

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



Reference Code: MAGOHP/26

Oral History (Audio) of: Ellen Murphy (neé Ward)

Pseudonym? No

Status: Survivor

**Keywords:** Sisters of Charity Orphanage, Banada Abbey, Ballymote, Co Sligo; Good

Shepherd Industrial School, Limerick; Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry, Limerick; Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry, Sundays Well; Sisters of Charity Magdalene Laundry, Peacock Lane; Sisters of Charity Magdalene Laundry, Donnybrook; stigma of bastard identity; auxiliary system in laundry; bullying and physical violence amongst women in laundry; survivors in institutionalised settings; absence of religiosity; survivor groups; loss of educational opportunities; adult education; emigration; Residential Institutions Redress Board; Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme;

permanent brain damage following assault in industrial school.

**Date of Interview:** 9th April 2013

Number/Format of Audio Files: 1 x m4a file

Interviewer: Dr Sinéad Pembroke

Records/Papers included: No

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content/uploads/2017/06/MAGOHP26\_Ellen-Murphy.m4a

## **Notes on Redaction and Transcription Process**

Interviewee Initials: EM Interviewer Initials: SP

### Notes on Redaction Process (full list of redactions and pseudonyms available from Pg 3)

- Audio segments containing named individuals have been removed
- Named individuals have been assigned pseudonyms
- Audio segments containing some locations have been removed

### **Basic Data from Interview**

Name/Pseudonym	Ellen Murphy (neé Ward)	
When Born	1941	
Born outside marriage?	No	
Raised by	Parents then reformatory school	
Education	Industrial School	
Haircutting/punishment?	Yes	
Emigrated?	Yes	
Physical ailments?	Yes, problems with knees which were not given attention while in laundry	
Of Note	Interviewee is now deceased; interviewee witnessed a nun giving birth in the industrial school.	

Laundry No 1		
Order	Good Shepherd	
Laundry	Limerick	
From	Approx 1956/57	
То	Unclear	
Duration of stay	Unclear (interviewee finally escaped the laundry system at 23 years old)	
Age on entry	15/16 years	
Entered Via	Sent from industrial school on same campus	
House Name/No	Yes	
Circumstances of Departure	Sent to Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry in Sundays Well	

Laundry No 2		
Order	Good Shepherd	
Laundry	Sundays Well	
From	Unclear	
То	Unclear	
Duration of stay Interviewee says she was there 'for some years'		
Age on entry	Unclear	
Entered Via	ered Via Sent from Limerick laundry	
House Name/No	Yes	
Circumstances of Departure	Sent to Sisters of Charity Magdalene Laundry in Peacock Lane	

Laundry No 3	
Order	Sisters of Charity
Laundry	Peacock Lane
From	Unclear
То	Unclear
Duration of stay	Unclear (interviewee finally escaped the laundry system at 23 years old)
Age on entry	Unclear
Entered Via	Sent from Sundays Well
House Name/No	Yes
Circumstances of Departure	Sent to Sisters of Charity Magdalene Laundry in Donnybrook

Laundry No 4		
Order	Sisters of Charity	
Laundry	Peacock Lane	
From	Unclear	
То	Unclear	
Duration of stay	Unclear (interviewee finally escaped the laundry system at 23 years old)	
Age on entry	Unclear	
Entered Via	Sent from Peacock Lane	
House Name/No	Yes	
Circumstances of Departure	Released by religious sisters	

# **List of Audio Redactions**

Location	Redaction	Pseudonym on transcript (if applicable)	Details/Relationship to Interviewee
00:00:20	Name	Sr Judith	Third Party Religious
00:03:20	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:03:29	Name	Vera	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:03:53	Name	Evelyn	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:04:07	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:04:10	Name	Patricia	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:04:34	Name	Vera	Third Party Magdalene (Auxiliary)
00:04:49	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:07:08	Location	n/a	Address of interviewee's godmother
00:07:12	Location	n/a	Address of interviewee's godmother
00:14:08	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
00:16:01	Name	Mahoneys	Men who painted for the religious sisters
00:16:56	Name	Mother Benedict	Third Party Religious
00:17:05	Name	Mother Francis	Third Party Religious
00:17:13	Name	Mother Francis	Third Party Religious

