

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

**Hello from the Special Advocate for Survivors,
Patricia Carey**

Hello all,

Thank you one and all for your support and engagement with me and the team in 2025.

I hope you will find something of interest in our final Newsletter for the year.

We have continued to hear constant feedback on exclusions from Redress, challenges accessing Records and the ongoing call for the location of burial grounds and dignified burial and memorialisation at all institutional sites.

We have worked with many agencies, stakeholders and providers of services to improve pathways for those Survivors seeking supports to ensure proper and prompt signposting to the appropriate support service providers.

Our links and work took us all over Ireland and we have spoken to Survivors and their families in Britain, USA, Canada and further afield.

In the new year we will launch our first Podcast Series and publish a booklet of services and support options for Survivors and affected person and their families.

The Advisory Council panels will also begin to meet in early 2026 and I want to thank all those who took the time to make applications for this important strand of my work.

My hope is that you will continue to engage with me and the team so that together we can advocate for change and real action to address the decades of neglect and exclusion for Survivors and Affected Persons and their families.



Patricia Carey

Updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Special Advocate Office Relocation

We are excited to share that the Special Advocate Office will be moving to a new central Dublin location in the new year. The address will be confirmed and shared with you once everything is finalised.



Please note that our contact number and email remain unchanged, so you can continue to reach us as usual.

Special Advocate Office Opening Hours



The Special Advocate Office is open for contact from 9:00 – 13:00 and from 14:00 - 17:00 Monday to Friday.

You can get in touch in different ways.

Email: info@specialadvocate.ie

Phone: +353 (0)1 511 7660

(If the line is busy, please leave a voice message to request a call-back)

Post: Special Advocate office, First Floor, Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2, D02 EY84

Over the Christmas Holidays, the office will operate a more limited service. Survivors are welcome to keep in touch with the office by email or by phone and the team will respond as soon as possible. Full operations will resume from Monday 5 January.



Other updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Community Events- 2026 Events

We consistently hear from Survivors who express a wish for more opportunities to meet and build connections with other Survivors and Affected Persons and to foster a sense of community. We were delighted to organise a number of community events and initiatives in 2025 to support this, and the team are excited to continue to look at opportunities to meet and connect in 2026. We welcome any suggestions for future events - if you have any ideas please get in touch with the team. We always share information about upcoming events as widely as possible; you can stay up to date in the following ways:



[The Special Advocate Events page](#)

[The Special Advocate Quarterly Newsletter](#)

[The Special Advocate Facebook Page](#)



A Thank You note after Galway City Museum event in October!

We would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in our regional community event as well as those who were able to join us in the Galway City Museum in October.

We hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to come together and found the event activities as interesting and engaging as we did.

A very warm thanks to the wonderful staff in Galway City Museum, the National Museum of Ireland as well as the musicians and catering company.



Other updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Connect and Connect Stakeholder event

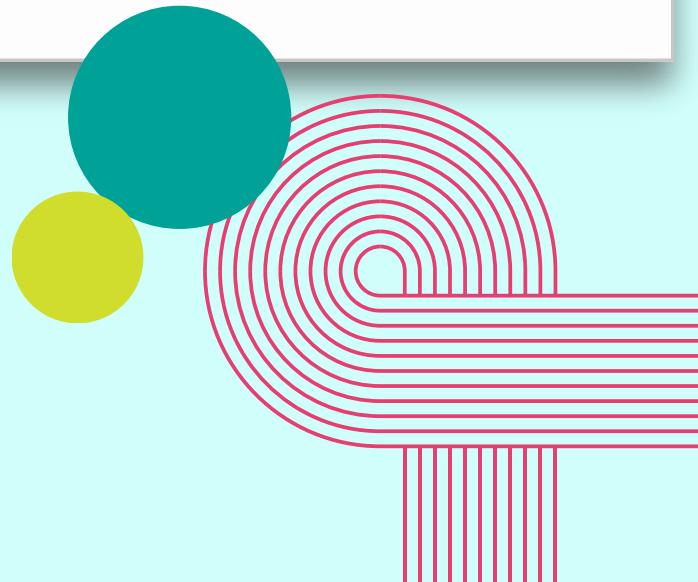
In November, the Special Advocate Office organised a meeting for Support and resource groups from Ireland and Overseas.

