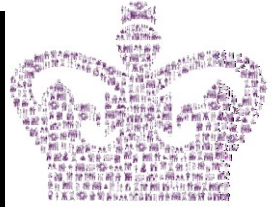




SEFF
SOUTH EAST FERMANAGH
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Supporting Victims and Survivors, Strengthening Communities

Dear Member,

It's hard to believe that we're on the cusp of entering June.

Nothing stands still at SEFF and over the past number of weeks much has been happening across the organisation. We welcome latest recruit Wendy Parkinson (who has been appointed Monitoring and Admin Support Officer)

We continue to work hard to try to resolve matters connected with the former Lisnaskea High School site. SEFF requires a new home fitting to those who access our services and we will not give up until this objective is realised.

In recent weeks we have continued to lobby Government hard on matters concerning the legacy of 'The Troubles' we will not shirk our responsibilities in offering a voice to those who are not being well served by the structures of The Establishment.

We were pleased to be part of two events which allowed our members to meet The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall in recent days; all involved in these meetings took the opportunity to promote the work of SEFF.

We wish to also advise that SEFF's Community Allotments site will be undergoing a substantive facelift in the coming period. The site is a precious resource and we are keen to see it operating to optimum capacity.

We are considering advancing a new oral history project designed to record the experiences of further members so that the TRUTH might be preserved. Please contact the SEFF office if interested in engaging with the new Project.

Kenny

[Membership Details update](#)

We are approaching the time of year when SEFF membership is due for renewal from the 1st July. With every changing regulations we will be asking for your GP's name and contact details to add to your record should we ever need to call assistance from your GP if on a SEFF activity.

With this in mind, many of you will remember we sent out we will also be asking you for your GDPR consent, under data protection legislation we are required to get your consent to hold your data on our computer systems.



**SEFF Community
SEFF Victims and
Survivors**

**SEFF MAY Monthly
Member's Meeting
Wed 22nd May 2019
at 7.30pm.
SEFF's Main
Office, Lisnaskea**

**(2019 European
Victims Day DVD
featuring innocents
sharing testimony will
be shown on the night)**

Parking at SEFF, Lisnaskea

If attending a day or overnight respite and you are parking within Manderwood Estate (where SEFF is based) then please ensure that you park a minimum of **8 car parking places beyond** the SEFF entry tunnel either side.

It is important that the area in front of the SEFF tunnel is kept free and available for those coming to the office throughout the day to have access

Upcoming Cultural Seminars & Guest Speakers

DATE	VENUE	SPEAKER
Tues 11th June 2019 6pm	SEFF Offices, Lisnaskea	Thea Comeau (from McGill University, Montreal) who carried out research in SEFF in 2015 interviewing a number of members on their perspectives on victim issues is returning to provide some feedback and findings. Food will be served from 6pm, please do come along.
Wed 26th June 2019 7.30pm	Newtownstewart 2000 Centre	Combined West Tyrone & Fermanagh member's meeting. Speaker TBC. We will run a bus from SEFF to this meeting departing from the offices in Lisnaskea at 6pm with pick ups on route, please phone the office on 028 677 23884 to register your interest
Wed 21st August 2019 7.30pm	Newtownstewart 2000 Centre	Representatives from the Legacy Investigations Branch will attend this meeting to address the group. A short Member's Meeting will follow.
	REMINDER	Just a reminder that there will be no July Member's Meeting in any location across SEFF's service provision.

The SEFF Office is open Monday -Friday, 9am - 5pm for general office business

If you require support or help with completing DHSS or other Welfare forms

Tina/Norman

will be available to assist with this service. As much as is possible, Tina will be in the office on **Tuesdays**

from **10am - 5pm**.

However, if you require help outside these times, please contact the office, leave your name and number and someone will contact you to arrange a suitable time.

Remember Norman Kirkpatrick is also now available to assist you with Appeals/Tribunal Representation work.



Complementary Therapies

We are now taking names for Q2 of this funding year 2019/2020 covering the **July - Sept 2019 period**.

