 'til it's over,' so in other words I...I just tend to just bury the emotion and then come back to it, what I would think would be later or I'd...*

AM When you could handle it.

KOD *Uh huh. Or I would just not have it, not do the emotion.*

AM Yeah, well what happens...

KOD *I'm not doing that as much.*

AM ...if it just hits you then though?

KOD *Hmm, go to sleep.*

AM Yeah, but then you're not facing it are you?

KOD *No.*

AM Is that good?

KOD *No, I've tried to change that so I've been changing that a lot but it'...it's been a...it was a habit for a very long time so it's a hard one to change.*

AM What made you be like that?

KOD *It worked, it got me through.*

AM Hmm...I find that I'm...maybe the other way, I tried to do that but that doesn't work, so in the end I face it and then though I can't handle it and then bury it and then face it as W____.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So maybe you need yourself to have this little other...it doesn't mean I've got a split personality as such, even though it s...I know that sounds really weird. I'm not like one kind person, one horrible person and I'm going to go out and kill everyone (*laughs*) you know...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I'm not like that. It's just in the case of...Angelina is someone that doesn't seem to be able handle anything. Whereas the other side of her takes over and she handles it all.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM But then you f...I find it very hard sometimes to go back to being Angelina. And the only on...people who are capable of making me do that is my grandchildren...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know. But talking to you I'm both, I can be both when I take it. But if I'm talking to an organisation and I find that they're bullying...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I have to go away from them because Angelina cannot handle bullying and then two days later, they're like as if they're shocked they suddenly have this big false person and where they thought they got away with bullying the Angelina, this other person's come along and literally can...and I don't know how...'cause I'm not...I never really had education...but intelligently destroy them and I'm only...I'm putting that down to when this man sent me on those courses that I learnt what I could do, I don't know what I'm putting it down to because it's not...the nuns didn't teach me any of this.

KOD *So it was one of your employers that helped you do legal courses?*

AM *(Coughs)* No, he made me...he used to be always...got...the VAT man was always after him, he was always doing dodgy deals. The VAT man, the...the tax man and so it...was it...I wasn't there to try and con or anything, but he decided that I should go on these courses so that when these people came around the firm that I could legally be able to handle them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...rather than sit there like a mouse like he was doing. And so he sent me on all these various different courses with these various one-day...you know, there might be one-day courses with

solicitors and...hotel for a day and then I would learn how to handle the VAT man. It wasn't that I was conning the VAT man or trying...but I would learn how to have meetings with them.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It's the same with the...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...you know, a silly little b...like, for instance, I'll give you a s...fo...for instance now, I don't know where it comes in my head. I been fighting this fellow over this dog so Bridge Housing Association comes out then with...and they think they're more intelligent than me and Angelina thinks they're more intelligent than me, but W___ does not. So the law...so first of all I says, 'right, this is the law on pit-bulls, banned dogs, whether they're exempt or not,' so you know, first of all I will look up before I start mouthing, because I have to make sure I'm right, you know and the law basically says in a communal area, public place, pit-bull has to be muzzled and on a lead. Simple law, this lady is not doing it, hence if I bring my grandchildren here and they get bitten, 'God help you,' I say to them, 'cause I will sue your sorry little asses, so get your sorry ass...and tell this woman'. So they came...I said, 'now the law says she also have to have liability sur...insurance against attacks'. So they come back and they say, 'oh yeah we've seen the insurance blah blah blah,' and instead of actually thinking about this...and then in the end I got so mad I said, 'you are s...you are such *stupid* people, the law,' I said, 'any insurance policy' – I don't know what made me even think of it 'cause the first time I didn't – 'will clearly state the insurance will be void if the dog is not on...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...a muzzle and a lead. So I don't give a damn what you've seen 'cause it's not even worth the paper it's going to be written on'. And then...they didn't even think of it...now, these are the housing people that are allowing these dogs. So in the end they didn't...they didn't know what to say back to me because of that. I thought, 'where am I getting these things?' 'cause I didn't even see the law about the whole...that side of it. But suddenly Miss W___ will go deeper and deeper and deeper and every time she...they come back with something she will be able to back with something else.

KOD *And she really...*

AM And Angelina can't.

KOD *...and...and sh...Miss W___ really came into being in that court case over the divorce when your husband was threatening to...*

AM Yeah but not with the Redress.

KOD *Didn't...well it did to a certain extent.*

AM Yeah but not enough. Because I found that they were...I think...I don't know whether it was because it was Ireland, and I was not happy that they were bringing a statement in from a nun...that...and they were allowing a statement¹⁹ into court and they were *believing* it – 'well the nun said this' – yet they weren't *producing* this nun in front of me, her solicitor wasn't in front of me, so as far as I was concerned...

KOD *And what was the statement?*

AM 'Oh I didn't inv...I didn't...I don't...why this girl is saying this blah blah blah'.

KOD *And what were you saying?*

AM That she put...death...that she was a bitch, she was a ruffian, she was evil. I said that I...I was only very little. But I *always* remem...I even remember where we were *standing* when she put that girl's head through that door.

KOD *So she put a girl's head through...*

AM Yeah.

¹⁹ MAGOHP/49 RIRB Correspondence & Records, Pages 39-41 – supplementary statement from member of religious order

KOD ...a...a glass panel or...

AM Yeah, a glass panel, out of temper.

KOD *And you remember the girl?*

AM I remember her surname was Kelly... [Pseudonym]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but I was only about f...six. So...now I hadn't even seen my sister before the Redress Board so when I went back to my sister, and I said, 'I don't suppose you remember this do you?' and she immediately did, her name was Carol Kelly. And this...and she [the nun] wrote, 'all this...!...I can't understand this'. But what I couldn't get with the Redress Board was the fact there was no nun, there was no solicitor fighting her case. Even if the nun wasn't there you expect at least a solicitor is there...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...on her behalf – no. So to me the Redress Board were fighting the nuns' cases. That's how I saw this.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I found how can you fight that? And then they started bringing up a lot of things. I think it's when you go back into your childhood and you've got three of them around you and you suddenly realise and you're told...these two people that are sitting beside you are of no use to you.

KOD *That's your barrister and solicitor.*

AM And that's your *backup* you think...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and suddenly, they are *not* your backup, because they're not allowed to talk. The...even when I'm...I was even...said a few times, 'are you going to allow this man to talk to me like this?' And they had to say, 'can you excuse me...we're not allowed to say anything'. 'And what in the hell are you here for then?' I used to say. And so yeah, I don't think I was...Miss W___ came very much into play. I often think...I wish I had done that differently. I think they were actually talking to Angelina.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because if they're talking about your childhood and how...they had a horrible way of putting it as well, I don't know if anyone else told you?

