

PRESS RELEASE

4 July 2011

JFM has positive first meeting with Ministers Shatter and Lynch

Justice for Magdalenes (JFM), the survivor advocacy group, met this morning with Minister for Justice, Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., and Minister for State, Ms. Kathleen Lynch, T.D. The meeting took place at the Department of Justice Headquarters, St. Stephen's Green.

Joining JFM at the meeting were Councillor Sally Mulready and Ms. Phyllis Morgan, from the Irish Women's Survivors' Network, which meets at the London Irish Centre.

The meeting lasted over two hours and was constructive in that all three parties participated in a positive manner and exchanged information and ideas addressing a broad range of issues.

Minister Shatter addressed the remit of the Inter-departmental Committee of Inquiry, to be headed by Independent Chair, Dr. Martin McAleese. JFM was pleased to learn that all government departments and their records will be considered available to the Committee's work. Mr. Shatter also assured JFM that the work of creating "a narrative of State interaction with the Magdalene Laundries" will consider acts of omission on the part of the State, in particular the State's failure to inspect and regulate and thereby prevent abuse in the laundries.

JFM addressed four specific areas of concern: access to the religious congregations' records, JFM's own *Narrative of State Interaction with the Magdalene Laundries*, the legal arguments and rights claims stemming from the IHRC and UNCAT recommendations on the Magdalene Laundries, and finally, JFM's proposed "Restorative Justice and Reparations' Scheme."

JFM looks forward to continuing conversations with both Ministers and with the Inter-departmental Committee, working together to address these issues and bring a prompt, thorough and fair solution for all survivors of the laundries.

JFM will also conduct a public forum on Tuesday, 5th July, at UCD's Humanities Institute of Ireland on the Belfield Campus. Beginning at 10 a.m. in the "Seminar Room," JFM will again present its *Narrative of State Interaction with the Magdalene Laundries* to members of the public and to survivors, who are welcome to attend. The forum will also be advertised via Facebook, Twitter and other media outlets. Members of the media are also welcome to attend, and members of the JFM delegation will make themselves available afterward for questions/interviews. For directions, see <http://www.ucd.ie/hii/facilities/directionstothehii/>. The venue is wheelchair accessible.

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