



## Tuam Oral History Project

Department of History, University of Galway

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Thank you for your interest in this study. You are being invited to take part in an oral history project on the history of the Tuam Mother and Baby Institution.

Before you decide whether you wish to take part or not, you should read the information provided below and, if you wish, discuss with (family, friends etc.). Take your time and ask questions – don't feel rushed and don't feel under pressure to make a quick decision. You should be clear about the risks and benefits of taking part in this study so that you can make a decision that's right for you. This process is known as 'Informed Consent'.

### Voluntary Participation And The Opportunity To Withdraw Consent

Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw your consent at any time, and without providing a reason. If you withdraw from the project, right to have your data deleted, unless it has already been used in analyses or in publications from the research project. If you wish to withdraw, or if you have questions about the survey or the research project, you can contact any member of the research team.

### Why Is This Study Being Done?

The key aim of the Tuam Oral History Project is to enable the survivors of the Tuam institution and their families to tell their own life stories, in the way that they want them to be told. In that regard, members of the project team will record and archive the histories and life stories of survivors and their families, as well as the memories of others connected in any way with the institution or with those who spent time there.

The project will:

1. Permanently preserve and maintain the recorded recollections of individuals in the James Hardiman Library in University of Galway along with relevant personal documents.
2. Provide access to this material for historical research/ print or online publication/ lectures/ education programmes and other legitimate academic purposes. Interviewees themselves will determine whether to make their testimonies available immediately or at some point in the future.
3. To work with survivors to provide an artistic response to their stories.

### Who Is Organising And Funding This Study?

The project is funded by the Galway University Foundation and the project team are as follows:

**Lead Researchers/Co-PIs:** Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley and Dr John Cunningham.

**Interviewers:** Mary Cunningham, Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley and Dr John Cunningham.

**Creative Writing and Community Output:** Elaine Feeney

**Director/Producer of Tuam Oral History Theatre Production:** Dr Miriam Haughton

**Archivist:** Dr Barry Houlihan

**Marketing:** Lorna Farren



### **Why Am I Being Asked To Take Part?**

As a survivor/a directly affected person/a family member/advocate connected with the Tuam Mother and Baby 'Home'/Institution or member of the local community in Tuam.

### **What Can I Expect If I Agree To Take Part?**

Your testimony/oral history will be recorded in a place of your choosing. It will be an audio recording, after which we will transcribe it and post it to you/meet with you to review or implement changes. If you wish you can remain anonymous, and all your data will be securely protected. You can include a photograph, documents or images too if you wish.

### **What Are The Benefits For Me Taking Part?**

You will be part of an archive and oral history research that is addressing a key element of Ireland's modern history.

### **What Are The Risks?**

We are cognisant of the effects of re-traumatisation that can occur when discussing past trauma and our research project is trauma-informed and there is access to a trauma-informed counsellor at any point you wish.

### **Confidentiality**

You can choose to be named or remain anonymous.

### **What Do I Need To Know About How The Data Will Be Used?**

Based on your wish to be named or not, the data will be processed in this manner and in accordance with best practice for oral history interviews.

### **What Do I Need To Know About How My Data Will Be Protected?**

After the interview is transcribed, a copy will be posted to you and the data will be kept securely on the James Hardiman Library's secure server and access will only be available to the archivist and select library personnel. University of Galway requires research data to be kept for seven years after the conclusion of a project, unless a funder requires an alternative duration. If is our intention to archive your data for future research, see <https://libguides.library.nuigalway.ie/researchdatamanagement> to help you explain how the data will be used in the future.

### **Where Can I Get Further Information?**

For further information contact [sarah-anne.buckley@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:sarah-anne.buckley@universityofgalway.ie)

If you wish to contact a neutral third party, email [ethics@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ethics@universityofgalway.ie) to communicate with the Coordinator or Chair of the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee.