

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

## Updates From The Special Advocate Office



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Special Advocate Newsletter.

Included in this update you will find news, resources and information on the following:

- Information about the Advisory Council Expression of Interest.
- Other Survivor representation opportunities.
- Upcoming Community Events - Evening at the Museum - Galway, October 7.
- New Special Advocate Facebook Page.
- Passport support for those affected by illegally registered births or complex adoption passport issues.
- Support for queries related to the Medical Card as part of the The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme.
- The Special Advocate's Overseas Submission to the Global Diaspora Survey

We hope this may be of interest to you, If you have any suggestions for relevant content you might find useful or would like to see in the next edition of the newsletter, we always welcome ideas and suggestions!

# Updates from the Special Advocate Office

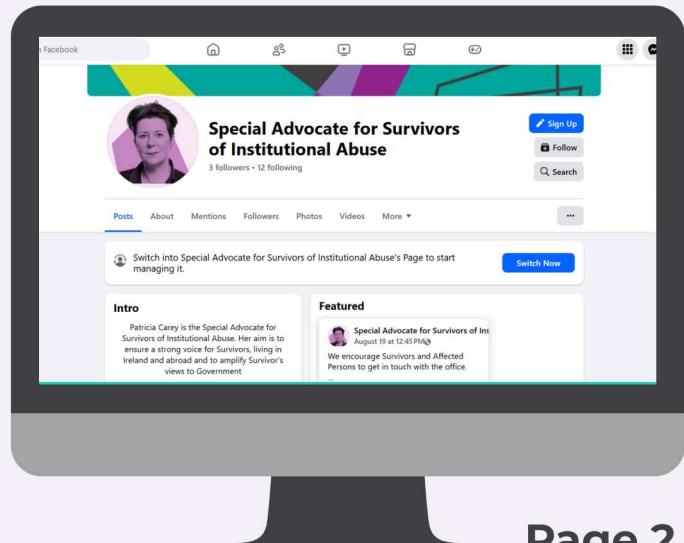
## New Special Advocate Facebook Page

In addition to our Mailing List and website, we are pleased to announce that we have created an information sharing Facebook page. This page will be for sharing news and updates from the Special Advocate's office. Follow us to stay connected and informed.

Search the 'Special Advocate for Survivors' on Facebook or click here to find out more on [\*\*Special Advocate Facebook Page\*\*](#)

**We look forward to engaging with you through this new platform!**

[\*\*Visit our Facebook Page\*\*](#)



# Community Events



**Special Advocate**  
For Survivors of  
Institutional Abuse

**músaem**  
**museum**  
GALWAY CITY MUSEUM  
MÚSAEM CATHRACH NA GAILLIMHE

**museum**  
National Museum of Ireland  
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

## AN EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

The Special Advocate for Survivors, in collaboration with Galway City Museum and the National Museum of Ireland, are hosting a special community event for Survivors and Affected Persons

This evening will include a private guided tour of Galway City Museum, a conversation with the National Museum of Ireland, live traditional music and light refreshments.

We hope you can join us for this very special evening.

**Date:** Tuesday 7 October

**Time:** 5 pm - 7 pm

**Venue:**

Galway City Museum  
Spanish Parade Galway  
H91 CX5P

### To Register

Places are limited and booking is essential.

Tickets are free of charge, and allocated on a first come basis, with a maximum of 2 per person

Please contact the Special Advocate Office if you have any questions and to secure your place.

**Phone:** 01 511 7660

**Email:** [info@specialadvocate.ie](mailto:info@specialadvocate.ie)



# Advisory Council Update

— “

**The response of Government must be directly informed by the voices of those most directly affected.**

” —

Since her appointment at the end of March 2024, Patricia has spent her time meeting and engaging with Survivors and Affected Persons, various Survivor groups, as well as with partner and support organisations in Ireland and overseas working directly with those affected by institutional abuse and forced family separation.