The purpose of this meeting was improve knowledge and understanding of what supports are available for Survivors and Affected Persons.



As an output from this meeting, the Special Advocate Office is committed to compiling a resource that can be shared with Survivors and support organisations.

We hope this resource directory will serve as a centralised place with practical and useful information about redress schemes, financial, health and wellbeing supports for Survivors and Affected persons to refer to.



Other updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Advisory Council

A huge thank you to all who expressed an interest in joining the Advisory Council supporting the work of the Special Advocate. We are very grateful to all who took the time to apply.



The selection process for the Advisory Council has now concluded. A letter from Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) has issued to all applicants advising of decisions across all three Survivor Representation opportunities – the National Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCRR) Steering Group, the NCRR National Museum of Ireland Lived Experience Panel and the Special Advocate's Advisory Council.

Patricia will write to all successful applicants directly in the coming weeks with an information pack about the work of her office, as well as more detail about the Advisory Council and how it is envisioned that the pillars of the Advisory Council will operate.

The appointment to the Advisory Council will run from 1 January 2026, for one year.

The first meeting of each of the seven pillars will be held in early 2026

Other updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Advisory Council Updates

The Special Advocate for Survivors will establish 7 pillars as part of the Advisory Council supporting her work. Each pillar will represent a specific area of institutional abuse and/or forced family separation.



- **Pillar 1:** people who spent time in Industrial School and Reformatory institutions
- **Pillar 2:** people who spent time in Magdalene Laundries
- **Pillar 3:** mothers who spent time in mother and baby or county home institutions, or who experienced forced family separation through other settings
- **Pillar 4:** people who were born in or who spent time in mother and baby or county home institutions and related institutions, or who experienced forced family separation through other settings
- **Pillar 5:** people who were boarded out or fostered
- **Pillar 6:** people whose births were illegally registered
- **Pillar 7:** people living overseas who spent time in an institution covered under the special advocate's remit, or who experienced forced family separation



IMPORTANT NOTE: The Special Advocate office would welcome any further expressions of interest from Survivors of Magdalene Laundries.

If you wish to apply for this pillar or would like more information please contact the Special Advocate office by email (advisorycouncil@specialadvocate.ie) **or** by phone (+353 (0)1 511 7660).

Other updates from the office of the Special Advocate

Voices Of Courage

- a new podcast series from the Special Advocate office



The Special Advocate has produced a new Podcast Series called -

‘Voices Of Courage’

The goal of this series is to amplify the voices of Survivors who have engaged with the Special Advocate. We hope this will provide another platform for Survivors to share their own lived experiences, to highlight the issues which are important to them, and to bring further attention to Ireland’s legacy of institutional abuse and forced family separation.

The first series of the podcast comprises of 4 episodes. Each episode features a conversation with a Survivor telling their story and providing an insight into the key issues raised with the Special Advocate

We would like to thank our four amazing podcast guests for sharing their story with us, the team in TinPot recording studios and the producer Aileen for their contribution to Season One of Voices of Courage.

The podcast will launch early in 2026 and will be available on all streaming platforms. More information about the podcast and how to listen will be shared in the early new year.

Records Updates

AIRR Project



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

AIRR Project Access to Institutional and Related Records

The AIRR Project is an initiative by Ireland's Department of Health to provide people who spent time in institutional care access to their personal records. This project involved the indexing of all papers held by the Department relating to childcare services, some of which contain information referring to individual children who were in care.

These institutions include County home Institutions, Industrial and Reformatory schools, those Boarded out and other historical care facilities.



**Read the AIRR information
leaflet online**



Contact information

For further information on the AIRR Project you can get in touch with the Records Management Unit in the following ways:



Email: RMUnit@health.gov.ie
Phone: +353 1 635 4000

Redress Schemes Updates

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme - Changes to Concluding Years

In October 2025, there were changes made to the Concluding Years of 13 Mother and Baby Institutions, extending the eligibility for the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme.

The term 'concluding year' relates to research that indicated the year when the institution in question stopped providing sheltered and supervised ante and post-natal facilities, to single mothers and their children (or stopped operating as a Mother and Baby Home).

