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United Nations Geneva
Committee on the Rights of the Child
Palais de Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

**RE: 65th Session – Review of the Holy See
Submission of Survivors Voice-Europe**

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing as a member of NGO Survivors Voice-Europe. I write to submit the 1995 sworn statement of Fr. Bruno E. Mulvihill made to the Irish Garda for the criminal prosecution of his colleague, Fr. Brendan Smyth. An attachment to the statement is Fr. Mulvihill's letter of the 1st of November 1974 to the Papal Nuncio of Ireland, Archbishop Gaetano Albrandi.

The documents of Fr. Bruno Mulvihill reveal the notice, direct intervention, and failure to report to prosecutorial secular authorities on the part of the Holy See in the case of Irish cleric Fr. Brendan Smyth, who sexually abused hundreds of children in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the United States over a 40 year span until turning himself in to law enforcement in Northern Ireland on 21 January 1994. Smyth continued to abuse children up through at least Christmas Eve of 1993 (this is described by victim "Mary" in the award winning documentary Resurrection of Brendan Smyth by UTV, N. Ireland – available on Youtube). The Holy See acceded to the Convention on the rights of the child, with reservations, on 20 of April 1990, overlapping with the ongoing crimes by Fr. Brendan Smyth against children and with the awareness of the Holy See dating back to its direct intervention in 1968.

What is abundantly clear from Fr. Bruno Mulvihill's 1995 sworn statement is that the Holy See's Congregation for the Religious in 1968 issued a decree restricting the privileges of Fr. Brendan Smyth. Fr. Mulvihill, once again notified its representatives by meeting with and writing the Irish papal nuncio, Archbishop Albrandi on 1 November 1974. Nevertheless, despite the awareness of the Holy See since 1968, Fr. Brendan Smyth was allowed to continue to molest children until being jailed in 1994, being eventually convicted on 141 criminal counts of child molestation in N. Ireland and Ireland.

It is also abundantly clear from the Holy See's submission that it is unwilling to turn over records at this Committee's request or to engage in any measure of transparency by answering questions directly. These few records from an insider, Fr. Bruno Mulvihill, created before Mulvihill's death in a fatal car crash in 2004 show a history of the Holy See's involvement up through and after its accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 April 1990 in one of the most well documented cases of clerical sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church. Fr. Mulvihill's statement combined with the known fact that Smyth was continuing to abuse children right up to being jailed demonstrates the Holy See's non-compliance with Articles 19 and 34 on the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

It has only been recently (2012) that Fr. Bruno Mulvihill's 1995 statement with its attachments has been made available as much of the paper trial on Fr. Brendan Smyth still remains concealed by the Holy See, religious orders and dioceses to which he was assigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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aka Helen L. Hyde
Survivor of Fr. Brendan Smyth

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