

**21 June 2007**  
**DAY OF PRIVATE REFLECTION**

**EVALUATION REPORT**

March 2008



## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

---

---

**Evaluation of  
the Healing Through Remembering  
Day of Private Reflection  
on 21 June 2007**

March 2008

---

Produced and published by Healing Through Remembering

Researched and written by

Joe Blake

March 2008

ISBN 1 905882 12 2 (10 digit)  
ISBN 978 1 905882 12 0 (13 digit)

The views expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect the personal views of all members of Healing Through Remembering

To be ordered directly from  
Healing Through Remembering  
Alexander House, 17a Ormeau Avenue, Belfast  
Tel: +44 28 9023 8844 Email: [info@healingthroughremembering.org](mailto:info@healingthroughremembering.org)



Project part financed  
by the European Union  
Peace and Reconciliation Programme

This project is funded by the European Union's Peace and Reconciliation Programme 2000-2006 under Measure 2.4 Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims and managed for the Special European Union Programmes Body by The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

---

**CONTENTS**

---

Executive Summary .....2

Introduction .....4

Methodology.....5

Background .....8

Developing the Day of Private Reflection.....14

The Day of Private Reflection – Review of Activities .....21

Participation – Further Opinions .....25

Conclusions .....27

Summary of Recommendations .....30

Appendix I - Members of the Day of Reflections Sub Group 2007 .....31

Appendix II - Healing Through Remembering Staff 2007 .....33

Appendix III - Materials for the Day of Private Reflection 21 June 2007 .....34

### Executive Summary

The evaluation of the Day of Private Reflection clearly indicates that it should be repeated on 21st June 2008. However, the evaluation makes recommendations to the Healing Through Remembering Board and Day of Reflection Sub Group.

### Background

The first Day of Private Reflection took place on Thursday 21st June 2007. Healing Through Remembering and its Day of Reflection Sub Group took time to carefully consider and plan the day to bring it to fruition.

Firstly, the Day of Reflection Sub Group - which was established in 2004 and is composed of fifteen members from diverse backgrounds (including education, ex-prisoners, faith groups, victims and survivors groups, trade unions, statutory and voluntary sectors) had to decide whether there was public support for this initiative.

### Consultation

After extensive consultation (which included a conference, seminars, group discussions, letters, support materials, direct stakeholder engagement, Day of Reflection website, public workshops and events), as well as the publication of two reports - *'International Experiences of Days of Remembrance and Reflection'* and *'A Day of Reflection: A Scoping Study'* - the group was tasked with considering various recommendations. These included initiating further debate on a day of reflection, its core principles, further consultation and finally, planning and implementing the Day of Reflection.

### Outcome

The outcome of that process was a discussion paper called *'A Day of Private Reflection: Discussion Paper and Proposal'* which was published in 2006. It outlined a proposal for a Day of Private Reflection to take place on 21st June 2007. The date was carefully selected. There was not one calendar date when no one had been killed during the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. However the 21st June is significant - it is the longest day and is a time of transition between the seasons.

### Key Message

The key message from the discussion paper was that the initial Day of Reflection should be held privately. This was to ensure that the day was not seen as substituting for or replacing existing remembrance occasions.

Publicity materials were essential to the development of this initiative. Providing sensitive information was core to the process - and in this case that included leaflets, postcards, bookmarks, wallet cards and posters - all produced to a high specification, and giving clear, succinct messages about the Day. A free-phone telephone support line was made available before, during and after the day. The Day of Private Reflection was launched in March 2007 and received considerable media interest and attention.

### **Evaluation**

The evaluation found that the build-up to and development of the Day of Private Reflection was well-balanced and carefully considered. As with all Healing Through Remembering's work, the hallmarks were: ongoing consultation, dialogue, and sensitivity to people's needs.

Given the short time span available – less than a year between the decision to run the initiative and the actual day, a considerable amount was achieved. The most common way of reflection was in a private space or 'quiet time'. Other examples included reflective discussion and the creation of books of reflection. While the private nature of the initiative meant it was difficult to assess the actual level of participation, feedback and messages of support showed a high level of interest and activity.

Healing Through Remembering and the Sub Group were commended on their commitment to inclusivity, however the evaluation indicated that there were some gaps in its engagement – for example, with older people. This requires the Sub Group to ensure that further work is to be set within as broad a context as possible.