00:17:46	Name	Gráinne Murphy	Magdalene woman working in industrial school
00:17:47	Name	Theresa Fitzpatrick	Magdalene woman working in industrial school
00:17:53	Name	Mother Francis	Third Party Religious
00:17:58	Name	Mother Francis	Third Party Religious
00:18:50	Name	Brenda Murphy	Magdalene woman working in industrial school (possibly same woman as Gráinne Murphy above)
00:18:50	Name	Theresa Fitzpatrick	Magdalene woman working in industrial school
00:19:39	Name	Mother Francis	Third Party Religious
00:22:10	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
00:22:57	Name	Patricia	Third Party Magdalene
00:23:01	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:23:11	Name	Sr Mary Agnes	Third Party Religious
00:23:18	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:23:44	Name	Sr Mary Agnes	Third Party Religious
00:25:38	Name	Theresa Fitzpatrick	Magdalene woman working in industrial school
00:31:52	Name	Evelyn	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:32:06	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:32:33	Name	Patricia	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:32:59	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:34:27	Name	Patricia	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:36:06	Name	Sr Ronan	Third Party Religious
00:36:26	Name	Sr Ronan	Third Party Religious
00:38:44	Location	n/a	Address of interviewee's godmother
00:39:23	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
00:40:09	Name	Mother Kieran	Third Party Religious
00:40:25	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
00:41:35	Name	Flahertys	Interviewee's former employer
00:42:54	Name	Flahertys	Interviewee's former employer
00:43:04	Name	Mr Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
00:45:29	Name	Evelyn	Unclear. Possibly third party Magdalene or child in industrial school.
00:52:23	Name	Sr Mary Agnes	Third Party Religious
00:52:29	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:55:38	Name	Michael Joseph Turley	Farmer who worked for religious sisters
00:58:33	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:59:21	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
00:59:30	Name	Elma/Jacqueline	Third Party Magdalene
01:04:48	Name	Mother Ignatius	Third Party Religious
01:06:00	Name	Sr Kevin	Third Party Religious
01:06:01	Name	Sr Kevin	Third Party Religious
01:06:28	Name	Sr Kevin	Third Party Religious
01:09:05	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:11:34	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband

01:11:43	Name	Josephine	Third Party Magdalene
01:12:20	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:12:24	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:13:06	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:15:49	Name	Cormac	Interviewee's son
01:18:17	Name	Cormac	Interviewee's son
01:18:30	Location	n/a	Location where interviewee did course
01:18:48	Name	Cormac	Interviewee's son
01:20:17	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:20:50	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
01:22:14	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:23:04	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:23:08	Business name	n/a	Employer of interviewee's husband
01:23:44	Location	n/a	Church in which interviewee was married
01:23:59	Name	Mrs O'Connor	Interviewee's former landlady
01:24:22	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:24:31	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:24:44	Name	Martin Murphy (Mr Murphy)	Interviewee's husband
01:25:02	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:25:44	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:28:07	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:29:32	Location	n/a	Location of interviewee and husband's first home
01:30:16	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:30:18	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:30:27	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:30:32	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:30:49	Name	Judith	Interviewee's adoptive aunt
01:31:02	Name	Martin Murphy (Marty)	Interviewee's husband
01:31:20	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:31:29	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:32:26	Name	Orla	Child in industrial school/orphanage
01:32:46	Name	Flahertys	Interviewee's former employer
01:32:49	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:33:14	Name	Jane Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:33:26	Name	William Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:33:30	Name	Jane Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:33:46	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:34:01	Name	Mr Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
01:34:09	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
01:34:39	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
01:35:37	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:35:47	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:36:34	Name	Mrs Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer
01:37:42	Name	Mr Flaherty	Interviewee's former employer

01:38:27	Name	Polly	Sister-in-law of interviewee's former employer
01:39:05	Name	Jane Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:39:07	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:39:08	Name	Lily Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:39:09	Name	Deirdre Flaherty	Child of interviewee's former employer
01:47:34	Name	Frances Doherty	Survivor group organiser
01:47:35	Name	Ita Egan	Survivor group organiser
01:47:36	Name	Angela	Third Party Magdalene
01:47:37	Name	Mairead	Third Party Magdalene
01:48:33	Name	Angela	Third Party Magdalene
01:48:34	Name	Mairead	Third Party Magdalene
01:49:37	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:51:37	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:51:41	Name	Sr Regina	Third party religious
01:51:59	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:52:11	Name	Sr Regina	Third party religious
01:52:27	Name	Sr Regina	Third party religious
01:52:29	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:52:50	Name	Noreen O'Reilly	Matron of interviewee's sister's nursing home
01:53:01	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:53:11	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:53:41	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:54:03	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:54:08	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:54:30	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:54:31	Name	Tony	Interviewee's sister's nickname for Martin
01:54:32	Name	Tony	Interviewee's sister's nickname for Martin
01:54:35	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:54:37	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:54:40	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:54:53	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:55:15	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:55:20	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:55:37	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:55:41	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:55:55	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister
01:55:59	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:56:42	Name	Martin Murphy	Interviewee's husband
01:57:44	Name	Jennifer	Interviewee's sister