

Meeting at 2pm at Beechlawn (Grace Park Road, Drumcondra) 11 April 2013

Order of Our Lady of Charity:

Sr Sheila Murphy (Regional Leader)  
Sr Francis Robinson

Good Shepherds:

Sr Bernie McNally (Provincial)  
Sr Brid Mullins

Sisters of Mercy:

Sr Margaret Casey (Congregation leader)  
Sr Elizabeth Manning (outgoing provincial, western province)  
Sr Caitlin Keneally (incoming provincial, western province)  
Sr Thomasina Finn (eastern province)

Religious Sisters of Charity:

Sr Mary Therese [REDACTED]  
Sr Phyllis Meehan  
Sr Mairead Ni Chuiric

Minister Shatter, Minister of State Lynch, Nuala Ní Mhui, Jimmy Martin

There was an informal and constructive discussion on the McAleese report, the follow up, Judge Quirke's role. It was pointed out to the congregations that the question of them making a contribution to any Government fund would have to be addressed at some stage.

Sr Bernadette McNally  
Province Leader  
Good Shepherd Provincialate  
245 Lower Kilmacud Road  
Goatstown  
Dublin 14

February, 2013

Dear Sr Bernadette,

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you on issues relating to the Magdalen Laundries in light of the McAleese Report following its consideration by Government yesterday.

On behalf of the Government, Minister Shatter has asked me to thank you for the assistance and co-operation given to Dr McAleese and the Inter-Departmental Committee in the preparation of his Report. It was much appreciated as indeed was the assistance given with all manner of requests from this Department.

Following its consideration of the McAleese Report, you will be aware that the Government has decided on a number of steps to be taken as quickly as possible. This includes the establishment of a Fund for the benefit of the women who were in these institutions. The intention is to adopt a non-adversarial approach and provide speedy and effective practical help to the women involved.

To that end, the Government has appointed retired judge and current President of the Law Reform Commission, Mr Justice Quirke, to examine how, taking into account the McAleese Report, the Government might best provide supports (including health services such as medical cards, psychological and counselling services and other welfare needs) for the women who need such supports as a result of their experiences.

Mr Justice Quirke is being asked to advise on the establishment of a Scheme under the Fund (to operate on a non-adversarial basis) to make payments to individuals from the Fund. This will include identifying the criteria and factors to be taken into account (such as work undertaken in the Laundries for no remuneration). He will advise on the operation of the Fund and, in particular, the nature and amount of payments to be made out of the Fund. He will further set the procedure for the determination of applications in a manner that ensures the monies in the Fund are directed only to the benefit of eligible applicants and not on legal fees and expenses.

The Government also considered how the religious congregations who ran these institutions could contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation that is now required. With that in mind, I have been asked by Minister Shatter to invite your congregation to make an appropriate contribution to the ex gratia Fund as a reflection of your desire to participate in this process. I am also writing in similar terms to the other congregations involved in the running of these institutions. I look forward to your early response on this matter.

Finally, on a related matter, the Minister has invited women who formerly resided in the Laundries to register their interest in being considered to receive benefits or supports from the Fund when it enters into operation. This will allow people time to gather the necessary basic documentation that will be required to verify their identity and their stay in one of the relevant institutions. It may also give some indication of the numbers who have an interest in such a fund.

In that context, there is every possibility in the coming weeks that women will be in touch with you for their records or confirmation of their residence in the Laundries. Again, the Government would be very grateful for whatever assistance you can give to those women.

I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

---

Damien Brennan  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Sr Mary Christian

Superior General  
The Sisters of Charity  
Caritas  
15 Gilford Road  
Sandymount  
Dublin 4

Sr Sheila Murphy  
Regional Leader  
Sisters of Our Lady of Charity  
63 Lower Sean McDermott Street  
Dublin 1

Sr Elizabeth McNamee  
Congregational Secretary  
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy  
13/14 Moyle Park  
Convent Road  
Clondalkin  
Dublin 22

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OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Sr. Bernadette McNally  
Province Leader  
Good Shepherd Provincialate  
245 Lower Kilmacud Road  
Goatstown  
Dublin 14

23 January, 2014

Dear Sr. Bernadette

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you with regard to a response from the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in connection with the ex gratia scheme established for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries, St Mary's Training Centre Stanhope St and House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill.