Many of those interviewed for this evaluation suggested that more direction on the types of activities they could have undertaken would have been helpful. While the Sub Group had deliberately avoided providing too much direction on activities, the evaluation showed that organisations, groups and individuals would have appreciated more guidance and advice.

Finally, some contacted for the evaluation had not taken part in the Day of Private Reflection, however they indicated a willingness to both promote and participate in future days of reflection.

### **Reservations expressed**

Other opinions included the feeling by some individuals that there was no real need for such a day, while others recognized the need, but didn't feel it was appropriate to take part. Some of those consulted argued that there were already a number of 'remembrance' days in existence, and that another one could undermine or detract from these events. Some felt that society should focus on the future rather than the past.

A few voiced the opinion that the inclusive nature of the day meant perpetrators of violence could be seen in a positive light, while others feared it could be 'hi-jacked' by particular political parties or groups within society. However those who voiced concerns also felt that Healing Through Remembering had engaged them in the process and that their opinions had been heard and reflected in the materials produced.

#### **Support for the Day**

Interest and support for the Day of Private Reflection came from all sections of the community. There was widespread support in favour of a second Day of Private Reflection, with Healing Through Remembering as the lead organisation.

*(Full copies of the evaluation available on the Day of Private Reflection website – [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com) or from HTR on 028 9023 8844).*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report was commissioned by 'Healing Through Remembering' (HTR) to evaluate the process and response to a "Day of Private Reflection" held on the 21 June 2007.

1.2 HTR is a cross community organisation with membership from a broad range of organisations which encompass most, if not all, of the main political constituencies in Northern Ireland. Membership encompasses individuals, churches, ex-prisoners groups, ex-security force groups and a broad hue of all shades of nationalist and unionist views. While most of its membership is based in Northern Ireland it has members in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), the United Kingdom and internationally.

1.3 'All Truth is Bitter' revealed that there was a consensus that the issues of dealing with the past needed further discussion and consultation. From this a number of individuals came together to form the Board of HTR.

1.4 Brief Description of the Organisation

HTR evolved from discussions following the publication of a report 'All Truth is Bitter'. This report, following wide scale consultation in Northern Ireland, looked at the value and limitations of truth recovered. The basis of this report followed widespread discussions based on a joint invitation, by Victim Support Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, to Dr Alex Boraine, the then Deputy Chair (1999) of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission to visit Northern Ireland.

1.5 In the early days of its inception HTR's Board undertook a consultation which asked:

*"How should people remember events connected with the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and, in doing so, individually and collectively contribute to the healing of the wounds of society?"*

Consultation was to both individuals and relevant organisations to gather as widespread responses as possible. This resulted in the publication of the 'Healing through Remembering Report (2002)'.<sup>1</sup>

1.6 The report outlined 6 recommendations, one of which was the establishment of a Day of Reflection to "Serve as a universal gesture of reconciliation, reflection, acknowledgement and recognition of the suffering of so many arising from the conflict in and about Northern Ireland."

---

<sup>1</sup> Information on the consultation process and the report are available on [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org)



### 2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 This evaluation sets out to look at three key components of the Day of Reflection. These are:

- the processes which led to the development of the actual Day of Reflection in June 2007;
- the preparation for, and the activities in and around, the Day itself; and
- the response to the Day from a wide variety of stakeholders. These stakeholders were those who were involved in the Day by whatever means and those who had, for whatever reasons, not participated. In reality this meant that stakeholders could encompass any individual or organisation in Northern Ireland and beyond.

2.2 To facilitate the evaluation process the evaluator was supported by the staff and particularly the HTR Project Co-ordinator. In addition a member of HTR who was **not** part of the Day of Reflection Sub Group also supported and advised on the project. This was to ensure that the support came from a member of HTR who was distanced from the planning and running of the day of private reflection and therefore was likely to have a more objective view.

2.3 At an early stage it became clear that given the potential range of stakeholders identified that the evaluation would, because of scope and timescale, only be able to “dip into” any of the main groups, namely:

- Board members;
- staff;
- those involved in consultation;
- those involved in the Day itself, in whatever form;
- those who chose not to be involved; and
- those who had some awareness but did not feel it involved them or was not, as one individual put it, “for them.”

These interviews would be a mixture of formal interviews, telephone discussions or ‘opportunistic discussions’ i.e. where opportunities arose to discuss this matter.

