Consultative Group on the Past

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) welcomed the publication of the report of the Consultative Group on the Past and calls for further and substantive debate on the issues of truth, reconciliation and justice and the recommendations in the report.

The report builds on the work of Healing Through Remembering and supports the view, long held by the organisation, that there is need for society to address the issues relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland in order to build a more peaceful future.

Following the launch of the report Kate Turner, Director of Healing Through Remembering said “What we need is measured and reasonable debate on these issues. The experience of HTR is that honest and inclusive debate in an appropriate environment can bring agreement on reconciliation, truth and justice by those who hold opposing views and opinions.”

Brandon Hamber, Chair of Healing Through Remembering said “The report offers an opportunity to genuinely engage with the difficult issue of the past. Few places have consulted so widely in their deliberations on such issues. We should not squander opportunities for dialogue on these thorny issues on the back of political posturing. Let’s debate the recommendations and try and find a measured way of taking this issue forward.”

Healing Through Remembering will continue to enable deeper discussions, forums and events on how best to deal with the conflict in and about Northern Ireland to build a better future.

For further information and for a full downloadable copy of the report please visit www.cgpni.org

Please note the office of the Consultative Group on the Past is now closed.

Healing Through Remembering and Peace III

‘Whatever you say, say something’

Healing Through Remembering has received funding from the European Regional Development Fund to further its work on dealing with the past. The project, entitled ‘Whatever you say, say something’ will see HTR taking a leading role in enabling grass roots organisations, civic society and political representatives to take the practical steps and decisions necessary to acknowledge and deal with our conflicting past.

The project will focus on dealing with the legacy of conflict through a variety of in-depth focus groups, public seminars and community workshops.

It will work with community groups throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Region offering a series of enabling workshops to those interested in issues associated with dealing with the past.

It will engage with policy and decision-makers; informing and guiding political leaders and reflecting on the implementation of decisions taken.

Furthermore it will facilitate discussion opportunities for practitioners and activists working in the field; enabling them to come together to creatively build on past experiences for the benefit of future generations.

The project will also engage with international experts to facilitate further shared learning.

Healing Through Remembering welcomes engagement from all interested groups and individuals.

For further information on the project please visit the HTR website at www.healingthroughremembering.org or contact the HTR office using the details below.

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The evaluation sought to review the previous Day of Private Reflection and equally to inform the Day on the 21st of June 2009. It found that the Day of Private Reflection was “underpinned by a series of agreed principles and values which ensured the Day was approached in an inclusive and sensitive manner”.

The evaluation made the following points:

• There is still a general positive attitude about the Day of Private Reflection initiative and many in the community welcome this as an opportunity to reflect on the past.

• There is still a sense that this has a stronger resonance among the Nationalist community than the Unionist community. However, there is a move to more positive engagement from parts of the Unionist community who would have been previously less open to the idea of a Day of Private Reflection.

• HTR could explore the potential for the Day of Private Reflection to be linked to other initiatives which deal with the past, that are currently taking place amongst communities and organisations.

• As with the previous Day of Private Reflection there is a concern from many in the public arena that they are not sure how they should get involved in the initiative.

• In 2009 HTR must take into consideration sensitivities due to the fact that the Day of Private Reflection falls on a Sunday and also coincides with Father’s Day.

Overall the evaluation concluded.

“Bearing in mind these considerations and responding to the recommendations in the report, the Day of Private Reflection should go ahead as this is increasingly seen as positive by many and non-threatening by others.”

A summary of the evaluation is available on the HTR website www.dayofreflection.com and full copies of the evaluations of 21 June 2007 and 21 June 2008 will be available shortly from the office of Healing Through Remembering.
Forthcoming Events

Storytelling Report Launch
The Storytelling Sub Group is circulating ethical principles for storytelling and narrative work in dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

Ethical Principles - Storytelling and Narrative Work Launch
Wednesday 24th June at 10:30am at Healing Through Remembering

The principles have been drawn from the work of the Healing Through Remembering Storytelling Sub Group.

HTR Members Meeting
Healing Through Remembering will hold a members meeting in September 2009. This will be an opportunity for sharing the experiences and progress of HTR Sub Groups and for HTR members to come together to discuss the future role of the Sub Groups and Healing Through Remembering.

Recent Events

At The End of the Day… Commemoration – Forward thinking into the Past
Healing Through Remembering organised an event on Commemoration to build on the work of the Sub Group and ensure wide dissemination of work already undertaken and to expand the debate on why, how, where and when our past conflict and all our losses will be commemorated.

