

Exhumed women: memorial service demand

A CAMPAIGN to have a public memorial service, erect a monument and turn the controversial former Magdalen graveyard in Drumcondra into a Garden of Remembrance was launched last night.

A committee set up in the wake of protests over the exhumation, cremation and reinterment of 133 Magdalen women at the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, High Park Drumcondra, is to open a book of condolences at the GPO.

The book will be handed into the Lord Mayor's office after a protest march from St Stephen's Green on Saturday week.

Margo Kelly, one of the organisers, said that they would work to ensure the former graveyard which was sold for a housing development, would not be built on.

"We want it turned into a garden of remembrance.

One woman broke down at the 100 strong meeting in Dublin last night as she spoke about a relative who worked in the Magdalen laundry.

Meanwhile, the provincial of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Ireland yesterday defended the weekend re-burial of the 155 'Magdalen' women at Glasnevin cemetery, Dublin.

Sr Angela Fahy rejected claims that the religious order had sold off the old graveyard at High Park convent, Drumcondra to pay bills.

She said the graveyard site was small and worth about £9,000, while the exhumation cost £45,000.

"From our point of view that small piece of land would have become virtually inaccessible, because it would have been part of whatever wider development will happen there, a very small part would have become secluded, hidden away some place." Sr Fahy said on RTE radio.

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