The treatments on offer are as follows (5 sessions) of:

- **Massage, Reflexology** (Therapist: Sandra Johnston)
- **Aromatherapy** (Therapist: Gordon Hayhurst)
- **Reflexology** (Therapist: Gillian Johnston)
- **Physiotherapy** (Therapist: Nicola McCullagh-Daley) **

**Due to restricted funding for physiotherapy sessions through SEFF, a decision has been made that anyone who wishes to avail of this service must first complete an Individual Needs Consultation with a Health and Wellbeing Caseworker.

We have a duty to direct resources to those most in need. The INC will allow us to assess options for the individual whereby we will try our best to ensure support is possible through our own internal resources, the Victims and Survivors Service support frameworks or external avenues.

- **Indian Head Massage** (Therapist: Gordon Hayhurst)
- **Hopi Ear Candle Therapy** (Therapist: Ruth Watson)
- **Health Kinesiology** (Therapist: Marilyn Robinson)

Please contact the office to register your interest on 028 677 23884.

£25 contribution for 5 sessions -

****WHEN TAKING UP ANY OF THESE SESSIONS YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE MONITORING FORMS AND PAY THE MONIES BEFORE SESSIONS COMMENCE, OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE OF THESE TREATMENTS.**

ACTIVITIES & RESPITES

RENEWING SEFF Membership 2019/20

We are fast approaching the new membership year at SEFF; **1st July 2019** We would like, where possible that as many of you renew your membership through a **Standing Order** process so that you don't need to be reminded each year to pay your fees and therefore you won't miss out on the chance of availing of our many services and activities if not up to date with your membership.

If you cannot do **STANDING ORDER** through your bank, we accept payments for subscriptions by either cheque or cash.

*If you wish to set up a **standing order** please obtain a standing order mandate from your bank and then call the office and we will give you the required bank details for SEFF needed to complete the form. If in doubt on whether you have a standing order set up already, call the office and we can check for you.*

Regrettably we cannot do card payments over the phone or in the office.

Membership fees are as follows: £10 per adult Post primary school age (12 - 16 yrs old) is £5 each and under 11's are free.

August will be the last month that we will send out SEFF newsletters to all those current 2018/19 members before we implement the updated 2019/20 membership database We would appreciate if you could pay membership fees before **31st July 2019** and if possible that you would also sign up for gift aid if you are paying tax on your income, if you have not already done so.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

We are currently updating our membership forms to include members GP information, and with the GDPR introduction in May we will appreciate it if you let staff member's know this information and give consent that we can hold your information on our systems. Also if any of your other details have changed ie: marital status, address/mobile/phones/postcodes etc, please call the office to update these!

SEFF Ulster Scots

Summer Schools 2019 & call for leaders

We are currently working on funding applications to run three Ulster Scots Summer Schools this year, if successful with our bids the Summer Schools would be as follows:



1. Ulster Scots Standard 5 day Summer School in Lisnaskea from Monday 22nd - Friday 26th July 2019 10am - 3.30pm daily in the Archdale Centre, Lisnaskea.
2. Ulster Scots Standard 5 day Summer School in Rathfriland from Monday 5th - 9th August 2019 10am - 3.30pm daily in Rathfriland High School.
3. Ulster Scots Residential Summer School for 2 nights in August 2019 (dates and venue to be confirmed)

Leaders Needed!

As part of the delivery of the above Summer Schools we require people who are willing and available to work as leaders at the events.

The Ulster Scots Agency provides remuneration of £180 per leader (for the full 5 days week) and £130 for the residential event.

If you would be interested in helping out or you know someone who is free over the summer and would be keen please do let us know ASAP.

All leaders will require an ACCESS NI check (enhanced check including a check of the barred list for working with children). To complete this mandatory check we will need leaders to complete the enhanced Access NI form and we will also be required to carry out a full identity check - more information on this can be provided.

Previous experience working with youth is not essential but would be advantageous.

If interested please contact Joy on 028 677 23884 for more information.

