

**SUPPORT STATEMENT**

***SECTION A — SURVIVOR DETAILS***

**Survivor Name:**

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

***SECTION B — Supporting Person Details***

**Name:** MARIE COLLINS

**Relationship to Survivor:** SISTER

**Purpose of This Statement**

I am providing this statement in support of the above survivors Redress Scotland application. I know them personally and wish to offer information about their experiences they shared with me, and the impact this has had on their life.

**What the Survivor shared with me**

- Please see attached signed statement.  
-  
-

**Impact to the Survivor that I have observed**

- Please see attached signed statement.  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-

**Supporting Statement Declaration**

I offer this statement to support the named survivor's

application. Everything I have written is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. It reflects what I was personally told by the survivor, and what I have personally observed during the time I have known them.

**Name:** McElins

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

## What Joan shared with me

I am Joan's sister Marie, we were both in care homes together, my statement is what I seen.

We were both taken into care and put in Blairvadoch Children's Home, Rhu, Helensburgh.

Joan suffered mostly physical abuse but also sexual abuse.

Joan was also 'branded' by means of a tattoo, she was held against her will and if I said anything I would be next.

There was one male staff member who I think was called Thomas, he was very nice, kind and friendly...always wanting to tickle and cuddle you, he would be like it with other boys and girls, it seemed like fun, until her started touching our breasts and putting his hand down our shorts or trousers, we didn't realise that he was doing it to both of us until he done it to Joan in front of me.

This happened several times over a period of months, we asked if we could go and live with our older sister who lives in Irving, Ayrshire.

We moved in with her and her partner, who was our mums partner before she ran away with him, this situation did not work out and we were put into Burnside Children's Home, Kilwinning Road, Irvine, Ayrshire.

The abuse and beatings from both staff and children was horrendous, we were treated like outsiders because we were Glaswegian, we were beaten, starved, and locked in our attic room, our clothes were stolen, even underwear, our social worker came to visit, we told her about the situation with no clothes or underwear, she took us out straight away and bought us some essentials, they were also stolen eventually, as was anything personal we had from home. We did not get meals every day, but were made to come down and wash up after lunches and evening meals, we never went to school, we just cleaned up every day.

Joan once refused to wash the dinner plates and was dragged by the hair and slammed into the sink, she had a burst lip and black eye, I tried to help her but he (we were told to call them Miss or Sir), threw me across the kitchen floor, we were skinny malnourished girls brought up in the east end of Glasgow in the 70's with a single parent.

I had stole a block of marzipan as we were hungry, I got caught and he pinned me up against the bedroom wall and forced the whole block of marzipan in my mouth, it wasn't until i started choking he stopped and threw me onto my bed, Joan seen all this happen but was too afraid to help as she would've got it too.

We were often put into cold showers and held there with a stick while being laughed at and berated about our bodies, it was humiliating. We cry and plead to be left alone but even the other children would ransack our bedroom, steal from us and hit us, in front of staff members.

We eventually smashed up our bedroom and they moved us very quickly to Glasgow, we were put in Eglinton Childrens Home, Cleveden Gardens, Kelvindale, Glasgow.

Joan wasn't there for long, but while she was, she was plied with alcohol and cigarettes, again Joan was never sent to school, basically from the age of 14 onwards Joan received no education while under local authority care. Joan left the children's home and moved to London to live with extended family, she said she would get away from Glasgow and she did, but they just let her go, one minute she was there and the next she'd gone.

Signed  
Date

M Collins

10th August 2026.



## Impact on Joan

Joan has never received any counselling or therapy throughout her life for the abuse and trauma she's suffered.

She has always felt insecure about herself, her choices, her decisions and more so her body, I think this was due to the humiliation she suffered, she ended up having breast augmentation. Unfortunately it did not help with her self confidence, she continues to put herself down and has very little respect for herself, she sees herself as the problem, and has in the past tried to blame herself for not protecting us both, I know she has contemplated suicide once, but we managed to get her some help from the GP, she suffers depression, has a lot of anxiety and has had panic attacks over the years, mostly in public, she rarely goes out, she struggles with her emotions and has difficulty regulating her emotions, which often elands to anger and numbness, joan would often turn to alcohol and drugs to block things out. Joan managed and still does to stay away from alcohol but she replaced that with coffee, sometimes drinking up to 15-20 cups a day, ultimately she suffered a lot with migraines which in turn made her stay at home a lot and isolated herself from the outside world and sometimes her family.

Joan went on to become involved in abusive relationships which ultimately resulted in her being a mum at 16, she had no guidance, no support and no after care when she left the children's home, for Joan it became the norm to be treated like this, she now lives on her own and is in more control of her life with the help and support from her family and GP who prescribes various medication to help her from day to day.

As Joan's sister, from what she has gone through in her teens through to adulthood has not been an easy journey, there have been times where we thought we could have lost her. From the days of being sisters pre local authority care, she has changed, she's not the happy, confident and funny big sister that I knew growing up as a child.

Signed

Medlin

Date

10<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