2.4 A number of different people contributed to the discussions, some in an official capacity for their organisations and some as individuals. Many, because they were talking in an informal capacity wished not to be named. Some others, for personal reasons, chose to stay anonymous.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

Interviews included:

- a member of the Chinese community;
- the Chief Executive of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland;
- a member of the Indian community;
- a senior member of the Equality Unit of a government department;
- the Chief Executive of Community Change;
- the Chief Executive of Carers NI;
- the Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Association;
- the Policy Officer of Help the Aged;
- a representative of the Monaghan Partnership;
- the Community Relations Officer in Omagh District Council;
- a representative of the Travellers' Community;
- a Community Relations Officer from a district council who wished to remain anonymous;
- a representative of West Tyrone Voice;
- a representative of the Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau;
- the Director of Zero-8-Teen Community Group, Craigavon;
- a member of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA);
- a senior member of a third level Higher Education College;
- two school Headmasters;
- the Chief Executive of a Healthy Living Centre;
- a representative of the Koram Centre;
- a representative of a Victims/Survivors Group;
- a representative of the Community Relations Council;
- a representative of a disability charity;
- the manager of the Old Library Trust;
- the co-ordinator of the Ashling Centre;
- a family member of one of the Disappeared;
- a representative of the RUC George Cross Foundation;
- a representative of the Police Service Northern Ireland, Equality Unit;
- a representative of the Orange Order;
- two members of the loyalist community;
- a senior representative in a youth organisation;
- a representative of an ex-serviceman's association;
- a member of the Trauma Advisory Panel; and
- a representative of an ex-prisoner's group.

2.5 Discussions also took place with members of the Day of Private Reflection Sub Group, including the Chair.

2.6 In addition, the evaluator attended a two day residential with the Sub Group.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

2.7 Written materials were also examined as part of the process. These included:

- minutes of meetings of both the HTR Board and Day of Reflection Sub Group;
- requests relating to the Day of Private Reflection, for information and correspondence;
- feedback from organisations on the Day of Private Reflection;
- feedback on the consultation process;
- Day of Reflection: A Scoping Study;
- Day of Private Reflection Discussion Paper and Proposal; and
- report on International Experiences of Days of Reflection and Remembrance.

2.8 There were ongoing discussions with staff members, and the Chair and Honorary Secretary of HTR on aspects of the evaluation.

2.9 The evaluator is grateful to all of those who willingly expressed views on the Day of Private Reflection. In particular thanks goes to Board members and staff members for their support, hospitality and advice.

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Day of Private Reflection developed from the recommendations of the *'Healing Through Remembering Report 2002'*. The recommendations in the report identified the principles upon which such a day could take place. The day was to:

*"Provide an opportunity for people to remember the events of the past in a non-confrontational, dignified and respectful manner."*

It further outlined that while the emphasis was on private individual reflection, it should also contribute towards:

*"Ensuring a collective and public dimension whereupon many – sometimes from opposing perspectives – would be remembering and commemorated on the same day."*

3.2 As part of the overall process of developing different areas of work HTR evolved a system of sub groups to cover different aspects of its work. The structure is such that linked below the overall Board are a number of Sub Groups focusing on diverse areas such as:

- Storytelling;
- Living memorial museum;
- Truth recovery and acknowledgement;
- Network of commemoration and remembering projects; and
- Day of Reflection.

3.3 These sub groups are tasked with taking forward the various strands of work activity identified by HTR.

3.4 While there is still ongoing debate about whether the Day of Reflection should be a collective civic event or not, the initial recommendation indicated that in the first instance it should be a day of private reflection.

3.5 The Day of Reflection Sub Group currently has 15 members. The Sub Group consists of a wide range of individuals who have specific interests or backgrounds in:

- education;
- ex-prisoners;
- faith groups;
- interested individuals;

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

- organisations promoting peace building;
- statutory sector;
- trade unions;
- voluntary sector; and
- victim/survivor groups;

A full list of the members is included in Appendix I.