New to the SEFF team....Wendy Parkinson, Monitoring & Admin Support Officer



Hello. My name is Wendy Parkinson and I am the newly appointed Monitoring and Administrative Support Officer for the Victims and Survivors Programme. I will be working on a part-time basis from 1.00 to 5.00pm. I have a Degree in Communication Studies and have a background working in the Voluntary Sector in many different roles. This started with the Family Planning Association in Belfast before I moved to Fermanagh to work for the Workers' Educational Association for the 'Opportunities for Women Learning' Programme. I worked for Fermanagh Ulster Scots Empowerment and then moved to SHARE Discovery Village and briefly for other voluntary agencies. I have also experience with Special Needs and Classroom Assistance, so I am used to working with all age groups. I have been involved in many Committees over the years in various positions and have two teenage children aged 13 and 16 to keep me up to date with the latest trends! I will know many of you as I have lived here all my life apart from when at College in Scotland. I am looking forward to joining the SEFF team where the organisation continues to grow to support and help members in many different ways.

Innocent victims demand delivery at Hustings event

On Tuesday night Lisnaskea-based South East Fermanagh in collaboration with the Innocent Victims United umbrella organisation organised a hustings event in the Cohannon Inn, Dungannon with candidates and representatives from political parties contesting elections to the European Parliament.

Approaching 100 victims/survivors from across Northern Ireland came to participate in an event designed to engage political parties and their candidates on victims issues as well as what are described legacy related matters.

The event was chaired by Dr Maire Braniff (Senior Politics Lecturer at Ulster University) The Panellists were; Dianne Dodds (DUP) Stephen Farry (Alliance) Jim Allister (TUV) Dolores Kelly (SDLP) and Danny Kennedy (UUP)

Spokesman for SEFF and Innocent Victims United Kenny Donaldson began proceedings with a statement which outlined the position of the 11,500 innocent victims and survivors of terrorism supported by the umbrella organisation, IVU.

The areas covered included; the needs of the injured, European Arrest Warrant, the Maze Prison site, (ECHR) European Convention on Human Rights, ECtHR (European Courts on Human Rights) the future of Peace funding and its' replacement, the need for alliances to be continued with those EU Nation States also impacted by terrorism and then a number of areas specific and particular to the Stormont House Agreement process.

Each panellist then spoke for circa 8 mins in response dealing with what Mr Donaldson outlined but also advising of their own Party's perspective on legacy and related victims issues.

There then followed a Q & Session with questions coming from the floor covering the areas of; support for the injured, the Maze site, impassioned pleas around the definition of victim, the proposed Oral History Archive, the justice and accountability deficit experienced by innocent victims etc.

Speaking in the aftermath of the event Mr Donaldson stated: "We were very encouraged by the large attendance on Tuesday night last and the quality of debate which ensued, it should now be absolutely clear to politicians (if it wasn't so already) that innocent victims and survivors of terrorism have had enough, the days of platitudes and patronising sympathies are over - innocent victims demand accountability and delivery".

"Our consistent stance on violence where we assert that there was no justification for the use of criminal violence in the furtherance of or defence of a political objective is being heard and increasingly supported by people from across the community - innocence transcends ethnicity, religion or any other barrier of difference. We are clear that the actions of terrorists (whether republican or loyalist) were unnecessary, unjustified and wrong and we are also clear that those members of the security forces who dishonoured the code and engaged in a criminal act were also wrong, such actions were illegitimate, concluded" Mr Donaldson.



South West Fermanagh Border Tour

We are hoping to run a pilot border tour of the South West Fermanagh area to include Newtownbutler, Derrylin, Kinawley and Teemore (also taking in Belturbet, County Cavan)

The tour will take in various incidents which happened in these parts over the course of the 'Troubles'.

We plan to run the Trail on Wednesday 19th June 2019 leaving SEFF offices at 6pm (with tea/coffee and sandwiches available from 5.30pm)

If you would be interested in attending a tour please phone the office on 028 677 23884 to register your interest.

Let's go for a
walk



Grab your walking shoes it's that time of year again where we get back out into nature! Please come out and join us for a leisurely walk and a chat with friends.

June's dates and venues are below.

All walks commence at 11am.

