



12th January 2021

Mother and Baby Homes Report – AMRI Statement

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) welcomes the publication of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission Report. The report highlights a very unjust and dark period in our history, where women who became pregnant out of wedlock were driven to secrecy, isolation and loneliness by a society which was cruel in the extreme.

Our thoughts and prayers on the publication of this report are with the thousands of people living and deceased who were rejected by society when they most needed support and care, and who suffered due to the inadequacy of the services provided.

We welcome the announcement by An Taoiseach that he will be apologising to all those who did not receive the acceptance and support they deserved. As the representative body of Leaders of Religious and Missionaries in Ireland, we add our own heartfelt sorrow and regret for the judgemental culture of secrecy and shame that pervaded the Church, and that marginalised women and ran counter to the Gospel.

There are still many issues to be resolved including access to information which is understandably a major issue for many people. The government have indicated they will address this important matter through legislation - and this is to be welcomed.

Signed:

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