**Now that the initial round of engagements with Survivors has concluded, the Special Advocate is establishing an Advisory Council.**

We are confident that the Advisory Council will further ensure that the work of the Special Advocate is informed by the lived experience and needs of those most centrally affected.

**Deadline:**



**Friday 19 September 2025**

More information about the Advisory Council and how to submit an Expression of Interest can be found in the Advisory Council Information Booklet and on our website:



**Visit: [www.specialadvocate.ie](http://www.specialadvocate.ie)**



**Visit: Special Advocate Advisory  
Council Information Booklet**



# Advisory Council Update

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 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

**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

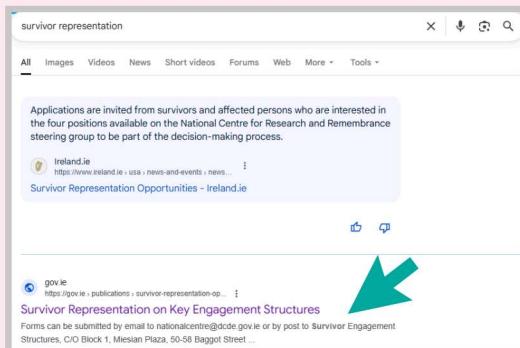
**Pillar 5:** People who were Boarded Out or Fostered

**Pillar 6:** People whose births were illegally registered

**Pillar 7:** Survivors and Affected Persons living overseas who spent time in an institution covered under the Special Advocate's remit, or who experienced forced family separation



# Completing the Expression of Interest Form

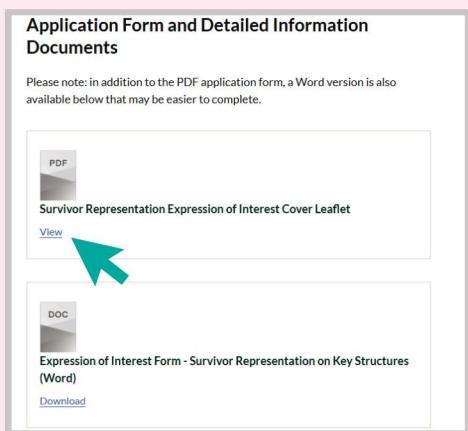


1

Visit the dedicated Advisory Council page on the Special Advocate website :

**[www.specialadvocate.ie/about/advisory-council/](http://www.specialadvocate.ie/about/advisory-council/)**

Here you will find information about the three different Survivor representation opportunities



2

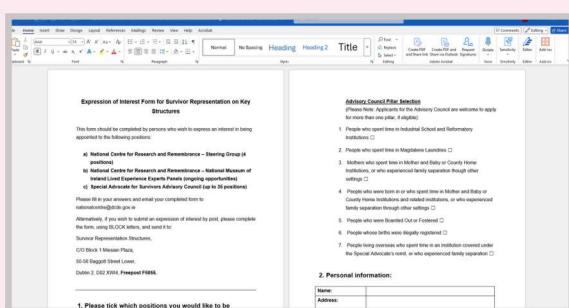
Scroll down to the bottom of the page to view the **Application Form and Detailed Information Documents**

These are downloadable documents, you can click to read them further or download them to complete the form.

3

Click 'Download' on the Expression of Interest Form (EOI)

This is available as a word document or PDF



4

**Complete the document**

fill in sections 1 - 4

Either:

Print it and write your details on the form  
Edit the document and type in your details

5

**Submit the document**

**E-mail:** [nationalcentre@dcde.gov.ie](mailto:nationalcentre@dcde.gov.ie)

**Address:** Survivor Engagement Structures, C/O Block 1, Mesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 XW14, Freepost F5055.

# **Survivor Representation Opportunities**

Applications are invited from survivors and affected persons who are interested in the four positions available on the National Centre for Research and Remembrance steering group to be part of the decision-making process.

