

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

LDD

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is LDD My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My mother and father are and My mum had been married previously. She got divorced when she was twenty one. She had three children to her first husband. My grandmother adopted those three children. My mother then married my dad and we didn't have anything to do with our half brothers and sisters.
3. The first memory I have is living with my mother, my sister, and my two brothers, and My sister is a year older than me, is a year younger and is three years younger than me. My father was absent from the home. I later came to realise he was in prison.
4. We were so we travelled everywhere. We didn't have anything. There were no carpets or anything like that, but I wasn't worried about that because I was still with my family. My mum would do anything with what she had to try and make us happy. She was always making jam tarts and baking.
5. I remember a lady coming down the street wearing a headscarf. I think her name was Mrs Queen. She was something to do with the council. It was always our house she was coming to. I remember my mum would say, "Sh, dinnae answer the door,

there's the town woman." My mum would tell us to hide. Then I found out after that she might have been to do with the cruelty. It might have been because my dad wouldn't let us out. He wouldn't let us out on the street. My sister and I used to sneak out when my dad was away.

6. I was about 4 or 5 when I first went into care. I hadn't started school yet. At that time, I lived in [REDACTED] in Aberdeen. It's now called [REDACTED]. My dad would be in jail or out partying. My mum had been mentally tortured by giving up three children. She was trying to bring up four children and her man was going out drinking or whatever. We lived in a top floor flat in a three storey building. My mum jumped out the window and tried to kill herself. I remember going down the stairs with my sister and I was hysterical. My mum was lying at the bottom of the stairs and her legs had been broken. I remember the police and an ambulance being there.
7. A doctor looked after my youngest brother, [REDACTED] and another relation looked after [REDACTED]. I don't know what happened after my mum was hurt, but my sister and I went into Nazareth House. My father must have been away, otherwise we wouldn't have been taken into care.

### **Nazareth House, Aberdeen**

8. I don't remember going into Nazareth House. I just remember my mum lying there, injured, and then lying in the crib in Nazareth House. I don't know who took us there. I don't remember anything about the routine there.

### **Abuse at Nazareth House**

9. I can remember the cribs at Nazareth House, like in a children's hospital. It had bars. I had to lie in it all the time. There were other kids walking about, but they wouldn't let me out of the bed. My sister [REDACTED] would sit in a chair next to my bed, watching me constantly. My sister remembers more than me, but she doesn't want to go there

again because she's too hurt. She told me the nuns made her sit next to me to keep me quiet, because I'd be howling and screaming when they put me back in the crib. I blamed [REDACTED] for it. I don't know how I could've blamed her.

10. I remember being afraid of the nuns because I was peeing the bed all the time. When I wet the bed, I was taken by a nun to two, deep sinks first thing in the morning. The nuns were furious and their faces were cross. They would put me into freezing cold water first, then they'd put me into warm water. I don't know how many times that happened, I just remember being terrified of going to a sink. They didn't change the mattress. I always had the same damp mattress.

### **Leaving Nazareth House**

11. I don't remember anybody coming to visit us at Nazareth House. The day we left the place, my father came to get us. The nuns had bought [REDACTED] and me identical dresses. One was blue and one was yellow. They took us through to an office and my dad was standing there. I remember feeling happy and then my dad took us away in an estate car. I remember they took a photograph of my sister and me outside Nazareth House and there were religious ornaments in the photo.

### **Living at home - [REDACTED] Aberdeen**

12. When we left Nazareth House, we went to stay at my grandma's house for a while. Then mum and dad must have got back together and we stayed back at the house with them. [REDACTED] and I went to St. Machar's Primary School, then Tillydrone Primary School. I did okay at those schools. When I was seven, we moved to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Aberdeen and I lived with my parents, my brothers and my sister. We went to Smithfield Primary School. I did okay for a while, but then I started getting bullied. The papers said that [REDACTED] was one of the worst areas for delinquents to stay in.