### Research

- 3.6 HTR, in order to further develop thinking around the potential for such a day, engaged in a number of projects and consultations.
- 3.7 In order to inform further thinking about the potential for a Day of Reflection the Sub Group commissioned a research report which would draw on international examples of days of reflection and remembrance. This was aimed at helping the group widen its thinking and learn lessons from other societies emerging from conflict that had held, or had attempted to hold, a Day of Reflection or a Day of Remembrance.
- 3.8 The resulting report titled *'International Experiences of Days of Remembrance and Reflection'*<sup>2</sup> (Healing Through Remembering) was published in January 2006. The key recommendations from the report are below.
- 3.9 **Consultation:** There was a need for an inclusive consultation process. The process should take place over time and gradually to ensure that a wide range of individuals and organisations are part of the debate on what a Day of Reflection might entail.
- 3.10 **Choosing a date:** Choosing the right date is an important part of establishing a Day of Reflection. People will look at previous events that took place on the day/date chosen and depending on what other events occurred, some individuals, groups or constituencies may feel uncomfortable with the date. Their reservations should be considered and acknowledged.
- 3.11 **Civil Society and Politics:** A Day of Reflection should be a community based initiative but also be part of wider social and political processes. Days unilaterally initiated without support from communities and their endorsement were, the report found, generally lacking legitimacy.
- 3.12 **Ways of Commemorating:** There are different ways of commemorating Days of Reflection or Days of Remembrance. Consideration should be given to creative activities through the consultation process and in the organisation's deliberations.

---

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org)

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

3.13 **One day a year:** While there is generally one day set aside for remembrance/reflection consideration should also be given to ways of promoting reflection throughout the year.

3.14 **The Way Forward:** The final and overarching recommendation of the report was that the development of a Day of Reflection should be approached from:

*"A long-term, consultative and strategic perspective."*

*"The Day of Reflection should be a process that is given time and allowed room to develop."*

3.15 In April 2006 the Day of Reflection Sub Group took the decision, based on the international research and ongoing local consultation, to focus specifically on a single Day of Reflection.

3.16 Initial consultation suggested that there was considerable support for the idea of a Day of Reflection. However, in the period from initial recommendations and subsequent consultation there had been a range of developments which may have impacted on initial thinking among different constituencies.

3.17 These included:

- shifts in voter support;
- suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly;
- continued sectarian incidents; and
- other Days of Reflection – particularly in Sinn Fein led Council areas.

3.18 Given these changes the Sub Group agreed to undertake further consultation and a scoping study which would reflect more current views. In the course of further discussion the Sub Group agreed that the scoping study should also focus on the practical steps which would make the Day of Reflection a reality.

3.19 The final report '*A Day of Reflection: A Scoping Study*' (Montgomery, P 2006) was published in September 2006<sup>3</sup>. The report was based on ongoing discussions within the Sub Group and 23 structured interviews with individuals representing organisations who had been identified as potential participants across a broad cross section of perspectives and sectors.

3.20 This included the experience of both Councillors and the Chief Executive of Fermanagh District Council who had previously explored the idea of a day of reflection within the Fermanagh area. Most of the major political parties were represented in this part of the consultation.

---

<sup>3</sup> Available at [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org)

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

3.21 Findings from the Scoping Study were diverse. However key themes did emerge. These included:

- a broad consensus that there was unmet need concerning the legacy of the conflict;
- interviewees were split almost 50-50 on whether a Day of Reflection was appropriate **at this time**;
- if it were to take place almost two-thirds felt it should have a public element of reflection;
- importance of the support of political parties; and
- the need for a broad based structure to co-ordinate activity.

No consensus was reached on the need for the extent and depth of consultation and public debate needed to take this forward.

3.22 Based on the findings the key recommendations were that a phased approach with appropriate time to take stock between phases be developed.

3.23 The four phases proposed were:

- initiate a debate on the Day of Reflection;
- develop core principles or a charter for a Day of Reflection;
- consult with a wide constituency on the core principles; and
- plan and implement a Day of Reflection.

3.24 There was considerable emphasis on continued debate, consultation and the seeking of views at each phase of the process.

3.25 The recommendations resulted in further discussion within the Sub Group and continued dialogue with external organisations and individuals. From this, and based on themes emerging from the Scoping Study, it was agreed that a Day of Reflection should take place.

3.26 It should be noted that at this point in time there were a considerable range of opinions within the Sub Group. The process of debate, often accommodating very diverse views and the concerns that such an initiative raised, caused much discussion and difficulty for the participants in reaching consensus.

3.27 It is to the credit of all of the Sub Group members that they managed to work through this process and reach a consensus. Even those less sure of some of the direction continued to support the Sub Group and inform discussion so that the Day of Reflection should take place.

