

## **STATEMENT CONCERNING WORKING GROUP ON “NAMING”**

### **Preamble:**

On March 2 2021, the Society of Jesus published a statement concerning child abuse by one of its deceased members. It identified Fr. Joseph Marmion S.J. as having abused children in Jesuit schools in Ireland. Following this naming, many others made known that they had been harmed by him, and also by other Jesuits.

The Society wishes to respond to the harm done by its members.

The Society wants to encourage and assist those who experienced abuse by other Jesuits to come forward. Some people who were abused have told the Society that the naming of the deceased Jesuit was a factor helpful to them in doing so. The Society intends to identify in the public domain additional Jesuits about whom complaints of child sexual abuse have been made, and seeks assistance regarding the considerations that ought to inform such a decision.

To that end, the Society has asked three appropriately qualified independent persons to form a Working Group.

The interest of victims will be a paramount consideration for the Group.

### **Main Functions of the Working Group:**

The Working Group is asked:

- To consider and advise upon the standards that ought to be applied in the taking of a decision by the Society of Jesus to place in the public domain the name of a deceased Jesuit who is the subject of complaint of child sexual abuse.
- To make recommendations about Jesuits whom it considers to meet these standards.

In order to fulfil this function it will be provided with all the information and case materials available to the Society regarding complaints against its deceased members.

The activities and functions of the Group shall accord in all respects with GDPR and each Member of the Group will have executed a Data Processing Agreement.

**Members:**

Paul Harrison is a registered social worker. Over a forty year period he has held practice and management positions in statutory child protection and welfare services and is author of a number of publications in this area. He has also served on the board of a number of voluntary organisations. He was a member of several major childcare inquiry teams and has also undertaken many individual and organisational case reviews. When the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) was established in 2014 he was a member of its first National Management Team, serving as Director of Policy and Strategy. He is currently practicing as an independent children's services and social work advisor; and is also a member of the Board of the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service.

Dr Rosaleen McElvaney is a clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, academic and author. She has extensive experience working in specialist sexual abuse services within the public service in Ireland. She was founding director of LARAGH Counselling Service, the first statutory counselling service for adults who experienced sexual abuse in childhood and was involved in developing a therapy service for children and families in St Clare's Unit, Children's University Hospital. She has served as a voluntary organisation board member of the Psychological Society of Ireland, One in Four, Crime Victims Helpline, and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and as a Ministerial appointee to the statutory board, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. She has served as president of the Psychological Society of Ireland and Chair of the European Awarding Committee for the *EuroPsy*, a psychology qualification issued by the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations.

Dr McElvaney is the author of three books, *Containing the Secret of Child Sexual Abuse* (Springer, 2015), *Finding the Words: Talking Children through the Tough Times* (Veritas, 2015), and *Helping Children to Tell about Sexual Abuse* (Jessica Kingsley, 2016), in addition to an extensive list of peer reviewed publications in international journals. She has provided consultation on child protection and sexual abuse issues to organisations in Ireland for the past 30 years. She is currently employed as a Principal Psychotherapist in the Alders Unit, a specialist child sexual abuse unit in Children's Health Ireland. She serves as a panel member of the National Review Panel and has a private practice in Dublin.

**Concluding Comment:**

Where a complaint of child abuse is made against a living Jesuit, there are civil, child protection and legal channels available to people to achieve resolution and justice, alongside a range of supports and responses available through the Society. The need to create new initiatives in responding to information about abuse by deceased Jesuits and the needs of those harmed has emerged from the learnings of the Society since 2021. The Jesuits continue to be fully committed to

working with all people who have been abused by members of the Society, whether living or deceased, now and in the future