In the Holy See's written response to the UNCRC, December 2013 (copy attached), it was stated that *"the Holy See is encouraged by the statement of apology offered by religious orders that were investigated by the State of Ireland. The Holy See is also heartened by the openness of the religious sisters to engage in discussion about issues of compensation and their willingness to pay a part of a compensation package developed by State authorities"*

In light of this statement by the Vatican, the Minister is inquiring if you have reconsidered your position with regard to making a financial contribution to the scheme and he would be grateful if you would revert back to him on this issue as soon as possible.

The Minister would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation in supporting and verifying the applications of former residents who now wish to apply for benefits or support under the Scheme.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality



OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Sr. Mary Christian  
Congregational Leader  
The Sisters of Charity  
15 Gilford Road  
Sandymount  
Dublin 4

23 January, 2014

Dear Sr. Mary

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you with regard to a response from the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in connection with the ex gratia scheme established for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries, St Mary's Training Centre Stanhope St and House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality





OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Sr. Margaret Casey  
Congregational Leader  
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy  
13/14 Moyle Park  
Clondalkin  
Dublin 22

23 January, 2014

Dear Sr. Margaret

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you with regard to a response from the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in connection with the ex gratia scheme established for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries, St Mary's Training Centre Stanhope St and House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality



OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Sr. Margaret Casey  
Congregational Leader  
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy  
13/14 Moyle Park  
Clondalkin  
Dublin 22

23 January, 2014

Dear Sr. Margaret

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you with regard to a response from the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in connection with the ex gratia scheme established for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries, St Mary's Training Centre Stanhope St and House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill.

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The Minister would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation in supporting and verifying the applications of former residents who now wish to apply for benefits or support under the Scheme.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Quattrociochi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality





OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Sr. Sheila Murphy  
Regional Leader  
Sisters of Our Lady of Charity  
Regional Office  
63 Lower Sean Mc Dermott Street  
Dublin 1

23 January, 2014

Dear Sr. Sheila

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr Alan Shatter TD, has asked me to write to you with regard to a response from the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in connection with the ex gratia scheme established for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries, St Mary's Training Centre Stanhope St and House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill.

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In light of this statement by the Vatican, the Minister is inquiring if you have reconsidered your position with regard to making a financial contribution to the scheme and he would be grateful if you would revert back to him on this issue as soon as possible.

The Minister would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation in supporting and verifying the applications of former residents who now wish to apply for benefits or support under the Scheme.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Quattrociochi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality



*Reception 26-2-2013*

The Sisters of Charity  
CARITAS

15. Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4 Telephone: 269 7833, 269 7935 Fax: 260 3085

Minister for Justice and Equality  
Mr. Alan Shatter  
94 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2

25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Dear Minister Shatter,

I would like to thank you for the courtesy and consideration shown us by you and your Department regarding the Magdalen Commission Report. I appreciate the trouble you took to keep us informed, coming to meet with us on numerous occasions and providing us with a copy of the report at the first opportunity possible.

Having considered the report I wish to confirm that the Sisters of Charity will co-operate with the release of relevant information to any woman who requests same. we are prepared to meet with any past resident of our Magdalen Homes who so wishes and we will continue to provide services to the residents in our care. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to make a monetary contribution to the fund.

Wishing you and your Department every success in the implementation of the ex gratia scheme which I hope will bring healing and hope of a better life style to the past residents.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary Christian RSC*  
Mary Christian  
Congregational Leader





# The Sisters of Charity CARITAS

15 Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4 Telephone: 269 7833, 269 7935 Fax: 260 3085



Mr Christopher Quattrociochi  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality  
Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality  
94 St Stephens Green  
Dublin 2

12th February 2014

Dear Mr Quattrociochi

Thank you for your letter dated 23 January 2014 together with attached document; "*Convention on the Rights of the Child; List of issues in relation to the second periodic report of the Holy See; and Addendum – Replies of the Holy See to the list of issues*".