DATE	VENUE	MEETING POINT
05.06.19	Killyfole Lough	Carpark at roadside
12.06.19	Round Lake, Fivemiletown	Carpark at entrance gate
19.06.19	Ardhowen, Enniskillen	Carpark on left after entry
26.06.19	Bellanaleck	Carpark at jetty/public toilets

BEFRIENDING May 2019 Update



Hi All,

Hopefully we are now starting to enjoy the warmer weather and get out and about. We are continuing to organise coffee mornings and help those in need via our Befriending service.

The Luncheon Club for our less socially active members will be ongoing throughout the coming year and we will be contacting those within the SEFF membership who are eligible to avail of this, we plan to organise lunches every two months in different areas around Fermanagh and Tyrone to facilitate those local to the area we are targeting.

Unfortunately we are still having to be extremely careful with our Befriending budget due to the success of the service. We are constantly over budget and we cannot sustain this so are having to make some very difficult decisions when asked for help.

The organised fundraising to help alleviate our overspend and help sustain the service went very well so can we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated and also those who attended the Event in Fivemiletown British Legion. A special thank you must go to those who donated their winnings back to our funds, we are overwhelmed by the generosity and are extremely grateful to you. Donations are still coming in but we have already more than met our target. The Penny Raffle has brought in a figure in excess of £4,500 and the Rickety Wheel circa £800, we will advise precise figures within the next Newsletter.

Regards,

The Befriending Team



PROJECT COMMON BOND 2019

Just to let you know about an upcoming Coffee Morning & Cake Sale on Thursday 4th July 2019 at 10.30am in SEFF Offices, this will be in aid of this year's Project Common Bond (PCB) which is taking place at the end of July in Washington, USA. This year we have 3 young people attending along with Doreen Mullan (SEFF's Health & Wellbeing Case Worker) who will be their chaperone. We will have an Independence Day theme as the Coffee Morning coincidentally falls on Independence Day (4th July).

We also have Quiz Sheets available for sale in order to raise money towards the associated costs of the young people attending this International Conference for young people effected by terrorism.

The young people are also taking part in a sponsored climb of Cuilcagh Mountain on Sat 15th June 2019—any donations towards this would be gratefully received.

SEFF representatives meet with The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall

In recent days several SEFF representatives have had opportunity to meet with The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall who have been in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland engaging with local political, community and business leaders.

Ken Funston (SEFF's Advocacy Services Manager) along with Karen McAnerney (whose brother Terence McKeever was murdered by The Provisional IRA in south Armagh) and David Kelly (Son of Pte Paddy Kelly of The Irish Defence Forces who was murdered by The Provisional IRA in the infamous Don Tidey kidnap case alongside a young Garda recruit in 1983) represented SEFF at an event held in the Glencree Centre of Peace and Reconciliation based in the Wicklow mountains. The SEFF representatives had good opportunity to engage with Prince Charles and to advise him of the work, ethos and objectives of our group.

Meanwhile George and Rosemary Latimer and Debbie Carson represented the group at an event held in The Archdale Centre, Lisnaskea - The Big Lunch bringing together local community leaders and volunteers. They too had opportunity to speak briefly with The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall.

We would like to thank all those who were willing to represent their families and SEFF in these important engagements.



SEFF's West Tyrone Gateway Service

June Member's Meeting

Wednesday 26th June 2019 - This will be a combined meeting between members from Fermanagh and West Tyrone. It will take place in the Newtown Stewart 2000 Centre at 7.30pm. Speaker to be confirmed.



Combat Stress Peer to Peer Support Group

Following the April Member's Meeting where a rep from Combat Stress was present an interest was relayed by members to set up a peer to peer support group under the Combat Stress banner within the area - they only need 4 members as a foundation. The participants will agree and an activity(ies) to pursue. Each 'meeting' lasts about 2hrs and the purpose is for like minded individuals to come together, share experiences, support each other, reduce isolation and loneliness and ultimately tackle issues like depression, anxiety, stress etc. All confidential. If you'd be interested in this please contact the office and we will coordinate those interested and will pass your details to Combat Stress.

Volunteers

We are appealing for anyone in the West Tyrone area who would like to be more involved with SEFF and to volunteer some of their time towards the general running of the organisation & delivery of services in the West Tyrone area. We are interested in hearing from those keen on volunteering within the office, becoming a volunteer befriender or help facilitate a Good Morning telephone service.