KOD *Tell me what it's like.*

AM You know, they actually *made* you feel guilty. You call it shame. I call it guilt. I don...don't know the difference between one and the other. And because they were there on...it was like as if you were fighting the nun herself, and you were way back there. And you could see they weren't going to be having it, they didn't want to pay you out, you weren't an Irish...number one I wasn't an Irish taxpayer, and this is how I worked this out. And by the time they got to me...I don't even think the nuns...because it...wasn't it all the lands the nuns gave them wasn't worth anything?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM You know you say they gave them ten billion?

KOD *No it wasn't...*

AM Wasn't that coming in the form of land?

KOD *...they didn't give them ten billion, they gave them certain amounts of millions in assets and...*

AM But didn't that come in the form...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...of land and then when they found that they went to sell the land that it wasn't of any use? I don't know...is it because they found bodies?

KOD *No, I mean I'm not sure of the details but...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...yeah, the...the money the orders promised doesn't seem to have been necessarily forthcoming...*

AM *Even if they had it?*

KOD *...even the small bit of money they promised, yeah.*

AM Tell me what they did about these bodies in High Park Convent²⁰ and what they are going to do? Why is nobody...if they...somebody found a body out here everyone us here would be arrested.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I'm not getting this thing that's going on over...tell me what happened? Why they weren't arrested? It was in their land...if it was in your garden you'd be arrested.

KOD Yes

AM Who's protecting the Catholic Church?

²⁰ Exhumations at High Park Convent in 1993. For further information, see *Death, Institutionalisation & Duration of Stay: A critique of Chapter 16 of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries and related issues*, http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/JFMR_Critique_190215.pdf

KOD *Hmm. Well that's another question I have for you. Who do you think is to blame for the institutions you were in and you experienced, do you think it's the church and State, or the church more than the State or the State? Who do you think is to blame for what happened, is it your family?*

AM Well first of all, I...what I...I...can I ask you a question with that?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM What I'm not getting right is...I first of all think that how can so many evil nuns be in one place? There wasn't as if any one of them stood up for us.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So who trained them? Whoever trained them to be that way is responsible for that, first of all. But I do think the State and the government are more responsible for not...not for putting us there 'cause if that was necessary, fine. But for not doing constant checks and instead of...I've seen letters where they've written to Cappoquin, you know on the Cappoquin one, write...they started writing to them in 1944 saying this was wrong but they never, ever did anything about it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So I think the government are responsible for not doing...I think the Garda [Gardaí, Irish police] are responsible for...I reckon they must have had money. The Garda were being paid money out of it, the laundries. I read that somewhere.

KOD *No. I don't think so. But they...*

AM When you think when they were doing the processions why did they have the Gardaí lined²¹...

KOD *Uh huh, on either side, yeah. Well they had Gardaí returning...*

²¹ For example: <http://www.magdaleneorahistory.com/Corpus%20Christi%20Parade.jpg>

AM (Coughs) I read....

KOD ...girls and women...

AM ...somewhere that...

KOD ...to the institutions.

AM ... the people that made [money] out of the laundries was the Gardaí, the government, the nuns. Did the Pope...did the bank...do you know they've got a bank in the Vat[ican], did he make any money out of it, I don't know. But I find that whoever managed to get this amount of evil nuns in one place and not one stand up. It's like for instance, if we were all in a room and everybody was evil, I'd stand up.

KOD Uh huh.

AM I wouldn't give a feck about the rest of ye...

KOD Uh huh.

AM ...do you...I know that's...

KOD Yeah.

AM ...you know what I mean? If everyone turned right I'd go left. That's the way I...do you know?
(Laughs)

KOD Uh huh.

AM And I can't f...that's the part I don't understand is why there wasn't one of...one person that would go left, bec...just because they all went right.

KOD Maybe there was?

AM But we didn't see that. So I find the government are more responsible for not doing the checks because the government were funding them and if they needed the money then, as far...I think then they became greedy because they saw this money flying into them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and no checks were done and then the greedy became greedier and when you get greedy you get harder, and when you get harder it's lack of care and before you know it, that happens.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But I find that the government, for not actually doing the checks...because when you read the letters that Andrew [pseudonym] has got, these education chappie is asking over and over again, 'give me a report on Angelina Mayfield,'²² and no one has given him back a report. Now why isn't he going mad?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Why isn't he sending his troops out there or...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but I find the other thing is...in Ireland was everybody believed holy people. I don't just blame the...I blame the public as well, because we used to try and get them to help us and they never would.

KOD *How did you try and get them to help you?*

AM If you ran away or you saw someone in the street, 'please help me this nun is doing this, please get me away from there,' or...and they would just think you were mad, people would send you back again.

²² See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 9 and 20 – correspondence from South Eastern Health Board

KOD So...

AM So I find the outside world...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they would go past the Good Shepherds in Waterford and all it was was...big huge house, did they even care? All the...you know, now I read stories and they say, 'we just thought it was full of mad people'. But who decided...you know, it's like I was...if you think of old folks' homes I was walking down the street with one of the boys one day and we were passing this old folks' care home and I saw this lady and she was crying, and this woman was bullying her. And I just said to one of the boys, 'just stay there a minute,' and I don't know what happened, I just went up and I pulled this woman who was bullying the li...the woman off her.

KOD *You could see her in through a window or...?*

AM No, she was doing it just outside the door.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I said, 'tomorrow the police are going to be here,' I said, 'and...af...the day after, everyone, the press are going to be here. And if I find you in this place again,' I said, 'you better go in there now and give your notice'. I said, 'I don't give a *fuck* who you are,' and so...and I...and then I went into the actual centre and I said, 'I'm now going to report you'. And I went absolutely mad and then I got hold of her in a corner and I said, 'now bully me'. And I don't know, I thought, 'I'm going be arrested or something!' (*Laughs*) I have a habit of doing that. So why wasn't there someone?

KOD *And did it work? Did she hand in her notice? Do you know what happened?*

AM Yeah, 'cause I got a phone call from...and they asked her to go down and give a statement and everything. And they looked into it, and...you know. I thought, 'why couldn't one person do that for us?' You know, they were sending us to outside schools. The nuns in outside schools knew. They weren't all the Good Shepherd nuns, you've got John of Gods you've got Mercy, but

I...the Mercy were worse I heard weren't they? At least they said sorry though, didn't they, the Mercy?

KOD *The American Mercy did, yeah.*

AM *(Coughs)* Oh, not the Irish Mercy?

KOD *Well, they said a particular kind of apology.*

AM *(Coughs)* Which is?

KOD *'Sorry if you had a bad time'.*

AM Were you shocked, what...but which part shocked you in the beginning when you heard about the residential and the Magdalene. Was it the fact that nuns were doing it? And they were portraying holy stuff.

KOD *Yeah, I suppose one of the things I found difficult is because I had a nice time with nuns, I went to the Ursulines in Cork and I really liked them.*

AM And they weren't like that with you?

KOD *No. So that was hard for me and then it was...because I'm middle class, you...you get to forget that actually you're privileged you know, it's part of the benefits of being privileged, you just forget you're privileged and I suppose I didn't really realise there was such...it sounds stupid but anyway, I was stupid. But it was vicious class politics.*

AM So did you not know there was places where we were brought up in?

KOD *No.*

AM *Gosh.*

KOD *I mean I grew up in a place called Haulbowline and there was what I...we called an orphanage near Cobh.*

[Phone rings]

AM Yeah, I don't answer private numbers.

[Phone keeps ringing]

KOD *And I would have been very young, four or five, when my mother explained to me what an orphanage was. And I was horrified to think that your parents could die. That was totally news to me and I just thought it was just the most frightening thing I'd heard of. I couldn't believe that your parents could die. I was that young.*

AM Yeah, yeah.

KOD *And then she was saying, 'well actually no, their parents aren't all dead, they...they j...you know, their parents aren't dead'.*

AM Most of our parents weren't dead, yeah.

KOD *She seems to have known that, and then that even freaked me out even more and she'd get cross with me, she said, 'no you're not going to go there, you're not going to go there'. So I do remember that. Now, I don't remember the building, I don't remember seeing it, but I remember knowing that there was an orphanage nearby.*

AM But I heard, I don't know how true it is...

KOD *But that's about the only thing I ever heard...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...you know.*

AM Really?

KOD *Yeah, and when I was very, very small. I never heard anything after that.*

AM So when did you hear about this whole...

KOD *Not until I met...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...the student I was telling you about.*

AM You're joking? You didn't know anything about it then?

KOD *I didn't know anything about residential institutions until the Laffoy Commission.²³*

AM God.

KOD *And the Commission to Inquire – sorry – into Child Abuse. No. I wouldn't have known there was anything. I knew there was Artane [Artane Industrial School]. But I saw the Artane Boys Band playing in Croke Park and it seemed...they seemed great, you know.*

AM Hmm.

KOD *Didn't know there was so many of these institutions. I didn't know about Magdalenes until the nineties. And even then I found it very hard to find information.*

AM But when you think...I don't know how true it is but I heard that...'cause then I thought, 'well that would make sense with the sperm donor,' I heard that the nuns were paying the parents to give up their children. Bec...just a one off payment if they had too many children, because the nuns knew when they gave them up, they could continue to claim for them, whereas the parents couldn't claim for them under the Health Board. They couldn't feed them but they couldn't claim

²³ The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, subsequently known as the Ryan Commission after Judge Mary Laffoy resigned.

for them. And I heard that the nuns were giving them one-off payments to give their children to them, because that gave them a steady monthly income. I don't know if you heard...ever heard that.

KOD *I know according to the research that was done first of all by Mary Raftery²⁴ that the payment that was given per capita for each child averaged out all through the decades to be a labouring man's wage per week per child. Which is a lot considering that an average labouring man would have more than one child.*

AM Oh right.

KOD *So that was a pretty substantial payment.*

AM Uh huh.

KOD *And especially...one of the things that's just constant was that everybody talks about how ill-fed they were, ill-clothed, ill-educated and made to work...*

AM Hmm.

KOD *...so that means that money was being saved and money was being made.*

AM We were cold, anyone else ever tell...always cold.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM But you think when you look back, you think you were cold because you were hungry. But then like the sugar level would drop and then they would pile the sugar on the bread and make you eat that.

KOD *Do you think you've any health effects?*

²⁴ Co-author of *Suffer the Little Children* and producer of *States of Fear* documentary

AM (Coughs) Yeah. Well I don't know, I...I would like to know, I would like to get biopsies on these things.

KOD *On your five vaccinations, yeah.*

AM But they...they...they seem to keep...not...they won't let us mention them and I g...don't understand why.²⁵

KOD *Hmm.*

AM I think I might have mental health effects.

KOD *Like what?*

AM Loneliness. Not being able to handle everyday simple things that might be easy for you or easy for somebody else, that I have to fight my way through them. Isolation...and I try not to...I try to not to be that way but I still think that there...those things are there. I think that...I often think I'm going to end up just like my mother did. And I've only got two years left to be ending up like her, I often think I end up...I'm going to end up like her. I think...I *think* a lot, because of it...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...instead of living.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It's...if I get upset by the most stupidest of things, well not really but...there used to be for instance, an Alsatian dog that used be behind that green fence over there...

KOD *Uh huh.*

²⁵ Following a judicial review in 2003, the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse ceased its investigation into the vaccine trials. For further information see: <http://www.childabusecommission.ie/vaccinetrials/index.html>

AM ...and then suddenly when I came back one day from my grandchildren that I saw this dog really hot in the weather. And I went out and had a look, I realised it had no water and I couldn't...that was it, that really, really started bothering me. But I knew it was like a guard dog. So...and I'm sitting here thinking how...so it got to about two o'clock in the morning and I'm still trying to figure out...and it was actually making me...I couldn't breathe...making me cry so I thought first of all, 'I know this dog is going to have me, let's try the ice,' so I started...two o'clock in the morning I'm out there lobbing ice at this dog! *(Laughs)* That...and I knew it wasn't enough so I came back and I got this water and I thought, 'okay this dog is going to have my hand but sod it I don't care, this dog has got to...' so I went over and I thought...I put my hand under with this bowl of water thinking, '*oh God!*' but the dog just drank the water, didn't do anything. So then each day after that...at first it was barking at me and going mad, but it still drank the water. Next day I got this leg of lamb, cooked it, brought it over, 'cause she wasn't feeding it. I then reported her, phoned her up and said, 'come out to that fence I'm outside here,' I said, 'now listen if you don't let me start walking this dog and looking after this dog you're in big trouble'. So before you knew it this dog used to love me to death. So I think vulnerable things...like I said, that old lady. I think it affects me that way.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It actually physically makes me ill that I...when I find that people who are vulnerable or being bullied, physically I cannot stand by, I'm prepared to just put my life forward, I'm prepared to have my hand eaten...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...even though I know that I'm actually a coward, but it's only afterwards when I think about what I've done, I think, '*oh shit, what did I...*' you know? So I think it's because...I think it affects me that way. Hmm.

KOD *And what things are you most proud of?*

AM My children, my grandchildren. Nothing about me though.

KOD *You don't think you'd any part in...*

AM Well I guess I gave birth to them, but I'm not proud of anything to do with me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM What would I most have liked...I'd like to have been able to call someone Mum, that would have been nice. Because when I think what she went through and what these went through, it's just too many of my family really...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...that they...what they have done to...because we don't really know each other anymore...well at all, actually thinking about it. And I...you know my sister may ring me once a year but that's not being a sister really is it?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM So, I feel that they've taken my whole family, that I could have had a family. My grandchildren c...my children could have had some...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...a family. And so, on my side they don't really have that and I feel that they've...I feel that they have done that to me. 'Cause it wasn't just...you know, you get some people you've met it might be one person that's gone in, but you're talking about sixteen people here.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And it...they're *immediate* family, it isn't like distant family is it...

KOD *Uh huh, hmm.*

AM ...you know.

KOD *And how do you feel about Ireland as a country? You've lived most of your life now in England.*

AM Hmm. It's...I find if...I find when I go over there I feel fear. The first day yeah, it might be okay. But then after a few days and you go around various places...the one thing I...that *amazes* me is...especially when I went to Ballinasloe – do you know, I didn't like that gypsy fair [Ballinasloe Horse Fair] oh yuck chavs, gypsies (*laughs*) – but the *stars*, I don't see stars here...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...but I was like sitting there...standing there and how *low* they were...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...I find that part is amazing about Ireland. But I find...for some reason I had built up this thing that Irish people were really kind until I went over there two years ago. They're a hard fucking people. They're hard. I had to almost whip someone at the Ballinasloe Fair for whipping a goat. I had to take the whip off him and whip him and say, 'how,' and now he's hopping up and down and I said, 'there you...that's...' you know. And I find that side of it I can't take. I found my sister...I found *extremely* hard, but then that's because her husband used to beat her. But I got the opportunity to corner him, 'cause I hadn't seen my sister for twenty years and I had s...I cornered him into a corner and I warned him, I said, 'you may be good at beating up on her,' I said, 'now, so let's see how good you are at beating up on me'. I said, 'because if I ever find you lay a finger on her you little shit,' I said, 'I'll have you through that bloody window'. He's now terrified of me, that's a good thing.

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Apparently he had to lie down 'cause he couldn't take what I said. Bully isn't it, bullying. So I said...my sister had said to me then, (*speaks in Irish accent*) '*oh my Jesus what did you say to Craig!* [pseudonym]' – you know the accent, the thing! (*Laughs*) And I find...although I say I'd like to live in Ireland, I don't know whether I would, because I just don't find it's my country.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Isn't that sad? Because I just find that the people are extremely hard, and I d...I don't know whether it's the economy that's made them hard or...but for some reason I was under the illusion all the time over here that the Irish people were kind.

KOD *And where did you get that illusion from do you think?*

AM I don't know, don't know. I just thought they were kind until I went back over there and I found that they're very...they don't seem to have compassion, mo...a lot of them. They have no respect for animals, most of them, or the ones that I met, and I find that extremely distressing. And so I don't know whether I'd ever settle back in Ireland. I find at least over here, although it may seem harder over here, because people...like in London, the first place I came to was London, and I loved the fact I didn't have to say hello to people or...and nobody wanted to say hello to me and I found that really liberating, yeah? Over there they might say that everyone that passes you says hello to you and I even forget to say hello back because I'm not used to that over here, but I have now disc...find that the people or maybe...I don't know whether it's the people or the government, they won't get away with as much over here in b...treating people bad as they do in Ireland. I find that the church has still got *so much* say in the government and I find that very freaky because as you say, these people were found dead in High Park Convent and nobody's been arrested. If th...High Park Convent was over here do you honestly think they would get away with that? Do you think...you know, so why were they not arrested? I just don't understand why they weren't...you know, there's...there still must be some of these alive in High Park Convent. And so I find that side, that the church, the Catholic Church seems to be a very powerful organisation doesn't it?

KOD *Hmm.*

AM And for some reason the government is allowing them to dictate and I'm not getting my head around that. And so I find, over here at least I know if an organisation did something like that they would be arrested straight away, I know there would be justice. So although you might...as you said how long it took you to fight for the justice that you got or to set up whatever you have or...

KOD *Uh huh, well I think the campaign Justice for Magdalenes is going for ten years but I...I've only been in it about three and a half, a bit more now actually, yeah.*

AM But why were the nuns not arrested in High Park Convent? Did anyone even say why they weren't?

KOD *No, there have been two Garda enquiries, like at Commissioner level into it and found there was no case to answer but the Irish Human Rights Commission has also found that they think there is a case to answer, and then McAleese²⁶ gave it...I would argue a white wash saying technically or legally they didn't need an exhumation order²⁷ to bring up the bodies and that you know, he just fudged the issue of why there wasn't adequate death certs for the women or girls who had died there. I suppose one of the worst aspects of that for me is that they cremated the bodies, again which is kind of against Canon Law and practice as far as I understand, is it?*

AM Hmm.

KOD *Which means we'll never know the DNA or...you know there's no way of ever finding out.*

AM Who gave them permission to cremate the bodies?

KOD *Well I guess they just took them to the local crematorium, but again you must...you know...*

AM Yeah, but who gave them permission? That's what I'd be asking, you know.

KOD *Well they had an exhumation order but apparently they didn't even need an exhumation order,²⁸ technically speaking.*

AM So what about...so nobody knows who the bodies were?²⁹

KOD No.

²⁶ *Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries*

²⁷ Clarification: an exhumation order was required, but death certificates were not

²⁸ As above

²⁹ Up-to-date information on the High Park exhumations and identification of the women is available in *Death, Institutionalisation & Duration of Stay: A critique of Chapter 16 of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries and related issues*, http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/JFMR_Critique_190215.pdf

AM It could be any of the girls I was in Grianán with or...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...any of the girls that might...

KOD *Those funerals you went to in High Park, you said it felt like you were going to a funeral every week.*

AM Yeah, we were.

KOD *Well, it was those women.*

AM They were in the Magdalene graves...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...is that where they found them?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So the girls like you would see disappearing in the middle of the night, it could be them. Or their babies? See that's the other thing I found, that nuns were extremely horrible. When I heard all about this and I thought, 'my God, there I was thinking that the nuns that done us good and all that time they were actually horrible and there's Sr Louise, had given her life up for that fucking shit. I find that very distressing, you know.

