

Hello Recently I watched a 4 corners show on State Wards which eventually led me to find out that there is a senate enquiry into those places

WPC Unfortunately I was in one - for a while - Nazareth House - Ballinacree in about 1957 - I was 6 years old. it certainly was not my choice to live there

'What was it like?' it is something that has never left me - how and why these places were allowed to run the way they were is impossible for me to comprehend - it made no sense - a place to dehumanise children? - it worked

When I arrived I knew nothing about cruelty - I was living with my grandparents (before) when I left, I left in a state of shock and horror - how can people be like that?

I was possibly only in there for a year - I'm still trying to find out - but the result is this - most nights I sleep with my eyes wide open - I trust no-one if

anyone dares to try and hug me I nearly
have a heart attack - I become so afraid
I never married - I live alone - in a remote
area. Reason - I hope that I can't be
hurt and I'm so worried and have been all
my life - what if I become what I saw?

Being so young maybe I was lucky -
I've sort of suppressed a lot of thoughts/
memories - but one survival technique I had
was to cry every night to get to sleep - I
didn't stop this habit until I was
about 10-11 years old

I remember being naked a lot - I
honestly could not dress myself - I didn't
know how to - I begged people to help
me dress myself - I remember just
screaming - and begging to be helped - there
never was any help!

The sexual things that people talk
about happened always

There were a lot of beatings - I
could never work out why?

Some of the children were just as brutal. The
nuns - ~~inhuman~~ I detest these people

As a ~~child~~ ~~now~~ - the way I am now to a
great degree was shaped by that place.

I have ~~only~~ spoken to 3 people about
what happened. The problem about talking
about it is that I never want to speak
to them again - its like revealing too
much of yourself. Most people will

PROBABLY NEVER SPEAK ABOUT IT. I figure
that most are dead - the shame

Michael Bamfield

Each time I see such shows it makes
me cry (even though the most tears were
beaten out of me). The people speaking on
such shows are most likely telling the truth -
how could they make up such stories time
and time again?