I refer to my letter addressed to Minister Shatter dated 25 June 2013. I enclose a further copy of that letter for easy reference.

The position of the Sisters of Charity is as stated in that letter.

Yours sincerely

*Mary Christian RSC*

Sr Mary Christian  
Congregational Leader





## Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy Congregación de la Hermanas de la Misericordia

Mr Christopher Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the Minister  
for Justice & Equality  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

20<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear Mr Quattrociocchi,

Thank you for your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> July last.

I note the Minister's disappointment at our Congregation's decision not to contribute financially to the Magdalene Scheme. I also note the view of Government in this matter. Our decision was carefully considered and both the Minister and Government will have been well aware of our intent in advance of the announcement of the Scheme.

The experience of our Congregation in seeking to make fair and just contributions towards other State Schemes has convinced us of the incompatibility of such Schemes with our work as a Congregation. Because of this, and for other reasons, we will not alter our decision not to contribute financially to the Scheme.

I confirm that we will provide information, in accordance with law, as may assist the applications of former residents who wish to apply for benefits or supports under the Scheme.

I trust this is in order.

Yours sincerely,

*S. Margaret Casey*

Sr. Margaret Casey  
Congregational Leader





Cm  
Prob.

## Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy Congregación de la Hermanas de la Misericordia

Mr Christopher Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the Minister  
for Justice & Equality  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

30 January, 2014

Dear Mr Quattrociocchi,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23 January.

In response to your query as to whether we have reconsidered our position with regard to making a financial contribution to the scheme for former residents of Magdalen Laundries, our position is as I have stated in my letter to you of 20 August 2013.

As stated in that letter, the experience of our Congregation in seeking to make fair and just contributions towards other State Schemes has convinced us of the incompatibility of such Schemes with our work as a Congregation. I regret to inform you that because of this, and for other reasons, we maintain our stance of not contributing financially to this State Redress Scheme.

I confirm that we are happy to continue to provide information in accordance with the law, as may assist the applications of former residents who wish to apply for benefits or supports under the Scheme. We are also happy to make ourselves available to meet with former residents of our Magdalen Homes should they so wish.

Yours sincerely,

*Sr. Margaret Casey*

Sr. Margaret Casey  
Congregational Leader

31 JAN 2014



Sisters of Our Lady of Charity IRISH REGION

Sr. Sheila Murphy  
Regional Office  
63 Lower Sean McDermott St.  
Dublin 1.



Phone: 353 1 8711109  
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Email:  
regionaloffice@olc.ie

Minister for Justice and Equality  
Mr. Alan Shatter  
94 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2

28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Dear Minister Shatter,

I would like to thank you for your availability and courtesy to us during the last number of months.

Having had time to read and reflect on the Commission Report I would appreciate a meeting with yourself or your officials, specifically regarding the recommendations of the Commission Report and how they will apply to women who continue to reside with us.

We are particularly interested in having a conversation about the "Dedicated Unit" and its role and function in protecting and promoting the needs, interests and concerns of these residents.

We will not be making a direct financial contribution to the ex gratia scheme, however, as outlined previously, we will be facilitating applicants and state agencies who request any required information from us. Again, I wish to assure you that our ongoing contribution to the care and wellbeing of the residents here at Beechlawn will continue to be our prime focus.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely

*Sheila Murphy*

Sr. Sheila Murphy  
Regional leader



# Sisters of Our Lady of Charity

# IRISH REGION

Sr. Sheila Murphy  
Regional Office  
63 Lower Sean McDermott St.  
Dublin 1.



Phone: 353 1 8711109  
Fax: 353 1 8366526  
Email:  
regionaloffice@olc.ie

13<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Mr Alan Shatter TD  
Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

Dear Mr Shatter

I wish to acknowledge receipt of a letter dated July 25<sup>th</sup> 2013 from your Private Secretary Mr Quattrociochi.

I note that you are disappointed with the decision of this congregating regarding the "Magdalen Scheme" and the Government's view that we as a congregation have a "moral obligation to make a reasonable contribution".

The decision not to contribute to the State Scheme was arrived at after consideration of the findings of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries, known as the McAleese Report, and careful reflection of our current and ongoing responsibilities to those residents who remain in our care.