3.28 All of the Sub Group members are also particularly clear that the process, while often difficult, was valuable. They were also clear that the support of staff within HTR was highly valued.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

3.29 There were various debates, dilemmas and concerns that the Sub Group faced. Significant among these were the following:

- the sensitivities around holding such a day at all;
- concerns about how this might be viewed by individuals and organisations involved with those most affected by the conflict; and
- the potential of resurrecting memories to either have negative effects on individual's own well-being or a negative effect on wider community relations.

3.30 Additionally, HTR struggled with being the promoters and drivers of such an event. The core of HTR's work is informing debate and facilitating others to engage in debate rather than undertaking direct project initiation. This was further complicated by the fact that this type of event could potentially have negative outcomes.

3.31 However, notwithstanding these dilemmas and having reached a decision to have a Day of Reflection the Sub Group moved on very quickly to publishing '*A Day of Private Reflection - Discussion Paper and Proposal*'. This outlined the debates and dilemmas already identified within the organisation and included both the rationale and concerns about going forward.

### Findings

3.32 Feedback from individuals and organisations involved and consulted by HTR was very positive. There was general consensus that they felt they were listened to and that staff and members of HTR had been proactive and sensitive in their approach.

3.33 Even among those who had doubts or strong resistance to such a day there was agreement that they welcomed the opportunity to be part of the debate and felt their contributions had not only been listened to but responded to appropriately.

3.34 The journey of developing and considering the potential for such a day was necessarily a long and involved process.

3.35 Internal staff, the Sub Group and the wider HTR family expended high amounts of time and commitment to ensuring that they were well informed and that all views were considered. Their attention to the sensitivities around a Day of Reflection is to be commended.

3.36 The research commissioned to help inform both internal rethinking and to help stimulate wider debate was invaluable. In particular at an early stage the *International Experiences of Days of Remembrance and Reflection* proved to be a focus of much information for consideration. The report on international research remains a valuable tool for consideration of Days of Reflection and other remembrance processes both within Northern Ireland and in other countries emerging from conflict.

3.37 Additionally, '*A Day of Reflection: a Scoping Study*' helped to progress the debate. This was important in helping the Sub Group to reach the decision to promote a Day of Private Reflection.



## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

- 3.38 It is difficult to identify and quantify the level of other engagement and debate that went on in the community. This is largely because as well as formal consultation a considerable amount of informal contact was made with individuals and organisations. In addition, HTR and Sub Group members were able to feed back comment from their own organisations and personal contacts. However, it is clear that this was an important part of the overall process.
- 3.39 It should also be noted that HTR gave the consultation adequate time to ensure proper debate, feedback and deliberation. In particular, the decision to revisit the initial consultation process in light of the changes in the political landscape and in the wider community is to be commended.
- 3.40 In all, the process of arriving at the decision to undertake this Day of Reflection was given the time and treated with the measured thinking that was needed to make informed decisions on such a sensitive and potentially divisive initiative. All involved are to be commended on this approach.

### ***Recommendation***

- 3.41 *It is recommended that, where appropriate, this process is promoted as a model of inclusive debate and deliberation. Its resultant publications should be used to promote debate and provide support to others emerging from conflict situations.*

### 4. DEVELOPING THE DAY OF PRIVATE REFLECTION

- 4.1 The Discussion Paper and Proposal – ‘*A Day of Private Reflection*’ (September 2006) was produced to encourage debate and comment on the Day of Private Reflection which had now been set for 21 June 2007.
- 4.2 Research revealed that no day in the recent history of Northern Ireland is without memories or significant events for individuals, communities and most importantly families. Not one day in the year had escaped at least one individual being killed.
- 4.3 The decision to hold the Day on the 21st June followed considerable debate. The 21st June is the longest day of the year and so represents ‘a pause in the cycle of nature, a moment to reflect’.
- 4.4 HTR paid significant sensitivity to families who had lost loved ones on this date throughout the conflict. Efforts were made to make contact with all of the families so the reasons for the Day of Private Reflection were discussed with them. This was done through identifying and contacting appropriate intermediaries who would know the families. This took considerable time, effort and sensitivity and all but two of the families were contacted.
- 4.5 The extent to which staff in HTR went to ensure that families were aware of and engaged in the process is to be commended. It showed a sensitivity of approach which promoted inclusion for those families.
- 4.6 The key message from ‘*A Day of Private Reflection – Discussion Paper and Proposal*’ was that the initial Day of Reflection should be held **privately**. This was in response to consultation and discussion and to ensure that the Day was not seen as substituting for or replacing existing remembrance occasions. This was an important and significant step.
- 4.7 The discussion paper set out the background to the Day of Private Reflection. It highlighted the various stages that had already led to this point and expressed the potential challenges and benefits to such a day.
- 4.8 The discussion paper states:
- “Our vision is of a day that is positive and inclusive, that reaches out to all, and that unites rather than divides.”*
- 4.9 The discussion paper continues that the process should be started modestly and proposed to initially observe the day privately while recognising this might change in future years.
- 4.10 The purpose of the Day is set in the discussion paper out as an “*opportunity for all of us to:*
- *acknowledge the deep hurt and loss caused by the conflict;*
  - *remember the men, women and children who on a daily basis live with the consequences of the conflict;*

