



PRESS RELEASE

‘Any inquiry into Spiritan sexual abuse of children should include all adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse still calling for Commissions of Investigation’

Dignity4Patients represent 350 plus adult survivors of sexual abuse by former surgeon Michael Shine at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital when it was under the auspices of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, between 1964 and 1995.

Over the past two weeks we have heard on Liveline and through other media victims and survivors of sexual abuse in mostly education settings give brave and horrific evidence of the sexual abuse they were subjected to as children. It is heartening that victims and survivors are leading the way in relation to an inquiry into sexual abuse.

Dignity4Patients strongly supports the call from other organisations and individuals for a broader inquiry encompassing abuse in Ireland across many sectors, in our case the medical environment.

According to CEO Adrienne Reilly, ‘If the government is really serious about dealing with the issue of child sexual abuse and learning from past failures it must include all the victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse who have been seeking public inquiries for decades, including ours. Neither the Medical Missionaries of Mary nor the former surgeon from Our Lady of Lourdes have ever acknowledged or apologised privately or publicly to any of our victims and survivors and this is felt deeply. If the government is not going to have an overarching inquiry our victims and survivors want to know why, especially given that the hospital was state funded?’

Reilly added: ‘There is precedent for this where 15 institutions, organisations and individuals were investigated in the Independent Inquiry into Sexual Abuse in England. Is it not time to have one here? And if not, why not? We would like the Government to answer these questions in next weeks Dail debate. If as the Tanaiste Leo Varadkar says the government is concerned about the ‘cruel and pervasive nature of the allegations’, well then, they need to listen to all victims and survivors who have been subjected to this cruelty and pervasiveness and have never been believed, heard, or in some cases still never told anyone. An overarching Commission of Investigation for many will be their only chance.

The Spiritan victims and survivors calling for an investigation want to expose the ‘collusion, concealment and cover-up’ that led to decades of known perpetrators being allowed to continually and systemically sexually abuse children. The victims of Michael Shine also want answers. The youngest victim that engages with Dignity4Patients was four years old!”

For more information Dignity4Patients CEO can be contacted
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For victim and survivor support we can be contacted at....

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Monday – Thursday 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

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