Due to new evidence relating to institutional records, a comprehensive review of the concluding years for all institutions listed in the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Act was undertaken. This review led to the development of new regulations (Read the full Concluding Years Regulations here:

www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2025/si/488/made/en/pdf

A summary of all of the changes are included in the table below:

Amendments in September 2024

Institution	Original Concluding Year	Amended to
Clare (Ennis) County Home*	1952	1958
Mayo (Castlebar) County Home	1938	1960
South Tipperary (Cashel) County Home*	1955	1960
Wexford (Enniscorthy) County Home	1936	1962

Amendments in October 2025

Institution	Original Concluding Year	Amended to
Carlow County Home	1963	1971
Clare (Ennis) County Home*	1958	1965
Cork (Middleton) County Home	1960	1968
Kerry (Killarney) County Home	1963	1974
Leitrim (Carrick on Shannon) County Home	1951	1964
Limerick (Newcastlewest) County Home	1965	1968
Longford County Home	1952	1967
Offaly (Tullamore) County Home	1956	1960
Roscommon County Home	1957	1961
North Tipperary (Thurles) County Home	1955	1974
South Tipperary (Cashel) County Home*	1960	1971
Waterford (Dungarvan) County Home	1970	1972
Westmeath (Mullingar) County Home	1955	1957

Redress Schemes Updates

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme -Changes to Concluding Years

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) have provided additional information to some questions which Survivors may find helpful.



Q: What is a concluding year?

Each of the scheduled institutions for the Payment Scheme has a concluding year. The concluding year represents the last year where it is understood, based on the information available, that the scheduled institution was operating as a mother and baby or county home. Applications to the scheme are eligible if the person entered the institution they applied for on or before 31st December of the concluding year.

Q: What does this mean for applicants?

If you made an application to the Payment Scheme and your application or parts of your application were deemed ineligible because of a concluding year and this concluding year has now changed, the Payment Scheme Office will be in touch with you in the coming weeks.

If you spent time in a scheduled institution but did not apply to the Payment Scheme because of a concluding year which has now changed, we would invite you to make an application or call the Payment Scheme Office and we will be happy to assist you with any questions.

Q: I applied for an institution where the concluding year has now been extended, what happens next?

The Payment Scheme Office is reviewing all applications received which were previously deemed ineligible because of a concluding year. We will be contacting applicants who are impacted by the changes to concluding years in the coming weeks.

Redress Schemes Updates

Q: What happens to those potential applicants who did not apply because they stayed in the Home only after the original concluding year date?

The Payment Scheme Office is working to make information on this change available as widely as possible, so that anyone who thinks it may affect them can make an application, where previously they had not.

Q: If I applied to the Payment Scheme already do I need to make a second application?

In certain circumstances you may need to make a second application. The Payment Scheme Office will discuss this with applicants individually and advise what is required.

Q: I applied and received a payment from the Scheme but my institution is one of those where the concluding year has been extended. Will I receive an additional payment?

If you made an application to the Payment Scheme and your application or parts of your application were deemed ineligible because of a concluding year and this concluding year has now changed, the Payment Scheme Office will be in touch with you in the coming weeks.

If you spent time in a scheduled institution but did not apply to the Payment Scheme because of a concluding year which has now changed, we would invite you to make an application or call the Payment Scheme Office and we will be happy to assist you with any questions.

Redress Schemes Updates

Christmas Arrangements for the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

The following are the arrangements for the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme from Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026 inclusive.

Phoneline Opening Hours:

Monday 22nd December 2025	9am-6pm
Tuesday 23rd December 2025	9am-6pm
Wednesday 24th December 2025	9am-1pm
Thursday 25th December 2025	CLOSED
Friday 26th December 2025	CLOSED
Monday 29th December 2025	9am-6pm
Tuesday 30th December 2025	9am-6pm
Wednesday 31st December 2025	9am-4pm
Thursday 1st January 2026	CLOSED

The Payment Scheme Office will not issue Notices of Determination to applicants after **Friday 12th December 2025**. We will resume sending Notices of Determination on **Monday 5th January 2026**. A Notice of Determination is the decision on your application, or the outcome of your review or appeal request.

You may receive other types of correspondence from us, e.g. an acknowledgement regarding your application, or we may call you regarding your application until **Friday 19th December 2025**.