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- *reflect on our attitudes that have the potential for a negative impact on others and society;*
- *reflect on what more each of us might have done or might still do to uphold and enhance all other people's right to life and quality of life; and*
- *make a personal commitment that as we begin to move forward as a society, such loss should never be allowed to happen again."*

4.11 The purpose is underpinned by a series of principles and values. *"The Day of Private Reflection was to be underpinned by an inclusive and sensitive approach which:*

- *respects differing views, political aspirations and perspectives on the conflict;*
- *recognises and accepts that there are diverse views on a Day of Reflection and that not everyone can or will feel able to participate;*
- *encourages a positive and respectful way of reflecting on our past;*
- *promotes support and is a source of strength to those who have been most adversely affected by the conflict; and*
- *reaches out to people in Northern Ireland, including those from different ethnic backgrounds, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain.*

4.12 The report also committed HTR to a wide ranging consultation with key stakeholders and a commitment to providing information and guidance materials. It also committed the organisation to an evaluation of this process.

### 4.13 Consultation

There was a wide-ranging consultation to further develop the extent of the Day of Private Reflection. This had two key elements:

- in the first instance letters, support materials and copies of the Discussion Paper and Proposal were sent to a wide variety of different stakeholders. This was supported by information available on the HTR website; and
- secondly, direct contact was undertaken with key stakeholders.

4.14 A separate website was developed for the Day of Private Reflection. This had a two-fold effect. It ensured that all information was available in one key location. Further, it created a "distance" from HTR. This was a deliberate decision with the intent that somewhere in the future the Day of Private Reflection could be a distinct entity in its own right (if it is to continue).

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 4.15 During 2006 a number of public events were held which were directly related to the Day of Private Reflection. This included the launch of HTR's report *'International Experience of Days of Remembrance and Reflection'*, in January and a conference held in Armagh on 4th October 2006 entitled *'Day of Reflection, Why Bother?'*. The Discussion Paper and Proposal – *'A Day of Private Reflection'* was launched at this event. Another public event which had some focus on this area was the 'Open Call for Ideas', held by the Living Memorial Museum Sub Group, which invited people to submit their designs and proposals for a Living Memorial Museum. Public workshops were held across these islands and submissions were also received from individuals and organisations.
- 4.16 Correspondence was sent out to individuals, groups and constituencies on the HTR database. This ensured that the Day of Private Reflection information was received by a considerable number of recipients reflecting the diversity of Northern Ireland society and key contacts in the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain. This included:
- Churches;
  - Community Organisations;
  - District Councils;
  - Ex-Combatant Groups;
  - Ex-Prisoner Groups;
  - Government Departments;
  - Non-Departmental Government Bodies;
  - Political parties across the island of Ireland;
  - Registered Charities;
  - Security Force Organisations;
  - Trade Unions; and
  - Victim/Survivor Groups.
- 4.17 It would be impossible to list all of the organisations and indeed individuals who were contacted as part of this process. It is suffice to say that it covers a wide spectrum of opinion within Northern Ireland and also had key contacts from the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain and further afield.
- 4.18 This resulted in a considerable range of further contact with many organisations. Follow-up was requested by phone, direct discussion or mail depending on the needs identified. Thus a considerable amount of information was distributed, considerable opinion was gathered and a number of organisations and individuals "signed up" to doing something on the Day of Private Reflection.
- 4.19 Stemming, in part, from this circulation of information a number of meetings were held with key organisations either at their behest or initiated by HTR.
- 4.20 Again, it would be difficult to name all the organisations contacted and their response to the consultation and/or the information they received. It is, however, useful to highlight some examples which help illustrate the range of responses and actions that developed.
- 4.21 The Community Relations Council is an example of an organisation which not only embraced and supported the Day of Private Reflection, but in addition to its support, it circulated information to its constituency and encouraged other individuals and organisations to take part in the Day of Private Reflection. There were many other similar organisations.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 4.22 Discussion also took place with groups and organisations who had a reluctance to commit or were opposed to the Day of Private Reflection. It would not be appropriate to highlight particular groups, however, a number were prepared to feedback on the process.
- 4.23 All of those consulted felt that while they were not committed to the idea they were happy to talk to the Sub Group members. Their feedback was positive in that they felt they had been engaged in the dialogue and their views had been sensitively received.
- 4.24 A number of organisations expressed an opinion that while they found the dialogue positive there was no follow up to the initial engagement. One organisation had made it clear that they could not "sign up" to the Day of Private Reflection but felt that when this position was made clear, the dialogue ended. They would have welcomed the opportunity for further dialogue on a range of different topics with HTR.
- 4.25 It is clear that this lack of follow-up was largely because the commitment to contact groups, organisations and individuals as part of the consultation was very strong and this was carried out by both staff and Sub Group members. With a small staff and a Sub Group who have other commitments it would have been difficult to maintain consistent contact at this time.
- 4.26 Nonetheless it is important to ensure that once dialogue begins every effort is made to build upon this. This message is not only paramount for the Day of Private Reflection but for other consultations that HTR may engage in on other topics.