SEFF's South Down Gateway Service

Complementary Therapies

We are currently taking names for Complementary Therapies for 2019-2020. The sessions are due to commence in the coming weeks, if interested in availing of 5 sessions of treatments - Indian Head Massage, Back Massage, Aromatherapy or Reflexology please phone the office on 028 677 23884 to register your interest. Cost is £25 for the 5 sessions.

Potential Ulster Scots Summer School in Rathfriland and South Down area

As mentioned in a previous newsletter we are exploring the possibility of running a 5 day standard Ulster Scots Summer School in Rathfriland High School from Monday 5th - Friday 9th August 2019.

The Summer School would run daily from 10am-3.30pm with a wide range of Ulster Scots themed workshops and activities to include Highland Dance, traditional Ulster Scots music (eg. Bagpipes, Accordion, Drums) along with Cookery, Football and lots of other fun activities.

As part of the week's events we would also have a day away where we propose running a visit to the Fermanagh Plantation Castles, we would also factor in some fun activities at Share Discovery Village and have an opportunity for the young people to meet with their Fermanagh counterparts.

If successful with our funding application we would really hope to have the backing and support from our South Down members and their families.

With this in mind we need people who could provide leadership throughout the week at the Summer School (leaders are remunerated by £180 for the full week), Access NI checks are required.

If you would be keen to help out or you know of someone who would have a few hours to spare over the course of the week please do let us know ASAP and we can provide further info. Please phone the office on 028 677 23884. A number of classes and other activities will be offered over the coming months (keep checking the Newsletter) Please remember that SEFF has an Advocacy Support Worker and Welfare Officer based in The South Down Gateway office so please contact us if you would wish to avail of either of these support services.





FACT MAY 2019 UPDATE

We are fast approaching the end of the FACT Project and with much sadness - sadness for the members who will miss the wonderful service provide - reducing loneliness and isolation. They will miss the camaraderie formed throughout the years of FACT.

A wonderful day was enjoyed by the Armagh members on the recent trip to the Ulster American Folk Park. They reminisced about days gone by, and the exhibits evoked some pleasant memories. The Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, was the venue for the perfect end to a perfect day.

The WheelWorks project was finalised with an exhibition in Brownlow Hub. The members created digital boxes with photos and objects from long ago. This was reminiscence therapy at its best. SEFF's Director of Services Kenny Donaldson was one of the speakers at the event. Bob Lyons (photographer/video) was in attendance, creating a DVD to mark the end of The FACT Project.

Our joint trip to Parliament Buildings/Titanic Centre was a resounding success. Thanks to Rosemary Barton, MLA, Justin McNulty MLA and William Irwin MLA for making this wonderful experience a reality. Members commented that the experience was; "the trip of a lifetime". Rosemary Barton welcomed everyone to Stormont and stated that she was very impressed with FACT's work and raised concern at the huge loss which will be experienced by the members, post June 2019. Robert Newell, co-chair, Armagh, gave an overview of The FACT Project throughout the years. Jenny & Gladys aided everyone to enjoy their day.

Titanic Belfast visitors' attraction which opened in 2012 on the site of the former Harland & Wolff shipyard tells the story of the ill-fated Titanic which hit an iceberg and sank during her maiden voyage in 1912. This visit attracted a lot of interest from our members.

The Ryandale Hotel, Moy, fed the 100 participants.

Other developments

Tannaghmore Park was the venue for our Armagh members' walk in April and everyone is looking forward to Loughgall Country Park next week.

Down Royal Race evening on 31st May for Fermanagh members is now fully booked, as is Ardhowen Theatre featuring Donaghadee Male Voice Choir on Saturday 1st June.

All classes across both Counties are all well attended
Intergenerational Gardening in Colebrooke continues.

The Celebratory lunches planned for Killyhevlin (25th September) and Armagh City Hotel (11th September) are almost fully booked.