13. Because we were [REDACTED] we weren't allowed to go with boys. If you had anything to do with boys, you were thought of as a prostitute. We were only allowed to engage with our brothers. We were overprotected. We were mollycoddled and kept in the house. What my parents forgot was that we had to walk out the door and be with other kids. People thought we were stupid. We loved each other as a family, but whenever we went out that door I felt like I was stupid because my friends were more developed than me. They were being encouraged to do things for themselves; we had everything done for us like babies so we didn't develop.
14. When we stayed at [REDACTED] I remember a male social worker called Mr Black. He would come to the door and ask to speak to my dad. We would be told to go up the stairs. It turned out the man was at the door because of my dad. On one occasion, I was called down the stairs and Mr Black spoke to me. I was terrified. My father lifted his hand to me, kicked me, assaulted me for running away. It was because he was afraid I would be raped or murdered.
15. I couldn't answer Mr Black's questions because my dad was sitting there. He asked if I got out to play. I was looking at my dad because I didn't get out to play. Mr Black said it wasn't right and that I needed to get out to play. There was a club across from the school called Middlefield club. Mr Black said I had to go there on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. At the club, an older girl called my brother a bastard and I battered her. I called her a fat bastard. I got caught by my father and I was battered for swearing.
16. My mother always worked. The social workers thought my father worked as well, but he wasn't always working. He would tell them he was working out with Aberdeen, in Orkney. By that time I had a social worker called Mary McDonald. She was a nun. She was evil. My dad wanted to take her by the throat, so rather than be in her company he would tell her he was working out of town. Because the social worker was a woman of the lord, he believed everything she said.
17. I think I was about eleven years old when I went back into care. I was attending Hilton Academy at the time, but I was thrown out. Another girl brought vodka into the

school. I denied it to the teacher. We wrote our names in the toilets, but I spelled my name wrong deliberately. The school sent a letter home to my dad. He took me out of the school because I had lied about drinking vodka. I think it was around that time that I was put to St. Clair's in Aberdeen.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Reporting of abuse – Nazareth House**

82. I didn't speak about Nazareth House when I was a child. We couldn't speak about things like that. My dad wouldn't speak about Nazareth House because he had been embarrassed that my mum had jumped out of the window. I didn't talk about it until 2000 [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Life after being in care

87. I got out of Tynepark and was married to [REDACTED] about six months later. We lived at his mother's house in [REDACTED] Aberdeen. I should never have got married. I did it so I could get out of the front door and come and go as I wanted.
88. Not long after I was married, I had a miscarriage. I fell pregnant with [REDACTED] about three months after I got married. She's thirty seven now. I miscarried after [REDACTED] Then I left [REDACTED] when she was four or five. I ran away with another man. I took [REDACTED] with me.

89. [REDACTED] was my second husband. At that time, I was shoplifting like it was a full time job. I was giving [REDACTED] everything. I used to sell what I stole, apart from the things I wanted. I was buying [REDACTED] cars, rifles, crossbows for hunting. His mother came into the house one day. I asked her if she wanted a cup of tea, but I wasn't speaking to her son so I didn't offer him one. His mum stood and looked at me, with one hand on her hip. She asked me why I wasn't making her son a cup of coffee. She took her grown son out of the house. I swear, I only married [REDACTED] to bother his mother.

## Impact

### *Relationships*

90. I couldn't be intimate with [REDACTED] because of memories. He ended up breaking my jaw because I couldn't do it. I told him a few years ago it wasn't his fault, it was mine. I was damaged because of getting raped in care. I had to take alcohol before I could be intimate with any man. It was the same when I married [REDACTED]
91. I was out with my pal one night. [REDACTED] came into the pub looking for money. I told him I wasn't giving him any money and if he wanted money he should go and do what I do. I was wearing a tight dress with buttons down the front. One of the buttons was undone. I'll never forget [REDACTED] words when he came home. He called me a whore. I was drunk, but I knew exactly what I was doing. I went through to the kitchen and got a knife. I walked calmly into the living room. I stabbed him three or four times. I wasn't worried. To have him speak to me like that after I'd been raped, that was so damaging to me. That's why I don't like cutting beef now because it takes me back to that night. Something happens to me with men. I can turn on them just like that. I know it's wrong, but I can't help it.
92. I was remanded in prison at [REDACTED] A psychiatrist came to see me there. I told the man the truth. He said to me, "You've been in here for almost a week, and I can assure you that you won't be back for this crime. Your man's an evil bastard." I remember asking them to find out if my dad was in the court. I was up for

a shoplifting as well as the stabbing. I didn't care if my dad knew about the stabbing, but I didn't want him knowing about the shoplifting. I had my son, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at that point. The judge told me I couldn't go back to that house. I was bailed to my mum and dad's address. My brother lived across the road so I used to go and sit with them at night time. The council re-housed me, but I ended up going back to [REDACTED] and we had two more children.