If you have accepted an offer from the Payment Scheme, by returning your acceptance forms before 11th December 2025, and everything is in order, you will receive your payment by Friday 19th December 2025. Otherwise, payments will start to issue again on the week commencing 5th January 2026.

An Post have notified the Payment Scheme Office that there will be no post on Monday 29 December 2025, this means that items posted on the 24 December may be delayed.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above arrangements or your application, please contact the Payment Scheme Office by using the “ask a question” facility on the portal or by calling us at +353 1 522 9992 (GMT).

Redress Schemes Updates

Feedback on the Mother and Baby Institutions

Payment Scheme

The Special Advocate continues to meet with the Chief Deciding Officer and the Operations team from the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme on a regular basis. These meetings focus on sharing collective feedback we receive directly from Survivors, issues of concern and suggestions for improvements and changes that can be made to improve the application process for those currently eligible to apply. **The Special Advocate team continues to welcome hearing from Survivors who might wish to get in touch on this matter.**

If you would like to provide feedback to the Payment Scheme directly, more information on this can be found on the Payment Scheme website: [Contact the Payment Scheme Office](#)



Feedback Survey for the Payment Scheme

We are aware that the Mother and Baby Payment Scheme are developing a survey for Survivors, seeking feedback in relation to the application stage of the Payment Scheme. This will launch in 2026.

More information about this survey process from the Payment Scheme can be found below:

Your feedback is extremely important and will help the Payment Scheme Office understand what it is like to apply for the Scheme, and how we can make the process and the information we provide clearer and easier for others.

Our goal is to learn how we can improve the process and provide better information and support to applicants going forward.

For more information about the survey and how to sign up to participate, please contact:

paymentschemesurvey@dcde.gov.ie

For information on how to apply to the Payment Scheme, eligibility criteria, institutions covered by the Payment Scheme, frequently asked questions and further supports please visit the Payment Scheme website:



www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/



Redress Schemes Updates

Supports for Survivors of Residential Institutional Abuse Act 2025

The Special Advocate Office has received a lot of questions recently about the Supports for Survivors of Residential Institutional Abuse, and when these support measures will be rolled out. Now that this Legislation has been signed by the President, the Department of Education will be responsible for roll out of the Supports for Survivors of Industrial and reformatory institutions



We are aware that Survivors have a lot of questions

- **What exactly are the new supports?**
- **Who can get them?**
- **When will they be available?**
- **How can you stay informed?**



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

The Special Advocate office is working hard to get clear answers in relation to these questions. As soon as we have official information about **confirmed** measures and supports, we will share it through our mailing list, on our website and on our Facebook page.



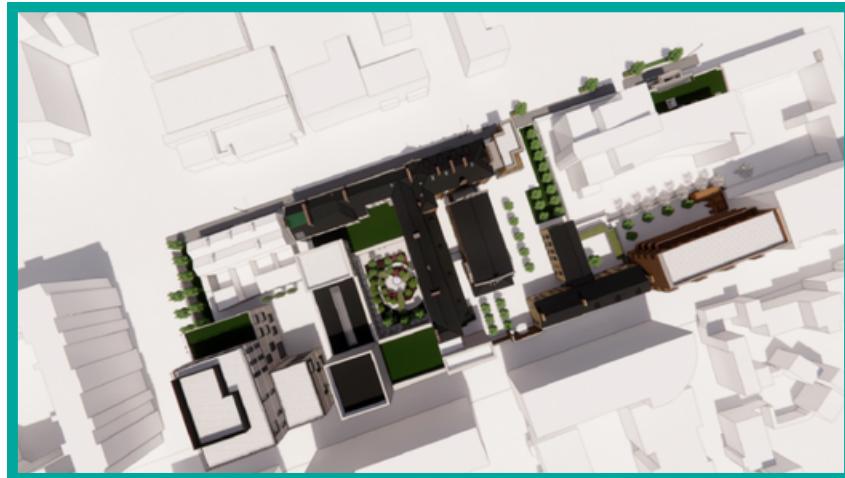
If you have any questions or would like to be kept updated on this situation, you can also contact the Department of Education in the following ways.