KOD *What about your friendship now with Sr Rita, do you ever...*

AM It's only just...I've only just started talking to her about a week ago, roughly.

KOD *You mean...*

AM Again, because I had a big row with her. So I'm t...do you know, I'm kind of playing it...she's quite happy that I'm talking to her again, but I've told her there is things she needs to actually be telling me now. Number one, why is Waterford saying that we were abandoned in a station. And I want her to go and find out. So she tried to like come back and pretend I hadn't said that bit and answering all the rest of the email. So I go back and say, 'okay I've listened to all this now answer my questions or do I just have to write one line on an email so you have no choice but to answer it'. Sometimes people that are sneaky that want to avoid...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...they will answer everything else in the...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...she's now seventy, but she needs to start giving me answers if she wants to be my friend again, and I've told her that. I said, 'I don't want any bullshit from you anymore,' like you know, 'you were supposed...the reason that I went against you was because you suddenly became this bullshitter and if you want to be my friend and in my life again then you need to start answering me the truth, I don't give a damn about...you know, it's too late to care whether or not you are being loyal to the Catholic church or the Good Shepherds, 'cause we know...we all know what they've done so it's not...there's no more room left for loyalty is there? Just be honest, you can't...' you know. So I said, 'you need to go and find out,' but I kn...you know what they'll all do again? 'Oh we can't find the records,' or...but you know that they can, then...they must have archived them somewhere.

KOD *If they even kept them Angelina, you know.*

AM They can't all have had fires...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and rats and...what they say, mice did you say?

KOD *Mice and floods.*

AM What did the mice do?

KOD *Well they ate the paper, have you heard that one?*

AM *(Laughs)* No! I had a mouse here and he never ate any of my paper!

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM Honestly, is that what they said?

KOD *Yeah, they d...they have said that, that mice have eaten the...you know.*

AM Can they prove the mice ate the paper?

KOD *Course not.*

AM 'Cause mice would leave little...

KOD *Droppings.*

AM ...well they'd also leave...they wouldn't eat...say with this paper, they wouldn't eat the whole sheet, they would eat corners of it so you'd still have a...

KOD *A big...a piece of paper.*

AM You know, and did nobody say, 'okay can you show me the evidence that the mice...the said mice has eaten this?' Has nobody said that?

KOD *Well they've never said it directly to me, but they have said it to other people.*

AM And the other thing then what I...like...I wanted to know from her is, 'why are you living in this wonderful Georgian house while I have to live in a shithole. I've...I'm more entitled to...you're just a nun, you weren't there all your life, I was there for fifteen years'. 'Cause if I show you

what...about my mother (*walks away from recording device to retrieve documentation*) and actu...it's like the Garda,³⁰ I had to say to them, 'you carry on bullshitting me,' I said, 'I don't give a shit what police station that you come from,' you know, 'cause they said that they'd look into it, and I said to them...'cause what they're now saying is...they said to me on the phone, 'Angelina you need to,' they go to me, 'you need to be very careful what you say to me Angelina'. I said 'oh yeah, really, why is that?' I said...they said, 'accusing us of not doing our job properly'. I said, 'actually I don't need to be careful at all what I say to you,' I said, 'what I've got here in front of me tells me you didn't do your job properly,' I said, 'so what you need to be doing *Garda*, is being *very* careful what you actually say to me,' I said, 'cause I c...' yeah? I said, 'number one,' I said, 'all I have to do is to show in England the coroner's report and the Garda statement'. This is how it works in England yeah, when somebody dies and they find a body you have to talk to the last person that saw them alive and the first person that found them dead. The statement has to be from these people. Nothing like that. (*Leafs through papers*) The other thing I discovered then...of...Maureen's marriage certificate, don...you look at all these signatures, don...none of them are really any different, to the writing.

KOD *That's true, no.*

AM How can th...this is why I don't believe the Irish certificates. None...look at them...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...the same how can that be?

KOD *Uh huh. So the signatures are all the same handwriting.*

AM As...yeah the writing.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Don't you think that's a bit of a farce? (*Leafs through papers*) There's not even the signature on this one is there, this is her death...this is the sperm donor's death certificate and this is

³⁰ Further detail on following page

Maureen's death certificate...I don't even know what that says. Here, you're quite good at reading these little things.

[Sound of leafing through papers]

AM But we worked out that Maureen was pregnant when we got all this, when she got married to that man. [Quoting from death certificate] 'Asphyxia following...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...drowning'. I don't know what that says.

KOD *It's the signature, qualification and residence of the informant, the person who's doing the death cert I think.*

AM Oh right. Right, so this is what they...this is the...

KOD *Inquest.*

AM ...index, yeah.

KOD *Inquest held...inquest held [exact date removed] 1982.*

AM I wasn't even invited to it. And you know the other thing, the person that identified her body wasn't her next-of-kin, some guy just because he happened to be called Mayfield. And these...this is the guy here this is the index...what they're supposed to have according to...that's the man that found him, nothing from him. Garda yeah, I've got something from him. Gary Mayfield [pseudonym] something just to say he identified the body and he was a neighbour. Alice Mayfield, he name was actually Maguire [pseudonym] so they got that wrong, nothing from her. (*Leafs through papers and points out documents*) And that is the Coroner. So that's Gary Mayfield, just say he's her neighbour, didn't even wait for the next-of-kin. That's the Garda. Now this...it's the Garda statement that tells me that they did *nothing* for that woman and that's why I'm going to fight it. If you actually read what they actually did when they found

her body you'd be shocked. *(Pause, continues to leaf through papers)* And I think that that's what made me go after the Magdalene nuns...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM ...to get justice for her.