93. I would've kept on trying with [REDACTED] but the social worker, Alan Ross, told me I'd end up losing my children. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He said I had to choose between [REDACTED] and my kids. I divorced him straight away. I did what the social workers wanted. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### *Family*

94. [REDACTED] Prior to that, I was going out shoplifting. I was selling things at people's doors. I would travel down to Manchester and Glasgow to buy clothes, household goods and toys to sell. I was doing community service for shoplifting. It was all too much for me. I'd asked the social workers for help the year before because everything was too much for me. The social worker was Irish. She said I didn't need any help. It wasn't her fault. I didn't tell her everything that was happening in my life.

95. [REDACTED]

96. [REDACTED] I did community service. I did my buying and selling. I was under surveillance. I remember being unwell and being off community service. I couldn't eat. I was exhausted and I had a nervous breakdown. I was taken into Cornhill Hospital, Aberdeen for two weeks. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
97. [REDACTED] I was going out shoplifting. I was still travelling to Glasgow and Manchester and selling stock round the doors. I slept on the settee for ten years. I had dogs. I was out doing community service every day. My son, [REDACTED] wanted a new bike. I was annoyed because [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and all he was worrying about was a new bike. I was exhausted. I was coming in every day and [REDACTED] was there with his friends. The place was stinking of petrol. I ended up exploding [REDACTED]
98. My kids would do anything for me. I would do anything for them, but within reason. I used to do anything for them and would have covered for them, whatever they did. Not now. I want to do things properly. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
99. It's only now I realise I put my own kids through what I went through, cleaning everything. I have to have everything tidy and in order. What's been done to me, I've done to my children. Without me realising it, my kids had to scrub the house with a brush. My house is always immaculate. My time in care has had an impact on them. My son [REDACTED] is starting to understand it more, now that he's seen my files.
100. I did wrong to survive. I was shoplifting during the day. I used to be on social security, working on the fish and working with chickens. I was the manageress in a laundrette. I didn't tell them about my convictions and I lost that job [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I was trying to provide for four children. I didn't want them going to school getting teased for not having clothes. I always gave them the best of everything. I gave them material things. I thought that was right, but they didn't have



love and affection. I should have been giving them love and affection, but I was in the jail, out working, out selling, doing community service. I wasn't there.

101. The impact of me being in care has affected my children. Apart from the lack of love and affection from their mother, they've had to cope with [REDACTED] children are ill. [REDACTED]

It still impacts upon them.

102. My family would do anything for me. They've fallen out with me all my life because of everything I've done for my children. My father would say, [REDACTED] "you're making a rod for your own back." I couldn't understand what he meant. I overcompensated because of what I didn't have. I now know it's a form of cruelty, but I thought it was the right thing. I failed them.

103. I told my dad I was raped three years before he died. He died three or four years ago. I was blaming my parents at the time and I told them to get out of my house. He'd always wanted to rest in the chapel when he died. When he was in the bedroom before he died, my sister [REDACTED] told me dad he didn't want to rest in the chapel. He didn't want to be left alone with them in the chapel because of what they did to me.

104. I was with him before he died. Every night I went up to the hospital at seven o'clock and stayed till seven in the morning. [REDACTED] would stay with him during the day. On the Tuesday, [REDACTED] and my mum were at the shops. I phoned [REDACTED] and asked her where she was. I told her not to bother with the messages and come to the hospital. Dad was taking his last breath. I told him [REDACTED] and my mum were coming along the corridor. He died. I'd rebelled against him all my life.

