



Affiliated to Humanists International & Member of the European Humanist Federation

## **HAI statement regarding the Mother and Baby Homes Report**

**ISSUED: 18 January 2021**

The Humanist Association of Ireland (HAI) condemns in the strongest manner the appalling abuse suffered by women and children as set out in the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (published 12th January 2021).

The wrongs done to these young women and their children over almost eight decades were deeply hurtful and darkly misogynistic. Whilst these wrongs mainly took place in religious-run institutions – and those institutions must take full responsibility for their actions – they also reflect the flaws and limitations of Irish society at that time where individuals and families were burdened by a suffocating institutional dominance to aspire to social conformity and a narrow respectability above all else.

The HAI advocates for victim redress, a full apology, and compensatory action at an early date by the relevant churches and the state.

The HAI continues to promote compassion, equality, and reason as the fundamental and guiding principles for an inclusive and tolerant society.

Aidan Pender  
Chair, Humanist Association of Ireland

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