

**Justice for Magdalenes (JFM), the survivor advocacy group, is looking forward to the debate on the Magdalene Laundries Report in Dáil Éireann this coming Tuesday (19 February 2013).**

In advance of the Debate, JFM is publishing a redacted version of its Principal Submission to the Inter-Departmental Committee Investigating State Involvement with the Magdalene Laundries. JFM has taken this action with full permission from those who submitted their testimonies. Our group welcomes the findings in the Committee's final report of "significant" and "direct" State Involvement. We are concerned, however, that members of the Oireachtas and the general public have the opportunity to read and consider testimony from survivors and family members of conditions experienced within these institutions. JFM submitted almost 800 pages of written testimony to the Committee. For reasons that are as yet unspecified, not a single line of the written testimony appears in the consideration of living and working conditions in the laundries. JFM's Principal Submission can be accessed via our website at: [http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/State Involvement in the Magdalene Laundries public.pdf](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/State%20Involvement%20in%20the%20Magdalene%20Laundries%20public.pdf).

JFM is also encouraging members of the Oireachtas and the general public to read JFM's "Reparations and Restorative Justice Scheme," submitted to the Department of Justice on 14 October 2011. The scheme contains four main elements: (1) a state apology, (2) a dedicated unit within the Department of Justice to facilitate access to redress and services for survivors of Magdalene Laundries, (3) a Commission for Financial Reparation, and (4) preservation of the historical record. JFM developed this scheme at the request of the Minister for Justice in August 2011. JFM's "Reparations and Restorative Justice Scheme" can be accessed via our website at:

<http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/JFM%20Reparations%2014%20October.pdf>.

JFM invites all members of the Oireachtas to a briefing on the Magdalene Laundries Report that is co-sponsored by Amnesty-International, Ireland, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and JFM to take place in the AV/Media Room at Leinster House, at 12 noon on Tuesday, 19 February 2013. We encourage all members to attend.

Finally, JFM calls on the public to stand in solidarity with survivors of the Magdalene Laundries and their families by joining in a candle lit vigil to take place outside Dáil Éireann on Tuesday, February 19 at 5 p.m. JFM thanks the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) for coordinating the vigil and singer Mary Coughlan for agreeing to participate. Further details are available on both the NWCi website (<http://www.nwci.ie/events/2013/02/19/stand-in-solidarity-with-magdalen-survivors-candle-lit-vigil/>) and JFM's website (<http://www.magdalenelaundries.com>).

*"Forgiveness is not nebulous, unpractical and idealistic. ... Amnesia is no solution. If a nation is going to be healed, it has to come to grips with the past." —Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1997*

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