

Statement from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) Following the publication of Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Catholic Schools by S.C. Mary O’Toole

We welcome the publication of the O’Toole Report on the Scoping Inquiry commissioned by the Government in 2023. The work of the inquiry had our fullest co-operation.

The Scoping Inquiry was provided with information on Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, which was under our trusteeship, for the period under review.

We note that the Government has accepted the report’s principal recommendation to establish a Commission of Investigation, and it is our intention to fully cooperate with this Commission.

The Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart wishes to extend our unreserved apologies to any child or young person who was sexually abused by any of our members. That such abuse occurred is a cause of great shame and immense regret to us. We acknowledge and accept the lasting impact of such abuse on the lives of victim survivors. We invite and encourage any persons who were abused while attending our school to report this abuse to our Safeguarding Manager, Ms. Claire Tobin and to the civil authorities. Information and contact details are as follows:

Ms. Claire Tobin, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Safeguarding Manager

Phone: +353 87 3819515

Email: safeguarding@mscmissions.ie

Tusla, Child and Family Agency

Phone: +353 (0)214923535

An Garda Síochána

Phone (Free and Confidential): 1800 555 222

Support Services

We continue to offer our support to the Towards Healing Counselling Service who offer therapeutic intervention to those affected by childhood abuse within a church context. We also support Towards Peace who provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a church context can seek specialized spiritual support.

Towards Healing

Towards Healing Counselling Service, is available free of charge, and can be contacted on:

Freephone 1800 303416 (Rep of Ireland)

Hearing-impaired Text Line Number: 085-8022859

Tuesday to Friday 10am -4pm or on:

Email: info@towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace

Towards Peace is available free of charge and can be contact on:

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 5053028

Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 7710533

The service is available on Monday and Tuesday from 9am – 4pm and on Wednesday from 9am -12 noon.

For out of office hours, please call +353 (0) 86 7710533 and leave a message.

Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

Further information on support services available to those affected by childhood abuse is outlined on the Government's website at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/42b7e-education-scoping-inquiry/#support-for-survivors-in-ireland>

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart would like to assure the public that we are committed to having the highest standards of safeguarding procedures and practices in place today. We are fully committed to complying with all statutory requirements to ensure we offer a safe and supportive environment to the children and families we minister with.

Fr Joseph McGee MSC,

Provincial.

4th September 2024