Email: info@education.gov.ie

Phone: (090) 648 3625

Postal Address: Department of Education and Youth,
Residential Institutions Redress Unit, Cornamaddy, Athlone,
County Westmeath, N37 X659

Website: www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/publications/general-scheme-of-the-supports-for-survivors-of-residential-institutional-abuse-bill/

Memorialisation**National Centre for Research and Remembrance**

The National Centre for Research and Remembrance will stand as a site of conscience to honour equally all those who were resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, Reformatories, and related institutions, and all those who have lived experience of Ireland's historical adoption and boarded out systems.

The National Centre for Research and Remembrance will be located on Sean MacDermott Street in Dublin 1.

a museum and exhibition space, the development of which will be led by the National Museum of Ireland

a repository of records related to institutional trauma in the 20th century, which will form part of the National Archives

a garden space for reflection and remembrance.

**The National
Centre will stand
as part of our
national
institutions and
will comprise:**

Memorialisation

National Centre for Research and Remembrance

Work on the development of the museum and exhibition space is being led by the National Museum of Ireland, while work on the repository of records related to institutional trauma in the 20th century, is being led by the National Archives.

The National Centre campus will also make a valuable contribution to the social and economic development of Dublin's North East Inner City, through the provision of social housing units, further and higher educational facilities, and facilities for family and parenting supports.

To keep updated about the National Centre, we would encourage people to sign up to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) National Centre's Mailing List by contacting the team.

E-mail

nationalcentre@dcde.gov.ie



Phone

Ireland: 01 647 3200

Overseas: +353 1 6473200

Address:

Memorialisation and Historic Burials Unit,
Department of Children, Disability and Equality,
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Baggot Street Lower,
Dublin 2. D02 XW14,
Freepost F5055

Memorialisation

The National Archives Advisory Council



An Chárlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

The National Archives Advisory Council (NAAC) was established in January 1987 under Section 20 of the National Archives Act, 1986. This is a body established under the National Archives Act to advise the Minister on all archival matters. It is anticipated that at least one survivor representative will be appointed to the National Archives Advisory Council.

Survivors and affected persons will also be invited to apply via a public process (www.stateboards.ie) to sit on the National Archives Advisory Council. This process will open for applications in the coming weeks.

More information on the National Archives Advisory Council can be found on their website:



[National Archives Advisory Council](#) |
[The National Archives](#) 

Get in touch

For any questions you might have about the work of the National Archives, please get in touch

- **Email:** query@nationalarchives
- **Phone:** +353-1-4072300 and
- **Postal address:** National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin D08 DF85



Memorialisation

The National Museum of Ireland



The National Museum of Ireland team would like to share some ways you can connect with us and help shape how your history, experiences, and expertise are represented in our collections and in the museum element of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance.

Donating Your Story

We are working with survivors and affected people who wish to have their experiences represented in the national collection. This includes objects, oral histories, creative responses, and other materials that speak to these histories and their ongoing impact.

If you would like your story to be part of the national collection, we invite you to contact us using the details below.

The Lived Experience Expert Panel

We are developing a Lived Experience Expert Panel to ensure survivors and affected people have a direct role in shaping the museum element of the National Centre. Panel members will have opportunities to contribute in ways that feel right for them and at a pace that suits them. This might include:

- Shaping how communities are involved in Museum decision-making at all levels.
- Supporting museum staff in understanding and interpreting this history and its ongoing impact.
- Advising on exhibition themes and content.
- Informing educational programmes and tours.
- Sharing insights for developing museum collections, including objects and oral histories.

You can take part online or in person and choose to engage individually or join group sessions. Travel and meal costs will be covered, and there is no deadline or specific time commitment to join. You're welcome to become a member at any time. If you are a survivor or an affected person and would like talk to us about the panel, please contact us using the information on the next page

Memorialisation

How to contact the National Museum



If you would like to talk to us about any of the above opportunities, or have any questions, please get in touch:

Email: ncrr@museum.ie

Phone: +353 (0)1 648 6400

Text or WhatsApp: +353 (0)87 428 1737

Post Address: East Annex, National Museum of Ireland, Benburb Street, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7.

museum
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Memorialisation

The Changing Ireland Galleries

museum
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Changing Ireland are new permanent galleries at the National Museum of Ireland Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Dublin. The galleries explore Ireland's political, social, and cultural history from 1900 to 2020.

