

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LVW

Support person present: No

1. My name is LVW My date of birth is 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I am a retired Police Officer having served in former Grampian Police for years and prior to that I served for years in the Royal Navy. During the 1970's I was stationed at the former police station in the Fonthill area of Aberdeen.
3. Within the area that I patrolled was Nazareth House. I was aware the home was run by the Sisters of Nazareth. On many nights when I worked there we received reports from the home that one or more of their residents had ran away and were being reported as missing persons.
4. As the local police station we would make enquiries in the regular areas that they may frequent or if they were repeat missing persons we may have addresses they previously frequented.
5. Most of the missing persons/girls were eventually traced within Aberdeen city centre. When they were found we would take them to the police station prior to returning take them directly back to the home.
6. When speaking to them on some occasions they would inform us they had been subjected to abuse while they were staying in Nazareth House. They would describe the various punishments/abuse they were subjected to and most of those incidents would have been carried out by the nuns within the home.

7. A lot of the missing girls were aged between fourteen and fifteen and a lot of them were right cheeky young girls. I think their attitude and behaviour towards us was to get themselves arrested so they would not have to go back to the home.
8. When we returned them to Nazareth House we would be met by one nun and another nun would take the girls away. The nun we were left in the company of would always be extremely polite and give the air of sweetness and light. I would ask her about the allegations made by the girls and most of their response was the allegations were all made up and the staff were doing their best to look after the children.
9. When I was at the home I would complete any missing details on the form while with the staff. We were not taken anywhere else in the home, but just the study type room with the nun. I would take the missing persons report back to the station and this would include the information from the children about any abuse the children had mentioned. This missing persons report was then handed to either the Sergeant or Inspector. It would be their responsibility to decide what enquiry if any was to be made. If an enquiry was to be made it would depend on the seriousness as to whether it would be the general enquiry department that would investigate it or if more serious it would be allocated to the CID. I am not aware of any nun being interviewed for any such allegations.
10. Throughout my life I was brought up to respect all religious people from whatever faith they were from. I could not believe that a nun was lying to me and she was covering up the abuse within the home. I can say that the atmosphere at Nazareth House was very bleak. It may look nice in summer days but it was a cold place in the winter. Years later as more and more abuse was being revealed I felt sick about the things they did.
11. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

LVW

Signed.....

Dated..... 14/5/18