



Justice for Magdalenes
www.magdalenelaundries.com

Election 2011 and the Magdalene campaign — what you need to know

Our expectations from the next Irish government:

- An official apology from the Irish State and the Catholic Church
- The establishment of a distinct redress scheme for Magdalene survivors
- Immediately adopt the IHRC recommendation to establish a statutory inquiry into Human Rights violations in the laundries.

What has happened to date?

Below are the government ministers who have had responsibility for the issue of the Magdalene Laundries over the past two years or more. All have failed to apologise for what happened and all have failed to bring about restorative justice for Magdalene survivors. You may see some of these people (or their colleagues) on your polling card. Here is the Magdalene survivor's experience of what they have done.



Brian Cowen (FF, Laois/Offaly) - Taoiseach 2008-2011 (*Not standing for re-election*)

Performance Record: Consistently refused to address the issue of redress and justice for Magdalene survivors. Under Cowen's stewardship, the Irish state has failed in its responsibility to protect one of the most vulnerable groups of Irish citizens.



Mary Coughlan (FF, Donegal South West) - Minister for Education and Skills 2010-present

Performance Record: Took over from Batt O'Keeffe and despite a background in social work, failed to address the issue and continued Fianna Fáil's policy of "deny til they die".



Dermot Ahern (FF, Louth) Minister for Justice and Law Reform 2008-2011 (*Not standing for re-election*)

Performance Record: Declined to engage directly with JFM representatives, instead choosing to communicate through his senior civil servants. Though Justice was made the lead department with responsibility for the issue of the Magdalene Laundries, as Minister for Justice he ultimately failed to provide any justice whatsoever to an ageing and vulnerable group of survivors.



Batt O'Keeffe (FF, Cork North West) Minister for Educ. and Science 2008-2010 (*Not standing for re-election*)

Performance Record: Referred to women incarcerated in Magdalene Laundries as "employees", later retracted this and referred to them as "workers". (Survivors say they felt like slaves). Denied any state involvement in referring women and girls to Magdalene Laundries – was later proven to be incorrect.



Mary Harney (Ind, Dublin Mid West) Minister for Health 2004-2011 (*Not standing for re-election*)

Performance Record: Promised to investigate claims of complicity and collusion by her department, but never delivered on her promises.

Are you registered to vote?

Visit www.checktheregister.ie and www.vote.ie to make sure your voice can be heard on election day!

Justice for Magdalenes Crocknahattina, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan e-mail: info@magdalenelaundries.com

In Ireland: (353) 86 4059491 ■ In the US: (1) 215-589-9329 ■ In the UK: (44) 208-346-7479