(Pause)

KOD *So there's a l...a large sum of money really. Well, £25.*

(Pause)

AM But all it basically says, 'there's footsteps leading here, footsteps leading to there'.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM This is all this did, he put Ardkeen [hospital]...he got some fire brigade to take it away, he never went out to Kevinstown to interview anyone, never cornered [cordoned] off the scene, never did...and let's face it that was 1982, those type of things should have been in practice by then.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Never interviewed anyone, and what had happened was she was in Kevinstown at three or four in the afternoon. She only went down to the shop in Kevinstown which is [number removed] miles away to get some cigarettes and slippers. Someone gave her a lift 'cause she ended up [number removed] miles away dead in this place like this, still in these slippers apparently. And he's not even asked any of these questions, why this has happened, whatever. Who saw her out there? Was she upset, was she...none of these questions were asked, so I said to the Garda, I said, 'in the end of the day you're just as responsible for not doing your job properly and as far as I'm concerned I need you now to look into it. I know most of these people are dead,' I said, 'but if it comes to it you're just going to have to admit to me you haven't done your job properly, simple as that'. So he goes to me, 'oh now Angelina, you need to watch what you're saying'. And I said, 'no I do not need to be watch[ing] what I'm saying,' and I said, 'I

never watch what I'm saying,' I said, 'because if I take this to the court of law I can prove you didn't do your job properly 'cause you know...number one you didn't even interview the man that found her'. There's no statement from him. Yet he's telling everyone he found her...'cause they said...okay she died in three inches of water, so this...the coroner claims, yeah?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause when they saw the area...and so I'm saying to the Guard, 'okay, you see, again you haven't even thought about this, if she died s...in three inches of water you're saying you found her on her back, how the fuck did she die in three inches of water?' I said, 'none of you have looked into this,' I said, 'I know it's not you now, but this is what has happened. This man is saying that he found her sitting up, yet by the time *you* got to her she's l...*you're* saying she's lying down'. And I think the only reason that they didn't look into it is because this Gary Mayfield person, he knew that Maureen had been in that orphanage with us before...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and he probably said, 'ah she's from the old Good Shepherds Home'.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I think honestly the Garda were just as responsible for treating us with neglect as the nuns were and the government. Because whenever you ran away they didn't even *question* why you were running away, they never asked you why you running away. They just got you back there to those nuns.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And there was no...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...do you know what I mean?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM You know, and the amount of times that you did run away, and if you eventually ran away too many times your next port of call would be a mental home. You see, and this is how they always had that threat over you. They knew that if they didn't threaten you with Magdalene they would threaten you with mental home. If you got too abusive to them they would put you in a mental home. Because the men...let's face it the mental home never questioned it.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And I'm sure that you must have met people that said the same thing from the Magdalene. You look at Úna Fitzpatrick who was my aunt, all that was wrong with her was she was deaf and dumb and they put her from the Magdalenes into the mental home. She eventually *became* one of the mental people...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...from *living* in the mental home. But as...I just find it all...the lack of the care that peop...human beings have for others horrific. And I'm sure you find it over here too and I'm sure they will look into it eventually 'cause there must have been Catholics over here too.

KOD *You think there was other Catholic institutions like that here?*

AM Yeah but I've read up...didn't they shut them down before, over there or something, didn't they shut them...or something?

KOD *Well there are definitely in Northern Ireland and there seems to have been C...Catholic convents used for kind of Irish girls in terms of remand homes or borstals but it's not something I've done a lot of res...any real research on, it's just from reading some memoirs.*

AM Michelle O'Halloran [pseudonym] was in Grianán Training Centre.

KOD *I think she was in Donnybrook, was she in...in An Grianán too?*

AM No, you...you read up...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...Grianán Training...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...Centre. Maybe you should talk to her.

KOD *Yeah, she's one of the people on the list.*

AM Is she?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And ask her about what kind of things...the...the laundry type of things she had to do. I know she was in the Grianán but I think she was there after me.

KOD *Uh huh, she would have been in the eighties I think.*

AM Yeah, but she has written...is it on the list you're going to see, are you going to talk to her?

KOD *She's...yeah, she's got in touch so I'll be interviewing her.*

AM Well that's good.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM She will...she must have evidence.

KOD *Yeah, it will be interesting to talk to her.*

KOD *So I've just...you know, kind of one or two more questions at the very most. Are y...are you in touch with anybody from that time that you were in the institutions?*

AM I can't even...no, no I'm not, be nice to be though.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But no. Isn't that strange? I guess it's because I moved away to Ireland...England sorry, and whereas my sister is in touch with lots of them from Waterford [identifying detail removed], but no I'm not. But I don't...my brother's not in touch with any of them either.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah.

KOD *Yeah, that seems to be typical.*

AM Is it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM That they're not in touch with them?

KOD *Uh huh. (Pause) Okay.*

AM Do you know, maybe we should organise something and get people together.

KOD *Yeah, I suppose it's kind of done through the Irish support groups, is it? You know like, you're talking like with Andrew.*

AM Andrew is good yeah, but the [name of Irish centre in interviewee's city removed], are useless, they're very useless.

KOD *I mean, most of the English cities seems to have a survivors' support group.*

AM Yeah, but they have to be good. Andrew's in [name of nearby location removed]...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and he is really good. He...you know...he pushes things. He comes to [interviewee's city removed] every fortnight to that pub that I'm telling you about.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM It's a shame that you're not around on Friday, but I guess the next fortnight, if you're about...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...because Andrew will be at that pub...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...at about quarter past twelve and what he does is anyone that's got any paper work he'll...sitting there and he'll fix...you know.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM He did my form for me for the Magdalene thingy. But I said to him, 'I need those papers back,' because that has more so implicating the Health Board...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...where they're asking questions and you've got other nuns asking them for money...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and stuff like that. But I will let you have this file to copy it.

KOD *Okay, I will, I'll keep very good care...*

AM But you must give it all back, but if I were you...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...promise you will give it back to me.

KOD *Promise.*

AM You have my address don't you?

KOD *Yes I do and I'll...I'll send it via...*

AM 'Cause this is our only evidence from them.

KOD *Okay.*

AM But I would u...I would get in touch with...you see I've never even heard of this place. This is why I thought, 'why is she sending...

KOD *[Location removed] that was 4th February 2005, okay.³¹*

AM What made you think she made her send me all this?

KOD *I don't know it's unusual to be sent...maybe [name of doctor removed] wrote...*

AM *(Coughs)* She's no longer there, she was with Andrew's [name of Irish centre in nearby location removed].

KOD *Uh huh.*

³¹ See MAGOHP/49, RIRB Correspondence and Records, Pages 3-7

AM And she wrote...I don't know, she asked for loads of them at the time. She said all she got from the others was one page and she couldn't believe she got this for me.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM So unless [Sr] Teresa Broderick [pseudonym] wants to...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...talk...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...or whatever her name is. You can take the file or is that...would you rather not...I've got a smaller file you can have actually.

KOD *Yeah, thanks Angelina.*

AM But say, 'I will...' say to...'I promise I will return it'.

KOD *I promise...*

AM *(Laughs)*

KOD *...I will put it...I will copy it and put the originals back in the post.*

AM Purely because....

KOD *Oh no, they're precious.*

AM ...that's the only evidence we've got isn't it?