We are very grateful to have been part of the FACT team, giving members the opportunity to learn new skills, create lasting friendships, and ultimately helping to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Gladys, Jenny and Mandy



Family Day Respite Saturday 17th August 2019

Slieve Gullion Forest Park Giant's Lair & Adventure Playpark

Depart from SEFF Offices, Lisnaskea at 9am SHARP travelling to Slieve Gullion Forest Park. Enjoy time going around the Giant's Lair The Story Trail takes visitors on an unforgettable journey of intertwined fairy house and arts features creating a fantastical childhood land of mystery, dragons, giants, witches and fairies followed by some time in the adventure play park.

A small packed lunch will be required before leaving Slieve Gullion when we will travel to a local trampoline park/soft play area with a visit to McDonalds on the way home.

Cost is £10 per adult and £5 per child (under 12's) Adults may participate in the activities on offer.

Please phone the office to EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST by **5pm on Friday 21st June 2019**. We will then allocate spaces depending on numbers interested.



SEFF GB BRANCH: THE LIVES PROJECT



Dear Members,

I wanted to write this month, about the importance of receiving professional help for symptoms of trauma. In our SEFF community, some sort of trauma has touched every person, and while time does aid in healing, for many, time often worsens the symptoms of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) if left untreated.

Unfortunately, at the peak of 'The Troubles', mental health was not a priority for governments, doctors or the Army. Victims injured in an incident, or those closely affected, were told to "get on with it", "be a soldier and toughen up" and "move on with life, don't think about it". It was thought that if the physical ailments were treated and recovered, the person would be fine.

"Around 70% of people who suffer with PTSD in the UK do not receive any professional help at all. The disorder also impacts upon loved ones and work colleagues (PTSD UK, 2019).

We know now that this mentality is extremely detrimental for mental health, and understand that *there is a strong link* between physical and mental health. According to the Mental Health Foundation (2019):

"People with the highest levels of self-rated distress (compared to lowest rates of distress) were 32% more likely to have died from cancer.

Depression has been found to be associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease".

What is PTSD?

PTSD is a type of anxiety disorder caused by frightening, violent or stressful events. It can occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event. (American Psychiatric association, 2019).

Symptoms include: Flashbacks of the incident, Irritability, Guilt, Insomnia, Mood swings, Disturbing thoughts, Anger, sadness, Feelings of isolation from others

It is never too late to seek help.

PTSD can be treated even many years after a traumatic incident. Often, feelings that have been lying beneath our mind's surface come bubbling up when triggered by a memory, another incident or a major life event.

Types of therapies:

The most common types of therapies offered for symptoms of PTSD include:

CBT: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, which helps change the way you think and act, to come to terms with the traumatic event in a healthy and productive way. The CBT therapist can help you gain control of your fear and distress by changing the negative way you think about your experience (for example, feeling you're to blame for what happened, or fear that it may happen again) (NHS, 2019).

EMDR: Eye Movement Desensitisation and reprocessing. The EMDR therapist helps to decrease symptoms of distress as well as upsetting memories while focusing on calming the body while these thoughts occur. The aim is to settle the mind and replace negative thoughts with more positive ones, to let go of the emotional distress associated with the past.

EMDR has been found to have high rates of success in reducing symptoms of PTSD in ex-military and victims of crime. Studies have shown that between 70% and 90% of victims affected by a single incident had reduced, to minimal symptoms of PTSD after 3-5 sessions.

Outcomes

Interview with survivors receiving EMDR for PTSD symptoms:

This week, I spoke to SEFF members who are currently receiving EMDR or psychotherapy for their trauma symptoms; this is what they had to say:

What were your expectations before you stated the sessions?

"I thought that it would be a waste of time. Originally I thought that EMDR was someone waving his or her finger across your face and I didn't see how that could help. I've been let down [by health professionals] so many times, I didn't go in with an open mind".

How do you think psychotherapy/counselling has helped you?

"It opened up a lot of ideas that you never had as to how you can help yourself, and opening different views about how things are perceived. I had felt embarrassed about it [my PTSD], but she [the therapist] turned it around".

Would you recommend psychotherapy/counselling to others suffering with PTSD?

"100%. I now understand the process of treatment, and what is happening to me and inside me. I know that I am working backwards, through the past. I can now start working through it myself outside of sessions. It gets harder before it get easier, but it is so worth it".

What changes have you noticed about yourself since you've started?