Within these galleries, there is a dedicated section reflecting on the history and lasting impact of family separation and institutions such as Mother and Baby Homes, Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Magdalene Laundries, and related institutions.

Our aim is for these galleries to be truthful, respectful, and informed by lived experience. We have begun working with survivors and those affected to ensure their voices and histories are represented in the space.

If you are a survivor or an affected person and would like to discuss how your experiences might be included in Changing Ireland, please reach out using the contact details below.



[Changing Ireland Galleries | Decorative Arts & History | National Museum of Ireland](#)



Memorialisation

Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention Tuam (ODAIT)



Oifig an Stiúrthóra um
Idirghabháil Údaraithe, Tuam
Office of the Director of
Authorised Intervention, Tuam

Update on the ODAIT ID Programme and DNA Samples

Please find below some information from the ODAIT's recent update on 7 November 2025. The full update can be read on their website



www.odait.ie/news/updates-from-the-team/



Following the staged approach foreseen by the Institutional Burials Act 2022 (the Act), ODAIT is now ready to launch the process set out in Part 4 of the Act and the ODAIT ID Programme Guidelines with a view to taking DNA samples from eligible family members.

The administrative scheme that allowed DCDE (the Department of Children, Disability and Equality) to take DNA samples from approximately 20 elderly and vulnerable family members is now at an end.

The ID Programme is what we call the process of trying to identify human remains recovered from the Tuam site by linking them with living family members using DNA samples taken from those human remains and DNA samples taken from relatives who participate in the ID Programme.

ODAIT Contact information



To keep updated on the work of the ODAIT team in Tuam, please get in touch and they would be happy to include you on their mailing list for updates.

Email: info@dait.ie

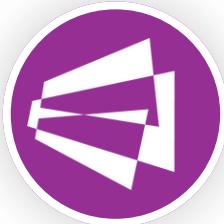
Phone: (+353) 1 5391777

Postal Address: Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention Tuam, Customs House, Flood Street, Galway, H91XV2C.

Website: www.odait.ie

Supports and Resources

Support Spotlight



This edition is highlighting organisations providing a chance to chat during these colder months, as well providing providing Mental Health and Counselling supports

Connect Counselling



Professional Telephone Counselling & Support

Connect Counselling is a free telephone counselling and support service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood.

You can talk in confidence with a trained counsellor who can listen or help with questions you have.

To speak to a counsellor call freephone

- Republic of Ireland: 1800 477 477
- UK and NI Freephone number: 0800 0488 023
- International callers: +3531 683 3357 – charges will apply for calls to this number

**Connect provide an anonymous free telephone service
7 evenings per week from 5.00pm-9.00pm**

Supports and Resources

Towards Healing

Towards Healing is an organisation providing professional support for people who have experienced institutional, clerical, or religious abuse in Ireland

Our phoneline and email account are managed by a team of Clinicians and all contact is treated with strict confidentiality and respect.

Our affiliate counsellors are professionally qualified and work in the context of an ethical code, which guarantees the safety and confidentiality for every client.



Services provided by Towards Healing



Face to Face
Counselling



Online and Phone
Counselling



Family
Counselling



Registration and
Information
Phoneline

Get in Touch



- **Freephone 1800 303416 (Rep of Ireland)**
- **Hearing impaired Text Line Number: 0894556422**
- **Email us at info@towardshealing.ie**

Supports and Resources

icap

Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy

icap provides counselling and psychotherapy to former residents of Ireland's institutions and those who were illegally adopted who live anywhere in the UK. Our culturally appropriate psychotherapy is free to individuals affected by institutional incarceration and abuse. Our exclusive focus is on the Irish community in the UK.



About icap

icap has been operating in the UK since 1996. Our services have developed an excellent reputation and significant expertise in the engagement and support of former residents of institutions and their family. We recognise the impact of intergenerational trauma and provide our specialist support to family members including adult children of survivors.

icap offers a range of therapy services including individual and group psychotherapy, online group art psychotherapy and various other groups. More details can be found on our website



www.icap.org.uk/icap-groups/



Referral Process / How to Get In Touch

You can self-refer to icap;

- Online via our website by downloading a referral form, www.icap.org.uk/get-help/
- Emailing our clinicaladmin@icap.org.uk or info@icap.org.uk
- Or by calling our offices on 020 7272 7906 where our team are happy to help.