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Yeah when you think about it. You can also have my Residential Redress [RIRB] application if you want that.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM That will show you that all I was allowed to say was I hated working in the laundry. And I...*ah*, that's that one, [referring to documents and files] what's this, I think that's the Re...is that the one?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Look, that's all they gave me...points, we were...we became a *points* system.

KOD *Jeez.*

AM I had to go...first of all they offered me [amount removed] then it went up, that's Euros remember...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...which is [amount removed] pound[s]. We might as well take...put it all in here.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM So you be shocked at the fact that...and the form that we had to sign, saying that we would be done for treason, they're crazy feckers aren't they?

KOD *So in terms of putting that into the archive Angelina, will I just redact your names like, take out your name and address and that, black them all out?*

AM *Yeah.*

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Is that alright?

KOD *Oh no, absolutely.*

AM Do you want to put this in the archive?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Would it help you?

KOD *Yes it would, it would help.*

AM You'd be forever taking those...what I said...black them out of your copies though, not my originals.

KOD *Oh yeah!*

AM If you don't mind.

KOD *Of course.*

AM That...if that [photocopier] was working I'd be sitting here flowing those copies over for you now.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM See if I've got anything else that might help you in your...

(Pause)

KOD *You mentioned photographs.*

AM I had one on the computer, can I...have you got an email, oh you have haven't you?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM I tell you what, I don't know which one is the right...'cause then I had one and...can I send them to you?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Fiona's [pseudonym] got some as well. I had one where we were all standing in...apparently I was...I looked the youngest of all of them. And they all had the veils on.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I've no idea, it doesn't...it's not confirmation or anything. It was (*sings*) '*May the Month of Mary*'.

KOD *It was a May procession.*

AM Well we're just standing there with all these sill...silly veils on us, and I found that quite weird. If I can ev...I had them on the laptop but I still couldn't find them the other day. So what I'll do is I will email them to you.

KOD *Okay.*

AM (*Leafs through paperwork*) There's so much stuff, look at all this paperwork that I ended up having. 'Your claim to the Redress...' and then...you can have it all, see what they say. Where the nun denied, you'll be shocked at that. Anything to do with [name of solicitor firm removed] had to do with the Redress Board.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM This is why I don't know, this is why I have so many some different statements I think I had to do [a] statement for the Redress [Board] and then for the Review is it? [Residential Institutions Redress Board Review Committee] You know I had to go back twice?

KOD *Oh yes, your appeal.*

AM Yeah, I think that's what it was. Which is quite sad, that I actually had to appeal because they only offered me that amount of money isn't it?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM So anything to do with them you can have, it might take you forever. There's my appeal I think. Even my... [quoting from letter] 'I am writing on behalf of [inaudible] de, de, de de...' Residential Redress...this is the review. If you think there's duplicates, just don't copy them, yeah?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Gosh, I didn't know I had so much. *(Pause)* Some of them might even be...if there's duplicates, then you keep the duplicate rather than copy...

KOD *Yeah.*

AM ...'cause then at least you'd have the original then. 'Address of Re...Review...' okay that's only about that. I found the solicitors not very good though, I've got to say that Kathleen [Katherine] I couldn't believe that they ha...would not speak up for me. You said there's an Irish solicitor [inaudible] tell her I will be the first and happy one to actually...

KOD *Well no, there's an Irish solicitor who is making the point that the gagging order³² could be declared illegal because it was a...not a contract formed with...you know, somebody with full and informed consent because...*

AM We were vulnerable as well.

KOD *...they only way you could get your money was agree to be gagged therefore that's...*

AM And is she not carrying on to make that a case?

KOD *Well she would need somebody to take the case.*

³² Section 28 (6) of the Residential Institutions Redress Act, 2002

AM And isn't she a solicitor?

KOD *Yeah, I don't know if they can make it without a person.*

AM Well I'll be their person. Tell her I'll be her person.

KOD *Okay.*

AM I'd be the ideal person, yeah? 'Cause I've already complained about that.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And bearing in mind not only would it...is it illegal, it's illegal to make a retard to sign a document if she has no idea what it's actually all about.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM 'Cause that's what's...when you think about that...I'll get you a bag for this [file].

[Interviewee moves away from recording device]

KOD *Thanks.*

AM Because how would a retard know what she was signing, if you think about it? It's true though isn't it? Well I will be saying, well actually...really...you might need two files in case it don't work, I've got loads of them...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...to help you. So all she was looking for was a person to say they'll agree to talk?

KOD *Yeah, I was at a public meeting recently.*

AM [Inaudible] ...talk?

KOD *She said she would be happy to take a case. Yeah, I hope she'll get in touch with me, I gave her my card, I don't have her card.*

AM Tell her I'm not too scared to talk.

KOD *Uh huh.*

[Interviewee returns to recording device]

AM I would be happy to actually...I would welcome to be arrested by the said thought police.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Because I know that would bring it out in the open.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM [Sound of shuffling papers] And as soon as I'm arrested I will then tell everybody on the thing that Miss W___ has been arrested...here we go....

KOD *Heh!*

AM ...that's the...yeah...

KOD *Perfect, yeah.*

AM ...they deserve it, sorry it's only a paper bag.

KOD *It's perfect.*

AM Are you sure you've got it all?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And anything more, I've a feeling...as I say just copy...half of it will probably be copies, half of it you will probably find you won't even need.

KOD *No, it will be interesting we will put it into the archive and we'll make sure that your name is completely hidden.*

AM And you're actually going to hide the nuns' names? I'm shocked at this.

KOD *Yeah, we have to do that because they haven't consented to be part of the project so...*

AM Yeah but even though we've consented you still hide the evidence?

KOD *Well if you consented but remember you consented under a pseudonym?*

[Interviewee moves away from recording device]

AM That's true.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM That is true. So the people...

KOD *Unless you want me to put in that...but I would advise against it but that would be the only way around it.*

[Interviewee returns to recording device]

AM No, no I'm taking your advi...I don't want journalists after me.

KOD *Yeah, I just think it's private...*

AM I put it in to actually fight...

KOD *Yeah, a case.*

AM ...you know, like the gagging order.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Do you want...I th...there's...this is...this is too heavy for you to carry isn't it?

KOD *It's too big yeah, I'm going to need to put it into a...a carry-on bag.*

AM Is that carrier bag enough?

KOD *Perfect, it's really, really good, yeah.*

AM [Inaudible] As I say it's the invoices [from] the nuns I need back.

