

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Pamela Hazel**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **13/06/2013**

Important

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Clip title: What do you remember about the graduation?

Duration: 00:01:47

Clip start point in full interview: 00:29:11

Clip end point in full interview: 00:31:25

Interview identifier: 097_O_01

Description: Pamela Hazel, Education Officer in Maghaberry Prison in the 1990s, reflects on her memories of attending an Open University graduation ceremony in Belfast which two Republican women Open University graduates from Maghaberry had been given parole to attend. She describes it as a wonderful occasion with a sense of real achievement, and how, while others may disagree, the work of educators in prison was a force for good.

Transcript:

What do you remember about the graduation, because we were actually at one in the Whitla Hall in Belfast.

Yes, I can remember that as being something wonderful –

Tell me about that.

Just that sense of, one, we have broken through another, you know, sort of barrier. Not only have the girls got here, but they have been permitted to be out, you know. At a normal all-together, you know sort of, graduation. It isn't put on wherever. My mind has gone there, Jenny, and it's with everybody else, we are not different and that, the thrill, well, the photographs shows it I think.

And you have got Martina, who is now in Government?

That does, you have to smile, don't you? There you're watching someone you remember, you know, from a dreadful situation who has grown and is now, as you say, in Government. I am sure there are people who think other things. I know there are people who think other things, but I think, I am satisfied that what we did was for good, you know, and it has proved to be so.