Yours sincerely

*Sheila Murphy*

Sr Sheila Murphy  
Regional Leader



## Sisters of Our Lady of Charity IRISH REGION

Sr. Frances Robinson  
Regional Office  
63 Lower Sean McDermott St.  
Dublin 1.



Phone: 353 1 8711109  
Fax: 353 1 8366526  
Email:  
regionaloffice@olc.ie

8<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Mr Alan Shatter TD  
Minister for Justice and Equality  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

Dear Mr Shatter

I wish to acknowledge receipt of a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January from your Private Secretary Mr Quattrociochi.

As previously stated, the decision not to contribute to the State Scheme was arrived at after consideration of the findings of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries, known as the McAleese Report, and careful reflection of our current and ongoing responsibilities to those residents who remain in our care.

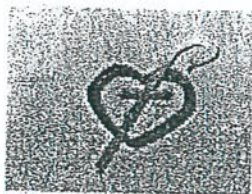
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frances Robinson'.

Sr Frances Robinson  
Acting Regional Leader

12 APR 2014





## Good Shepherd Provincialate

Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations

245 Lower Kilmacud Road,  
Goatstown,  
Dublin 14

Tel: 353-1-2982699 Fax: 353-1-2989033  
email: [rgsdublin@eircom.net](mailto:rgsdublin@eircom.net)  
Website: [www.goodshepherdsisters.com](http://www.goodshepherdsisters.com)

Mr. Jimmy Martin,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law,  
94, St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2

27.06.13.

Re: Judge Quirke's Report

Dear Mr. Martin,

We welcome Judge Quirke's Report and we hope that the outcome of this report will greatly benefit the women concerned.

We note that applicants require a copy of their records to be attached to their applications. It is our wish to process all requests for records without delay.

The Good Shepherd Sisters submitted a detailed account of their finances to the Department of Education in September 2009. We indicated that on the basis of the facts presented we were not in a position to make further contributions. Unfortunately, we are still not in a position to make contributions to any Redress Scheme and our financial circumstances are unlikely to improve in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Bernadette McNally  
Province Leader.





## Good Shepherd Provincialate

Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations

245 Lower Kilmacud Road,  
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Dublin 14

Tel: 353-1-2982699 Fax: 353-1-2989033  
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Website: [www.goodshepherdsisters.com](http://www.goodshepherdsisters.com)

Minister Alan Shatter, T.D.,  
Minister for Justice and Equality,  
94, St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.

02.08.13.

Dear Minister,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Christopher Quattrociochi of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

We wish to confirm that we will not be making a financial contribution to the fund established by the Government, to assist the women who spent time in Magdalen Homes.

We will be assisting with the provision of records, and the on-going care of women who have decided to remain with us – and we will be very pleased to meet other women who spent time with us on an individual basis. We will also continue to financially support former residents who avail of counselling with 'Towards Healing'.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Bernadette Mc Nally  
Province Leader.





RE: Quirke report  
Margaret Casey to: James O. Martin

01/07/2013 12:26

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for your email of Friday last. I am happy to put in writing the position of our Congregation regarding the proposals of the Quirke Report.

We welcome the proposals of the Report for benefitting women who lived and worked in Magdalene Homes.

We will provide full assistance through our professionally supported Archive to women who require access to any personal information about them which we may hold. As it was reported by Martin McAleese we have virtually no records relating to the Refuge at Dun Laoghaire. We have limited records in respect of Galway and the Laundry facility attached to the House of Mercy in Wexford.

We will participate in such meetings as may be requested through the proposed dedicated unit, with former residents of each of the institutions formerly under the care of Convents of Mercy.

We have continued to provide care towards women who spent time in our care in many different contexts. We will continue to do so in future in quiet ways and in accordance with our mission. We will not contribute financially to the State scheme but will lend our support in other ways outlined above.

With every good wish,  
Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Casey

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*Margaret Casey*

*Congregational Leader*

*Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy*

*13/14 Moyle Park*

*Clondalkin*

*Dublin 22*

Tel: 01-4673737 Fax: 01-4673749

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