

After speaking with my mother who was incarcerated in the Magdalene Laundries as well as spending her childhood in the industrial schools and with my own personal experience of growing up in the care of the state these are our views which we feel very strongly about. How can you expect the women involved to speak up for themselves now, when throughout their young lives they were told they were insignificant, unloved, no one wanted them, given house names to further destroy their sense of worth. Have you any idea how it feels to have no voice. To have no control over your situation, to be at the mercy of those " in charge of you ".

I spent 20 years in care, luckily I had my brothers and sister living with me. These women had no one, completely alone, vulnerable and totally isolated. You don't understand time and place because you've nothing to ground it on. These women may not remember where they were or for how long, days melt into days into weeks, months even years.

The authorities held these women captive for years. Your brain shuts down when faced with fear, terror, loss, it's the mind's way of coping.

In 75 years time who will be left to tell their stories. My generation of sons/ daughters of Magdalenes will be gone as well.

It's another slap in the face. The government sweeping this issue under the carpet again. All of these women are very elderly, give them some closure please. The truth cannot stay hidden. It is time we all became advocates for them. Let this be an end to their suffering. We need to remember and embrace this dark time in our history and learn from it going forward.

The religious orders have never apologized nor admitted any responsibility for their involvement. It's shameful. Worse still, there is no expectation of them taking any responsibility on any level or any apology coming.

Sealing these records is akin to removing these babies all over again. They will never be able to find out the truth, nor will they ever get the opportunity to meet their sons and daughters.

This is your opportunity to be our champion. We only have one short life, use it to help others.

Thankyou Anne Grehan on behalf of Elizabeth O Dwyer.