



Maeve O'Rourke

Could we meet re Magdalene women?

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To: Norah Casey

Dear Norah,

I hope you're really well.

I'm emailing to ask if you would possibly meet me next week, or if you'd even have time to chat on the phone, please - about a creative solution to an area where I've run into a wall with the government:

I am trying with others to arrange a meeting of all Magdalene survivors in Dublin over a couple of days later this year, so that they can get to know each other and consult on the issue of memorialisation (as Dublin City Councillors are organising not to allow the sale of the Seán McDermott street site until after the women are consulted).

(in Justice for Magdalenes Research we have done our best to individually help women but we are all voluntary and don't provide services, rather we advocate). As the women's names were changed in the institutions, it has been particularly hard for them to find each other. When we have managed to facilitate meetings of some of the women in the past, they have been wonderful occasions.

The government promised to support the women to meet each other and to consult on memorialisation as part of Judge John Quirke's recommended redress scheme, but it has not done this - and Justice for Magdalenes Research and others have sent numerous letters and had numerous meetings with the department and TDs and Senators about this. I also brought this issue to the Ombudsman in 2016.

The Lord Mayor has agreed to make the Mansion House available for a meeting of all of the women this year, and Respond!, which runs social housing on the High Park site has agreed to facilitate a visit and lunch for the women on one of the days.

I am wondering if you would do me the honour of meeting to see if we can come up with a way to move the idea forward and make this once-in-a-lifetime event happen, with or without government support.

I'm available any time on

Sincere thanks,
Maeve