"It's an up and down process. I now do realise what is going on inside. I can now take myself away from a negative situation. When I feel anger building up inside of me, I can walk away which I wouldn't have done before".

For more information, please contact one of SEFF's Health and Wellbeing Caseworkers in either Northern Ireland or Great Britain.

Rufia Valiff (GB Health and Wellbeing Caseworker)

Legacy MUST not be Surrendered for a Return to Stormont

Over last Summer our organisation, South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) facilitated 11 consultation events, when over 1,050 individual victims/survivors and other interested stakeholders came to offer their views on the NIO Legacy proposals.

The consultations were held in every corner of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and within Great Britain.

To our best knowledge we were also the only victims' group that held a public consultation with young people aged 13-18 years; we recognise as an organisation that the decisions taken now around legacy will not only affect those directly impacted but will also have implications for today's generation and the generations to come.

The verdict of these consultation meetings and the feedback sheets generated, along with the 500 plus formal responses that SEFF assisted victims/survivors with, and the hundreds of telephone support queries was that the current proposals do not represent a means by which innocent victims and survivors of terrorism might achieve accountability and resolution.

The core objections which our constituency have with the proposals are as follows:

1. Definition of Victim - Over 95% of those we engaged with cited this issue as being the number one priority for them, stating that the current definition which equates the innocent with the perpetrator is the core cause of their ongoing re-traumatisation.
2. HIU - Looks and smells like a re-branded HET with an Ombudsman component. There is a thread which runs throughout the Consultation document and DRAFT Bill - holding the UK State accountable whereas the terror organisations are not going to come under the same scrutiny, nor will the Republic of Ireland State.
3. HIU reports can contain findings of impropriety on the part of former members of the security forces without any means of redress by the said individuals. These can be merely unfounded allegations, and the accused will be given no chance to defend him/herself in a court.
4. Reports produced by the HIU will produce findings against former members of the Security Forces that will have a lower level of proof, 'on the balance of probability,' yet there is not a comparable process concerning terror organisations and their actions. If there is high grade intelligence that a certain suspect terrorist was the perpetrator of a terrorist crime, then on the 'balance of probabilities' they committed that crime, therefore they should be named in the same way.
5. The powers of The HIU Director - the current proposals mean that the Director has full autonomy without any meaningful checks and balances of his/her decision making processes.
6. Those cases which have been examined by the HET and those deaths attributable to 'The Troubles' carried out in the Republic of Ireland and GB must also receive a comparable Article 2 investigation, otherwise the whole system is skewed and those families impacted will be further discriminated and disenfranchised.
7. The Information Commission for Information Retrieval (ICIR) is an impracticable body, with loose structures that do not make any logical sense. In real terms, the proposal is that an investigative body, the HIU, can conduct an investigation of a case alongside a non-investigative body, the ICIR. No-one can answer the crucial point; where is there any evidence to suggest that those who have engaged in the violence have reached a point in 2019 where they wish to now demonstrate generosity of spirit in supporting the needs of those they harmed so grievously?
8. The OHA (Oral History Archive) as constructed will be a repository for a communal narrative, lending the notion once more that we were all to blame for the thirty years of terror. A terrorist is never going to give a full version of their role, sanitising his/her own involvement in the same way the terror organisations are minimising their role in the attempted destruction of this country. There are no evident checks and balances around ensuring accuracy nor the fullness of an individual's history, where they may also have been a perpetrator as well as experiencing a crime whether directly or indirectly. The Historical Timeline element proposed should provide a factual analysis of key events over the years of 'The Troubles' which should and MUST then be the foundation for the teaching of Irish/Northern Irish History within our various sectors of Education - which all receive public funding. The days of autonomy to potentially propagate young minds with sanitised versions of history MUST end.
9. The Implementation and Reconciliation Group (IRG) is an institution that suggests it will 'promote reconciliation and anti-sectarianism', and will bring together the themes from the other three legacy structures. There exists no working definitions of the likely themes - whether collusion, ethnic cleansing etc and there is no agreed understanding as to what reconciliation is and how that outcome can actually be measured.
10. The absence of Acknowledgement statements at the beginning of the process from the terrorist organisations, their political annexes and the two States means that there is no foundation stone. Without an acknowledgement that in the context of 'The Troubles' and notwithstanding real or perceived grievances experienced or felt that there was no legitimacy for the use of criminal violence in the furtherance of or defence of a political objective, there cannot be Societal reconciliation and the potential for reconciliation and healing for those individuals most impacted is also significantly hampered.

