

Press Release, 26th March 2013

Justice for Magdalenes publishes Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission

Justice for Magdalenes (JFM), the survivor advocacy group, has published a guide, entitled **Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission**, for women who were incarcerated in the Magdalene Laundries as they prepare to engage with the Magdalen Fund.

Following the official State apology issued by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny on 19th February 2013, the government asked Justice John Quirke to undertake a three-month review and make recommendations to the Government about the criteria for applying to the Magdalen Fund for payments and other supports.

Survivors who have not already registered with the Magdalen Commission are encouraged to do so. Registration forms are available from the following website:
<http://www.idcmagdalen.ie/en/MLW/Pages/MagdalenFundForm> or by phoning 01-476 8649.

The **Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission** is intended solely as an aid to survivors; its purpose is to help them and their families to create a checklist of present-day needs. The Guide is not intended to supplant or replace any official documents created by the Magdalen Commission or the Irish State; it is offered simply as a guide to help women to prepare to engage with the process.

JFM offers the Guide as a practical response to the many requests for direction we continue to receive from survivors, family members and many politicians seeking assistance for constituents.

The **Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission** is available to download from the JFM website at [www.magdalenelaundries.com/Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission.pdf](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/Survivor%20Guide%20to%20Magdalen%20Commission.pdf).

JFM will be also be circulating the Guide to survivors in contact with us, and we will also be making it available to survivor groups, including those specifically representing Magdalene women. Likewise, we will be distributing it to relevant NGOs, Citizens Information Centres and Family Resource Centres.

JFM asks the media to bring attention to the availability of the Guide. In particular, we are anxious that survivors not affiliated or aligned with any group as well as those among the Irish Diaspora abroad are made aware of the need to register with the Magdalen Commission and the availability of the **Survivor Guide to Magdalen Commission**.

JFM has also made available a guide for relatives of Magdalene women to assist them in communicating with the Commission. It is available to download from the JFM Website at [www.magdalenelaundries.com/Relatives Guide to Magdalen Commission.pdf](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/Relatives%20Guide%20to%20Magdalen%20Commission.pdf).

Contact Details:

Claire McGettrick [PRO], Ireland—353-(0)86-3659516, clairemcgettrick@gmail.com

Mari Steed, Philadelphia—(00)1-215-589-9329, mari_tee@yahoo.com

Katherine O'Donnell, Dublin—353-(0)1-716-7323, 087-961-2163 katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie

James M. Smith, Boston College—(00)1-617-552-1596, james.smith.2@bc.edu

Maeve O'Rourke, London— maeveorourke@gmail.com