

REDRESS

IRELAND'S INSTITUTIONS AND
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE



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***REDRESS: Ireland's Institutions and Transitional Justice* explores the ways in which Ireland - North and South - treats those who suffered in Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby Homes, County Homes, industrial and reformatory schools, and Ireland's closed and secretive adoption system over the last one hundred years.**

How will Ireland redress its legacy of institutional abuse and forced adoption? What constitutes justice? How might democracy evolve if the survivors' experiences and expertise were allowed to lead the response to a century of gender and family separation-based abuses? These are the questions to which this collection of essays seeks answers.

With diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives, the essays consider how a Transitional Justice-based, survivor-centred, approach might assist those personally affected, policymakers, the public, and academics to evaluate the complex ways in which both the Republic and Northern Ireland (and other states such as Canada, Australia, and Britain) have responded to their histories of institutionalisation and forced family separation. Importantly, the essays collected in *REDRESS: Ireland's Institutions and Transitional Justice* seek to offer avenues by which to redress this legacy of continuing harms. The book forensically examines the two states' so-called 'redress' schemes and investigations, and the statements of apology that accompanied them.

This much needed publication from UCD Press highlights a public roundtable discussion among individuals with experience of Ireland's institutional and gender-based abuses. The scholarly essays address a range of topics including social vulnerability, shame, and epistemic injustice, 'Disremembrance' and Protestant institutions, 'Illegitimate Knowledge' and Adopted People, Belligerent Ignorance and the Magdalene Laundries, Heritage as a tool of Transitional Justice, and Truth-telling and the Archive.

"*REDRESS* is not an easy read but it offers hope that there is another way to repair the lasting damage that is felt in so many people's everyday. It should be required reading for every government department and State agency," Clodagh Finn, *Irish Examiner*

"A remarkable, vital collection of essays," Dan Barry, *The New York Times*

"This book provides the definitive word on Ireland's history of institutionalising women and children, and places survivors at its core," Catherine Connolly, T.D.

About the Editors



KATHERINE O'DONNELL is Associate Professor at University College Dublin, Ireland, and has published widely on the history of sexuality and gender and the intellectual history of eighteenth-century Ireland. She has been principal investigator on a number of funded research projects, including gathering an archival and oral history of the Magdalen institutions funded by the Irish Research Council. As a member of Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR), she has shared in activist honours, including the Irish Labour Party's Thirst for Justice Award.

MAEVE O'ROURKE is Lecturer in human rights law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway. She is also a barrister (England and Wales) and attorney-at-law (New York). Since 2009 she has provided pro bono legal assistance to Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR) and is currently co-director of the CLANN project, an evidence-gathering and advocacy collaboration between JFMR, Adoption Rights Alliance (ARA) and Hogan Lovells International, LLP.

JAMES M. SMITH is an associate professor at Boston College, United States. His book *Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment* (2007) was awarded the Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book by the American Conference for Irish Studies. He also co-edited with Maria Luddy the collection *Children, Childhood and Irish Society: 1500 to the Present* (2014). He is a member of the advocacy group Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR).

All three editors are members of the Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR) group, co-authors (together with Claire McGettrick and Mari Steed) of *Ireland and the Magdalene Laundries: A Campaign for Justice* (Bloomsbury/I.B.Tauris, 2021) and recently coedited a double special issue of *Éire-Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies* (Spring/Summer 2020) on Transitional Justice and institutional abuse in Ireland.

Recent Media Appearances

13 June 2022, *The Irish Times*, Books

James M. Smith, "Transforming redress via transitional justice,"

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/2022/06/10/transforming-redress-via-transitional-justice/>

12 June 2022, *thejournal.ie*, Book Extract featuring survivor Mary Harney from Chapter 1, "Testimony"

<https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/institutional-abuse-ireland-5787318-Jun2022/>

8 June 2022, *Irish Examiner*, Opinion Editorial

Clodagh Finn, "Why is 'survivor' still the hardest word in our unfinished democracy?",

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/arid-40890599.html>

23 May 2022, Limerick Live 95 FM, *Limerick Today with Joe Nash*

Featuring Katherine O'Donnell

20 May 2022, CRCFM Castlebar, *The Chatroom with Angela Faull*

Featuring Katherine O'Donnell, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfHK_RNcCTo

18 May 2022, Galway Bay FM, *Galway Talks with Keith Finnegan*

Featuring Maeve O'Rourke,

<https://galwaybayfm.ie/podcasts/galway-talks-with-keith-finnegan-wednesday-18th-may-2022/> (at 1:22:44)

16 May 2022, Newstalk FM, Pat Kenny Show

Featuring Maeve O'Rourke, bit.ly/3a4oN3M (at 3:03:33)

9 May 2022, Boston College Bookmarks

"Redressing a legacy of abuse in Ireland," bcbookmarks.com/2022/05/09/redressing-a-legacy-of-abuse-in-ireland/

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The Editors are donating all royalties in the name of survivors and all those affected by Ireland's carceral institutions and family separation to the charity Empowering People in Care (EPIC).