This is a direct response to the feedback received from a series of in-person engagement events with survivors that were held in Dublin, Galway, Cork and London, as well as an online event, between October 2024 and February 2025

## **National Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCRR) - Steering Group**

[Information booklet](#)



There are also opportunities for survivors to join the National Museum of Ireland's Lived Experience expert panels for the National Centre museum so that the vision to honour all survivors equally and authentically in the National Centre is achieved.

## **National Centre for Research and Remembrance (NCRR) - National Museum of Ireland Lived Experience Expert Panels:**

[Information booklet](#)



## **Expression of Interest forms can be submitted by:**



**E-mail:** [nationalcentre@dcde.gov.ie](mailto:nationalcentre@dcde.gov.ie)

**Address:** Survivor Engagement Structures, C/O Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 XW14, Freepost F5055.

## **Deadline for applications to all steering groups will be**

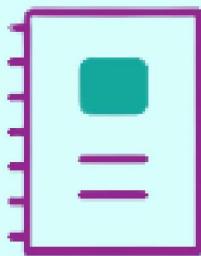


**Friday 19 September 2025**

## Information and Resources

### **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Global Irish Position Paper Submission by Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional Abuse, Patricia Carey**

In August 2025, the Special Advocate made a submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, calling for greater supports for Survivors and Affected Persons living overseas. She also highlighted the important work and vital services being provided by Irish support organisations to Survivors overseas.



**Click to read Special Advocate  
Submission**



## Information and Resources

### Irish Passport Queries

Over the last number of months, the Special Advocate has been working with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Adoption Policy Unit in the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to establish a clear contact for those affected by illegal birth registrations (IBR) or who may have complex adoption passport issues.



Email: [ppomadoptionqueries@dfa.ie](mailto:ppomadoptionqueries@dfa.ie)



### Irish Passport Queries

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Irish Passport Office has established a dedicated mailbox to establish a clear contact for those affected by illegal birth registrations (IBR) or who may have complex adoption passport issues.



email: [ppomadoptionqueries@dfa.ie](mailto:ppomadoptionqueries@dfa.ie)

[www.specialadvocate.ie](http://www.specialadvocate.ie)



[info@specialadvocate.ie](mailto:info@specialadvocate.ie)

## Information and Resources

### Medical Card Queries relating to The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

The Special Advocate has engaged with the HSE medical card team, in order to find a clear route for Survivors and Affected Persons to raise their queries.



If a survivor has any queries relating to their Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Medical Card they can email [ClientRegistration@hse.ie](mailto:ClientRegistration@hse.ie) Their query will be investigated by a dedicated team within the PCRS.

There is now a dedicated team within the PCRS call centre. When a survivor contacts the helpline their details will be taken and the call agent who will arrange an immediate call back from a member of the dedicated team to assist the survivor with their query.



Email: [clientregistration@hse.ie](mailto:clientregistration@hse.ie)

Phone: 01 8647100



# 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**



## Sage Advocacy are hosting a Drop-in Information Session for Survivors In Dublin

### Where:

Charleville Mall Library, Dunne Street, Dublin 1  
(beside Royal Canal, St Vincents Girls National and St Attracta's Church)

### When:

Tuesday 23rd September  
2.00pm to 5.00pm



## Rún – Ireland's (In)visible Buildings Project

The Architecture at the Edge festival will include the presentation of Rún – Ireland's (In)visible Buildings Project, an ongoing research project that is mapping the condition and extent of former residential carceral 'welfare' institutional sites across the island of Ireland.

[Click here to read about the Rún project](#)

[Read about the festival here](#)



## Free online Webinar on the Irish Government Action Plan for survivors of Ireland's institutions.

**Tuesday 21st October at 10.30am via Zoom**

Fréa are hosting online webinars on applications to the Mother and baby Institutions Payment Scheme for those submitting applications from Britain. (both potential applicants and support workers)

Barnardos will also take part in the session: running an hour-long section on family tracing

### To book your place:

visit the Learning and Development Section of [Barnardos Ireland's website](#) or call Patrick at Fréa Renewing Roots on 00447432138682



## 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](http://www.specialadvocate.ie)



[Visit our Facebook Page](#)