

PRESS RELEASE

For over ninety years the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph's Home (Neerkol) cared for children who were orphaned, abandoned, or otherwise unable to live in their families. For thousands [hundreds?] it was an opportunity to make something of a life that was otherwise deprived. Conditions were difficult and resources were scarce. The strict discipline reflected the thinking of the day. The Sisters did their best to care for children who had nowhere else to go.

The Sisters of Mercy can well understand that for many children their time in an orphanage was distressing and unhappy - this is hardly surprising since they were deprived of a normal home life. It is only natural that a legacy of parental deprivation would leave some former residents bitter and resentful. The Sisters' ministry of care did not stop when children left the orphanage and they will continue to do all that is reasonably possible to help such people now or at any stage in the future.

Allegations have been made in a book about Neerkol suggesting widespread abuse of children. Extensive inquiries from people familiar with the orphanage, Sisters and former pupils, have not revealed any evidence to substantiate the allegations made in this book.

Controversy and media sensationalism are part of the promotional activities of the author. At no time prior to publication has the author contacted the Sisters. The Sisters of Mercy rely on their past record of care for the disadvantaged and are confident of the support of fair-minded people.

For further information contact [etc]

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