Supports and Resources

Referral Process / How to Get In Touch

You can self-refer to icap;

- Online via our website by downloading a referral form, www.icap.org.uk/get-help
- Emailing our clinicaladmin@icap.org.uk or info@icap.org.uk
- Or by calling our offices on 020 7272 7906 where our team are happy to help.

Map of current service provision.



How is therapy Provided?

- in person (face to face),
- online
- by telephone
- or
- a hybrid of these modes, depending on client needs/circumstances.

Supports For Organisations

icap also signposts to organisations who can support including:

- Accessing birth and early life information and records
- The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment scheme
- The Magdalene Scheme Ex Gratia Payment
- The office of the Special Advocate for information
- Information on the National Centre for Research and Remembrance
- Other welfare or social supports.
- Support the campaign for Philomena's Law in the UK.

Supports and Resources

Testimonial

— “

I first met ICAP when they visited my workplace. From my very first contact, the process was simple and supportive — the staff were kind, approachable, and made me feel at ease during a difficult time.

My life has been marked by trauma from the moment I was born right through to the present day. I grew up believing I was a bad person because that is what I was repeatedly told by the very people who were supposed to love and protect me — and that belief shaped much of my adult life.

For the first time in over 40 years, I no longer see myself as a bad person or a misfit. With the help of ICAP. I’m beginning to see that I was never broken — I was simply hurt and terrified.

I only wish I had found icap sooner, because of them I can finally begin my healing journey and work towards living a peaceful and authentic life.

” —

Supports and Resources



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

NATIONAL SUPPORT & REFERRAL LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

If you are in need of advice, support or information, please call our National Support and Referral Line, seven days a week from 8am – 8pm.

Calls to the ALONE's National Support Line cost no more than a local call to a landline. Calls from Vodafone, landline bundles, PAYG bundles, and mobile contracts are free. If the cost of calling is a difficulty for you, please let us know and we will call you directly.



Phone 0818 222 024

Supports and Resources

SAMARITANS

Samaritans is a registered charity aimed at providing emotional support to anyone feeling isolated or disconnected throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland.

If you need someone to talk to, we listen. We won't judge or tell you what to do.

Call 116 123



jo@samaritans.ie

Response time: It may take several days to get a response by email



Write to us

Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS



Opportunities for Survivor Submissions

Review of Birth Information and Tracing Services

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality is assessing how well the Birth Information and Tracing system is working.

An independent body called **Quality Matters** will carry out this assessment. Their aim is to help services work better for the people who use them and that is what they will be doing with this service.

They will look at what is working well and what needs to improve. The first step is a survey of anyone who has used these services. After that, some people who filled in the survey, and said they would like to be interviewed will be asked to be in an interview. To get the full story this will include people who had good experiences and people who did not.

If you want to hear when the survey is ready, so you can share your experiences and ideas on how birth information and tracing can improve, you can email the address below to register your interest.



birth-info-review@qualitymatters.ie



Your details will be kept private by the Quality Matters team and only used for this evaluation.

Thanks in advance for being part of this review – it is important for ensuring that state services are as good as they can be.

**BIRTH
INFORMATION
& TRACING**

Opportunities for Survivor Submissions

Review of Domestic Adoption in Ireland



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality



Funded by
the European Union



Seeking parents who relinquished their child and those who were adopted within or from Ireland before 1 November 2010

UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office is carrying out research in Ireland to support the Irish Government (Department of Children, Disability and Equality) to understand what is working well and not so well within the domestic adoption system. The study will be used to support the Irish Government to improve domestic adoption in Ireland by comparing it with international best practices.

The study is mainly focussed on domestic adoption since the 2010 Adoption Act was passed. However, to help ensure that learning from past mistakes is included in the study, the researchers would also like to speak with a small number of adults with lived experience of domestic adoptions in Ireland which took place before 1 November 2010. These are sometimes called “historical adoptions”.

Interviews or discussions with those who volunteer to take part will take place online (or in-person if needed and where possible) and will take approximately 1 hour. They will be confidential.

To take part in the research you must meet the following criteria:

- Have lived experience of a domestic adoption which took place in Ireland before 1st November 2010 (the date the current 2010 Adoption Act became law).
- Be in one of the following groups: (i) an adopted person aged 18+; (ii) be a mother who relinquished their child to be placed for adoption; (iii) be a father who relinquished their child to be placed for adoption.

Contact Information on the following page ➔

Opportunities for Survivor Submissions

Review of Domestic Adoption in Ireland

Due to limited capacity, we will likely only be able to interview one person from each group. These will be selected randomly from those who kindly volunteer. We are very grateful in advance for your willingness to share your time and experience.

The researchers carrying out this study for UNICEF are:

- **Ruth Kelly**,
Lead – Domestic Adoption Assessment
- **Martin Punaks**
Child Protection Expert

This study has been approved by HML IRB Ethics Review Board (www.healthmedialabirb.com) and Tusla Research and Ethics Committee (www.tusla.ie/research/tusla-research-office/research-ethics-committee)



If you are interested in taking part, we would very much like to hear from you **no later than 15th December 2025**.

Please contact Ruth Kelly for more information:

Email: rkelly@unicef.org

Phone: 083 8903993 (within Ireland)

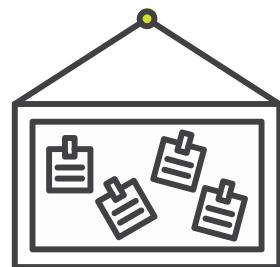
+353 83 8903993 (outside Ireland)

Please leave a message on the voicemail with your name and phone number and we will get back to you.

Bulletin Board

Information shared here has been provided to the Special Advocate Office, and we have chosen to share it here.

Please note that the Special Advocate is not involved in the organisation of these events



The Changing Ireland Galleries

Changing Ireland are new permanent galleries at the National Museum of Ireland Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Dublin. The galleries explore Ireland's political, social, and cultural history from 1900 to 2020.

Within these galleries, there is a dedicated section reflecting on the history and lasting impact of family separation and institutions such as Mother and Baby Homes, Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Magdalene Laundries, and related institutions.

Our aim is for these galleries to be truthful, respectful, and informed by lived experience.

We have begun working with survivors and those affected to ensure their voices and histories are represented in the space.

If you are a survivor or an affected person and would like to discuss how your experiences might be included in Changing Ireland, please reach out using the contact details below.

museum

Email: ncrr@museum.ie

Phone: +353 (0)1 648 6400

Text or WhatsApp: +353 (0)87 428 1737

Post Address: East Annex, National Museum of Ireland, Benburb Street, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7.

Testimony will be shown in Irish and UK cinemas from 21st November.

TESTIMONY follows the courageous fight for justice by Survivors of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries and Mother and Baby Home institutions.

It captures the determination of these women, supported by the advocacy group Justice for Magdalenes Research (JfMR) to hold the Irish government accountable for decades of institutional abuse.

Read about the film here: www.imdb.com/title/tt35629430/?ref_=ext_shr_ln

Watch the trailer for Testimony here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5_AA2h6dAM

Further details, including screening times and dates are available at: www.jfmresearch.com/testimony/

The Architecture of Containment

Paintings by Janet Graham

Mill Cove Gallery is proud to announce a major forthcoming exhibition, The Architecture of Containment

a powerful new body of work by Northern Irish painter **Janet Graham**, opening on **St Brigid's Day, 1 February 2026**, in Kenmare, County Kerry.

This landmark exhibition, explores Ireland's history of institutional control and the silencing of women through the Magdalene Laundries and Mother & Baby Homes.

Through her deeply expressive and layered paintings, Graham dismantles the physical and emotional architectures of those institutions — transforming spaces of confinement into acts of remembrance and renewal.

read more at www.millcovegallery.com/the-architecture-of-containment



Keep In Touch:

We are committed to ensuring the collective voices of Survivors and Affected People are heard.

We will endeavour to assist in any way that we can, and where possible, guide & signpost you to the information and services you are looking for.

You can contact the Special Advocate team in different ways:

Email: info@specialadvocate.ie

Phone: +353 (0)1 511 7660

Address: Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional Abuse, First Floor, Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2, D02 EY84, Ireland



Join our Mailing List here: [Special Advocate Mailing List](#)



Visit the Special Advocate's Website



Visit: www.specialadvocate.ie



Visit our Facebook Page