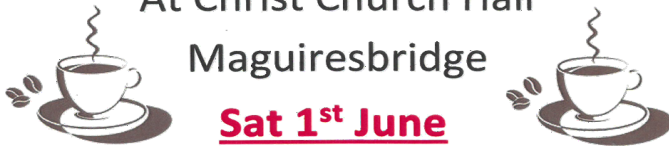
This analysis is not our individual view, these points are based on the SEFF response to the NIO legacy proposals, and concurs with the many organisations that make up Innocent Victims United, representing 23 victims and survivors groups and some 11,500 members. The NIO proposals do not meet the needs of the members in any way and need serious restructuring before they can receive our support. Summed up simply, there is insufficient consideration within the proposals of the need to ensure accountability for innocent victims/survivors of terrorism. The terror organisations have already reaped the rewards of a manipulated criminal justice system and there is limited opportunity to hold terrorism accountable through the structures proposed. And the Republic of Ireland State (as one of the two States involved present and Past) is 'On the Run' - they are quite simply missing in action.

Those who claim to represent the interests of our constituency MUST not only hear but for once act upon the legitimate concerns and demands of our constituency. If you decide to railroad through these structures with tinkering around the edges and not fundamental overhaul then you are doing so for your interests and not the interests of the innocent victims/survivors of terrorism.

Yours, Kenny Donaldson (SEFF's Director of Services) and Ken Funston (SEFF's Advocacy Services Manager)

Christ Church Maguiresbridge Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

At Christ Church Hall
Maguiresbridge



Sat 1st June

10am – 12:30pm

Proceeds in aid of **Ellie's Retreat & Brainwaves NI**



Fermanagh Community

Group Hire with Driver and Self-Hire

We provide a Group Transport service to Community/Voluntary/ Charitable/ Church/Youth/Sports groups who operate throughout the Fermanagh area. Groups must be of a not for profit nature. Group Membership is £20 per year.

16-seater fully accessible minibuses available with or without driver to registered member groups. To become a member please visit our website at www.fermanaghcommunitytransport.com and download a Group Application Form and a copy of our Group Hire Policy.



Driver Training

Fermanagh Community Transport is the local accredited body for delivering the short courses below. These are aimed at improving minibus, car and MPV driver professionalism and performance in terms of roadworthiness, safety and passenger assistance and comfort.

- MIDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) • MIDAS Car & MPV
- Passenger Assistant Training • 5 Steps to Safety

Please visit our website to view our calendar of upcoming training. Alternatively, FCT can deliver any of the above courses at your work setting.

If you would like to learn more about any of the above services and or to receive a membership application form or to book training, please ring us 028 66 324260 or email info@fermanaghcommunitytransport.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Company No: NI 610269 Charity No: 101626 Vat Reg No: 135 1106 59



**Annual Memorial Parade & Service
for Our Murdered Brethren
Sunday 26th May 2019**

St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen

**Preacher is: Rev. Lorna Dreading
(Methodist Minister in Enniskillen)**

Parade will form up at Derrychara Link at 2pm to step off at 2.15pm

All Brethren, Juniors, and Sisters, are encouraged to attend, as well as families and friends come along and watch the parade, and if possible attend the Memorial Service.

"Throughout the course of the troubles, many members of the Orange Order made the supreme sacrifice in the defence of our civil and religious liberty, against the enemies of Ulster.

The Orange Order in County Fermanagh will continue to remember 31 of their members who made such a sacrifice. The Memorial Bannerette, bearing their names, will be carried in their honour at the head of each Twelfth of July demonstration, and all official County Grand Lodge parades.

It is important that we never forget the sacrifice that these brethren have made, in order that we can look forward to a peaceful future in Northern Ireland. They deserve our utmost respect and gratitude".

(Above taken from Fermanagh Orangeism Facebook page)