

According to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to life, health, and family without discrimination. Thus, all those who suffered have the rights to truth-telling, to investigations, to access justice, and to reparation. Reparation includes compensation, healthcare, acknowledgement of wrongdoing by those responsible, and memorialisation. An important form of memorialisation is the education of younger generations, aiming to ensure that these abuses never happen again.

Educational Resources

Further information, updates and educational resources are available on the following websites:

- Open Heart City:
www.openheartcitydublin.ie
- Adoption Rights Alliance:
www.adoption.ie
- Justice for Magdalenes Research:
www.jfmresearch.com
- The Clann Project:
www.clannproject.org

On the Open Heart City website, in the 'Resources' section, you will have access to our educational archive, which includes helpful links to historical newspaper articles, YouTube videos, survivor testimonies, and poetry.

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"A Dark Chapter
and its
Continuing
Effects"
— Pilot Lesson
Programme
Promoting the
Human Right to
Memorialisation

HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
CLINIC
IRISH CENTRE FOR
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The Pilot Programme

The Pilot Lesson Programme is designed by postgraduate students in the NUIG Human Rights Law Clinic. This programme, which takes place over two-hours in a classroom setting, introduces basic information about institutional abuses in Ireland, explains the need to protect human rights, and highlights the importance of preserving history for future generations. It aims to integrate the abuses which occurred in institutions and through forced family separation into the Irish history education curriculum ensuring non-recurrence of these human rights violations.

This brochure is an accompaniment to the Pilot Programme and can be given to students and teachers for further information.

Mother and Baby Institutions

Mother and Baby institutions, which are also known as Mother and Baby Homes, detained unmarried mothers, including girls as young as 12 years old, and their babies. Children born in Mother and Baby institutions were often sent overseas to be adopted with the knowledge of the Irish government. Many other children born in

the institutions were adopted in Ireland or placed in foster care, simply because their mother was not married. Approximately 56,000 mothers and 57,000 children suffered many human rights abuses including ill-treatment during the 20th century in Mother and Baby institutions.

Industrial Schools

Industrial Schools were established in Ireland under the Industrial Schools Act 1868 to care for "neglected, orphaned and abandoned children". The Act was superseded by the Children Act 1908. [Could you insert a sentence or two here with some basic details about the Industrial Schools – from the Guidance / Speaking Note?]. An investigation published in 2009 found that child abuse and neglect was 'endemic' in Industrial Schools, meaning that it was perpetrated all of the time and the State failed to prevent it.

Magdalene Laundries

Magdalene Laundries detained women and girls, including victims of sexual abuse, who were labelled as "fallen women". They were forced to work laundry and needlework for no pay. Between 1922 and 1996, at least 10,000 girls and women were incarcerated in these laundries.

Human Right to Memorialisation

In these institutions, numerous people suffered inhuman treatment, forced labour, illegal detention, illegal adoption, forced separation of mother and child, and discrimination.