*Mental health difficulties and support*

105. After I assaulted [REDACTED] the court said I had to get a psychological assessment. I saw a psychologist called Joyce Edwards. For the first three years I didn't open up about myself. I couldn't speak about anything other than [REDACTED] I remember leaving an appointment, thinking she'd made me worse and I didn't want to go back. That was the first time she'd got through to me and I'd spoken about my feelings. Of course, I did go back and she was the best thing that ever happened to me. I saw her for seven years in total. I ended up in Cornhill Hospital again in 2015 and I told them I'd do anything for them to get Joyce Edwards back, but she'd retired early due to ill health.
106. I contacted the In Care Survivors' Group (INCAS) about five years ago. I spoke to Frank Docherty at first, but I couldn't speak to him about the rape so he put me onto Helen Holland. I've had support from Helen for about four years. Helen helps me identify triggers. I've been referred to Ian Connor at Future Pathways. He wants me to see a trauma therapist.
107. I was given labels. Years ago, the doctors in Cornhill told me I was paranoid and a psychopath for speaking the truth. When I saw Ian Connor, he told me I wasn't a psychopath. He said I had too much empathy. I've never suffered from paranoia in my life. I have been erratic. I've suffered from depression, anxiety and suicidal tendencies but not paranoia. What I'm speaking about is fact not fiction.
108. In 2015, I was in my daughter [REDACTED] house. It was untidy and I ended up exploding. I was taken away by the police because I had an outstanding warrant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] They took me from the cells to the hospital. I couldn't speak to anybody for the first two weeks. I knew it was those professionals I was up against. They were trying to give me medication for paranoia, which my records confirm I declined. On the third week, Doctor Alan Shand came back from his holidays. After he spoke to my lawyer about the inquiry, he apologised to me for me being in the hospital. I told him I was glad to get the rest, as I knew

everything had been getting too much for me. I told him I was physically and mentally exhausted. I was there for five weeks and then I was discharged.

109. At times, I must've been at the doctor's, screaming. It's not anti-depressants I needed, it was anxiety tablets. I should have had them years ago. I've been prescribed anxiety tablets for about five months. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to provide this statement. Before I took those tablets, it was as if I was taking speed. I'm prescribed propranolol for anxiety, co-codamol for pain and zopiclone to help me sleep.
110. Because of what happened to me at Brimmond, I only ever used a tampon once in my life. I forgot I put it in and it was in there for months. The doctors had to take it out. I could have gone into toxic shock. A few months ago, my granddaughter and [REDACTED] had been staying with me. They must have had boxes of Tampax in the cupboard. I was cleaning out the cupboard. I put the box at the bottom of the stairs. The electrician was coming. The box was on the table. I must have moved it. I now realise it triggered memories. I was sorting out papers and I saw the box on the table. I just ignited and I wanted to choke the electrician. He must have seen something in me. I remember saying to him, "Just come back, come back – it's nothing to do with you." Things like that have happened all my life, but I only understood triggers after speaking to Helen Holland. Every day things can trigger me.
111. When I'm in a bath, I have to lie there for hours and I have to spit. I stay in there for hours. I just think about when I was in care. I've done that for years. I have to see the white foam in the bath. When I was in care, I used to go into the baths and the showers to get away from everybody and to think.

112. I've always been angry. You could just touch me and I'd ignite. If I didn't take tablets, I'd go through the roof. I feel like I'd be as well going into the grave because I've failed my kids. I bought five plots in the cemetery for my family. I've always felt suicidal, but all [REDACTED] has is me and his siblings and that gives me the strength to live.

### **Records**

113. When I told my dad I got raped, my sister said we needed to get my files. She helped me to get them. I have provided some of my records to the Inquiry team and some letters I received from my social worker, Mary McDonald. The professionals labelled me as paranoid, but I have been gathering evidence for years. I have documents that confirm that I am telling the truth, which I have shown to the Inquiry, and I am willing to provide copies of these to the Inquiry if required.
114. In December 2017 requested my file from St. Euphrasia's through Birthlink. I already had my records, but they weren't aware of that. In February, I received one piece of paper. That proved that I was right. They are still covering up my records and gave me one piece of paper.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

115. I'd like everybody to be exposed for what they've been doing. Nothing should be covered up when it's to do with children. I can only speak about Aberdeen, but in my opinion nobody there has a chance – it's corrupt. I'd like the care system to change. I think it's wrong to take children away from their families. I was put hundreds of miles from my family. It was wrong.
116. I think they've got away with it for too long and the professionals were able to do whatever they wanted. Children were getting trampled into the ground and damaged. I don't know how they've got away with it for years. It was all about professionals running before they could crawl. They'd be promoted too soon. The professionals

are motivated by wealth and power and moving up the ladder. They don't have to do proper training and are getting jobs.

117. I should have been given counselling after leaving care, not years later after I'd assaulted [REDACTED]

118. 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.

Signe [REDACTED] LDD .....

Dated 27/2/2018 .....