KOD *Okay and you're getting that from Andrew.*

AM Now where will...w...you see I haven't even got a scanner that works here, but Andrew has got my stuff that has got all the...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...Health Board...when will you be coming back so I can get you...

KOD *Em...*

AM ...but when it comes back to me I'll actually get copies...

KOD *Okay.*

AM ...so you can take...just take it away then.

KOD *Great.*

AM Yeah? And as I say that is more interesting because you've got other nuns from the same convent, and this is what...the other thing I couldn't understand, why two nuns from the same convent is asking the Health Board for money...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...because normally it would only...should be one really shouldn't it?

KOD *Yeah, yeah.*

AM You suddenly got this letter and they're saying, 'oh here's your invoice of 76 something,' and she's getting paid that from the 1st of the month to the 31st of the month.

KOD *That's a lot of money.*

AM You work out, £76 for...

KOD *A month...*

AM ...hmm...

KOD *...in the seventies.*

AM ...and that's just one nun and this is Benignus, she wasn't over us...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AMyet she's claiming for me. So I'm not getting that behaviour. And then Borgia obviously...but I would say to [Sr] Teresa Broderick if I were you...and if you want me to say it to her, 'listen lady,' this is what I would say to her, 'I've already got invoices that you've sent so I would suggest that either give me all of the invoices of the other people or I'll just bring it out, the fact

that they're there 'cause let's face it if you got one invoice for me how many do you think that are...are out there...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...which is...how much money is that? And what did they do with the money do you think? Just bought buildings? They really need to be fecking paying us more. Do you know, we never even had a holiday from these people. They used always go on holidays, they had cars, they had...it's just really sad. The more I think about what they did and realise...I just think it's really very sad. And still they're living some of them happily as if they're done nothing wrong. Do you find that quite weird?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Do you think that they just...in their heads, that they *really* believe they done nothing wrong?

KOD *I don't know because I haven't met any of them.*

AM *(Coughs)* Have you asked to meet them?

KOD *Yeah.*

AM And what [have] they said?

KOD *I keep asking. They're not that interested.*

AM Who've you asked?

KOD *We've been writing...*

AM The Good Shepherds?

KOD *...to the orders, yeah.*

AM Do you want me to ask?

KOD *Hmm, I'd love to interview nuns, I would really, really, really like that.*

AM You should put it, 'look, why don't you let us hear your side of it?'

KOD *Well that's exactly what I'm saying, but that's the truth of it too Angelina.*

AM For all we know they might have been bullied.

KOD *Yeah, I agree with you that I think we have to know how they were trained, I think that's central.*

AM You know, there might have been something bullying them in there...

KOD *Hmm.*

AM Mightn't there?

KOD *I think this oral history project is going to be an excellent pro...is an excellent project, but it's...it's...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...not going to be as rich as it could be because it doesn't have the voices of the nuns. So I would love to interview sisters.*

AM I will ask [Sr] Rita.

KOD *Ask her, and tell her too that she...we can do the interview...*

AM She's Dub...are you Dublin?

KOD *Yeah, I'm...I'm from Cork originally, but from...y...based in Dublin, I'll drive down to her.*

AM Well she lives in...she works in Dublin...

KOD *Oh great.*

AM ...she's now living in Dublin.

KOD *I'd love to interview her...*

AM She's living in...

KOD *...and then she can decide...*

AM *(Coughs)*

KOD *...even after the interview, does she want to donate it or not. I'll hand her over the...*

AM Tell her you'll take her name off.

KOD *Oh I would totally take her name off, yeah.*

AM I'm just trying to think who else I know that actually talks to me. I'm happy to talk to [Sr] Teresa Broderick, just...I don't...I never heard of her before.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM But what we have to...I don't know how long, but say for instance, he's put...I don't...Andrew's put the interest in for me for the Magdalene [registered interviewee's interest in the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme] if they need any of that I'll have to let you know.

KOD *Uh huh, well I'm going to get it back to you in a few days.*

AM Well you'll know where to send it anyway won't you?

KOD *Yeah, I have your address, it will come back to you by next Wednesday, at the latest.*

AM That's fi...if the Magdalene know, will they [Department of Justice] know, will they...you could as...send it directly to them.

KOD *Yeah, they should have the...they have the register from the...from all of the Magdalenes, but I don't think you'd be...*

AM Did you actually ask a nun directly or did you just ask an order?

KOD *No, I've just asked...written to the orders.*

AM Yeah, you see, you need to ask a nun directly.

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM Rita.

KOD *Ask...if you could ask her?*

AM Her name is Rita Gallagher. [Pseudonym]

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM And you...I will ask her. She might say, 'oh no,' but st...I'll still ask her.

KOD *Yeah.*

AM Or you could just...I could go over there and we could meet her for lunch and she could just talk freely and then you could say to her, 'well how about you putting your side to this...to the whole...'

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM I would also ask Teresa Broderick 'cause if she's the one that's actually spitting this out to me she might *want* to talk.

KOD *Uh huh, that Teresa Broderick woman.*

AM Whatever her name is, yeah.

KOD *Yeah, Sr Teresa Broderick, yeah. But no, I keep asking and I keep asking and keep asking other nuns and other orders to ask them, you know.*

AM Does any nun actually talk to you all?

KOD *Two.*

AM Well then, how about finding Julia Healy [pseudonym] who was a trained...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...who wrote that shit about me.³³ Let me write down who she is now. Well I don't know if she's...she might be...divorced the guy by now, you know what I mean. But...I wonder if we could find them on the internet?

KOD *Julia Donoghue [pseudonym] you were saying, isn't it?*

AM Yeah, she was...she's the one who wrote that whole horrible stuff about me. And if you do see her tell her she's so going to get it if I ever see her!

KOD *(Laughs)*

AM She was a train...

KOD *A novice.*

³³ See MAGOHP/49 Historic Records, Pages 7-8 – letter drafted by Julia Healy

AM ...a novice, yeah. She even got as far as going for the veil...

KOD *Uh huh.*

AM ...and he was a trainee priest and I think he was only a year away from being...

KOD *Ordained.*

AM ...his name was Peter Donoghue, [pseudonym] he then married her, I heard that...I don't know whether they...how do we find who they are? Wouldn't that be interesting if we could find them here? Where would you think I would look? Twitter?

KOD *You just Google.*

AM [Typing search] Donoghue...Julia Donoghue, married to Peter, let's put Ireland...put high...why is that high...okay...

KOD *Okay I'm going to turn off the tapes now.*

AM Oh I didn't even know we were still doing that, yeah that's fine.

KOD *Okay.*

[Interview ends]

[Audio File 3 Ends 03:52:51]