The event included a presentation on ethical remembering by Dr Johnston McMaster. He challenged society to consider commemorative activity as a means of understanding where we are and why.

The report collates the contents of a Round Table event which was organised by the HTR Commemoration Sub Group. It includes presentations of the Sub Group’s commissioned research, the international context and issues raised in group and general discussion.

AT A GLANCE …

Commemoration
In March 2008, the Sub group reported to the Organisational review meeting that the current HTR structure did not facilitate consideration of the issue of commemoration appropriately.

Storytelling
The Storytelling Sub Group is focused on the Ethical Principles for Storytelling which will be launched on the 24th of June.

Day of Reflection
The Sub Group are preparing for the Day of Private Reflection on 21 June 2009 and have appointed four Field Workers to raise awareness of the Day.

Truth Recovery and Acknowledgement
The Sub Group is considering issues requiring detailed debate on truth recovery and acknowledgement in light of the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past.

Living Memorial Museum
The Display Books for the Open Call for Ideas responses are being exhibited at a number of venues. The Sub Group are considering the principles that would govern any Living Memorial Museum.

Visit www.healingthroughremembering.org for regular updates on the work of HTR.

Staff Team

Kate Turner - Director
Kate has been involved with Healing Through Remembering since its inception. Kate manages all aspects of the organisation’s development in conjunction with the Board of Directors.

James Grant - Finance and Personnel Officer
James is an accountant and former CEO of Northlands with considerable experience in the community and voluntary sector. James manages all financial aspects of the ‘Whatever you say, say something’ project.

Claire Smith - Administrator
With over five years experience as an administrator, Claire joined Healing Through Remembering in 2007 as an intern. As Administrative Assistant Claire organises all the administration for Healing Through Remembering.

Angus Lambkin - Project Coordinator
Angus is an experienced project manager having worked in both community projects and in European Union Programmes. He is responsible for the implementation of the ‘Whatever you say, say something’ project including event management and the outreach programme.

Kaori Ebihara is currently working as an intern on the HTR archive.

Ruairi Rowan is working as an intern on HTR communications and media.
PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

HTR REPORTS TO ORDER
Copies of all reports produced and published by Healing Through Remembering are available to order direct from the Healing Through Remembering offices or online in the resources section of the HTR website
www.healingthroughremembering.org
Full list of publications now available to order
Momentum and Change 2008
Day of Private Reflection: 2007 and 2008 Evaluations
Making Peace with the Past: Options for truth recovery regarding the conflict in and about Northern Ireland
Making Peace with the Past - Executive Summary
The Viability of Prosecution Based on Historical Enquiry
Acknowledgement & Its Role in Preventing Future Violence
A Day of Private Reflection: Discussion Paper and Proposal
A Day of Reflection: Local Scoping Study
Conference Report: Storytelling as the Vehicle?
International Experiences of Days of Remembrance and Reflection
Storytelling Audit: An audit of personal story, narrative and testimony initiatives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland

HTR EVENTS

Commemoration Report Launch
10th June 2009
10:30am
Healing Through Remembering Office

Storytelling
Ethical Principles Launch
24th June 2009
10:30am
Healing Through Remembering Office

Members Meeting
September 2009
Date to be confirmed

EVENTS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Arts Council NI - Art in Conflict Conference
Grand Opera House - 17 June, 10:30am

Interface - Report Launch
University of Ulster- 18th June, 6pm

Troubles Archive Exhibition
Ormeau Baths Gallery - 18 June, 7pm

NI Human Rights Commission
Public Consultation on Strategic Plan
19 June - 2pm

World Refugee Day - 20 June

A variety of events have been organised for the Day of Private Reflection on June 21 2009
Please see the website below for further details
www.dayofreflection.com/activities

Community Dialogue - Steps into Dialogue Launch
Farset International - 22 June, 5.30pm

QUB - Conference on Amnesties, Immunities and Prosecutions
Wellington Park Hotel - 22 June, 9.30am

Community Dialogue - Steps into Dialogue Launch
The Junction - 23 June, 11am

Arts Council NI - The Troubles Archive Launch
Ormeau Baths Gallery - 30 June, 7pm

Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace - Understanding the Human impact of conflict Survivors for Peace - 12 July
Epilogues - ‘Exploring the Conflict’ Summer School - 10-14 August

A project supported by the PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by the Community Relations Council/Pobal Consortium.

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Editor: Angus Lambkin
with thanks to HTR Members, Board and Staff