



**Special
Advocate**
For Survivors of
Institutional Abuse

Statement from the Special Advocate for Survivors in relation to Philomena's Law

As the Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional Abuse appointed by the Irish Government, I am acutely aware of how critical Philomena's Law is for so many people living in Britain who spent time in Ireland's Mother and Baby Institutions as mothers and children.

It is unconscionable that those who now receive redress would be further penalised by having their essential benefits affected.

A Human Rights-based approach is required to ensure equal access to redress and supports and services for all Survivors.

The principle of 'Leaving No One Behind', equality and fairness should underpin all redress measures including financial redress.

Liam Conlon MP and his team are to be commended for bringing forward this important, timely and much needed legislation. I wish to also acknowledge the ongoing invaluable work being undertaken by Irish in Britain, London Irish Centre, Frea- Renewing Roots, ICAP, Coventry Irish Society and other survivor support organisations in Britain in relation to the Philomena's Law campaign.

We must ensure that those hurt in the past do not suffer again.

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