### **Recommendation**

- 4.27 *HTR need to consider ways of maintaining contact and improving dialogue with organisations beyond the immediate consultation on the Day of Private Reflection.*
- 4.28 The Sub Group and staff also arranged a series of seminars which were designed to focus on particular sectors of the community or which accommodated people in similar roles across the community. For example, there was a seminar arranged for people who represented the youth sector and a seminar arranged with the Community Relations Officers of the District Councils.
- 4.29 Results and outcomes from these initiatives were mixed. Some of the seminars were poorly attended and thus personnel time and resources were not utilised as well as could be hoped. However, in other instances seminars were well attended and outcomes were positive.
- 4.30 This is an area of promotion and consultation which could be further developed. More consideration needs to be given to who is potentially invited to these seminars. For example, the seminar linked to youth organisation was poorly attended and the invitation list did not reflect many of the key organisations with links to youth provision and young people.
- 4.31 Other areas of society and organisations linked to specific themes were largely untapped. For example, there was limited contact with older people. As one of the largest sections of the population, and one with experience of the conflict, this is potentially a key arena in which to promote the Day of Private Reflection.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

4.32 There are a number of umbrella networks who have, as part of this evaluation, indicated their willingness to promote the Day of Private Reflection. Examples of these include:

- Age Concern;
- Community Change; and
- Carers NI.

These three examples are being listed merely because they were part of this evaluation process and indicated their willingness to be proactive. It is likely that there are others of a similar mind in the wider community.

4.33 These are only a few examples and there are many more network organisations covering special interest groups in society as well as wider networks such as rural and urban community fora. The positive response from those interviewed does indicate there is a large untapped resource to support and help with the Day of Private Reflection.

### **Recommendation**

4.34 *Consideration of how to access the key special interest groups and community fora organisations in Northern Ireland may help to ensure that there is wider awareness of and support for the Day of Private Reflection.*

4.35 General discussion with individuals and organisations in the wider community indicated that awareness of the Day of Private Reflection and/or its significance to people was patchy. Again, it should be emphasised that given the staff and Sub Group commitments this was always going to be an issue.

4.36 The Sub Group did decide to concentrate on certain organisations to get their message across. For example, there was an engagement with a number of faith organisations and with the larger churches in Northern Ireland. This resulted in a considerable response to the Day of Private Reflection although in many instances this appeared to be from initiatives at local level rather than driven by core church organisations.

4.37 This, again, is only one example of where considerable impact has been made and the range of organisations who signed up to do things was vast.

### **Recommendation**

4.38 *The Sub Group should review all of its key contacts and assess how beneficial this contact proved in promoting the Day of Private Reflection. These reviews should form the basis of further discussions to improve the level of their support for the initiative.*

4.39 Notwithstanding some of the concerns noted here there was a vast amount of good work processed into the development of the Day of Private Reflection. The success of the day will be explored in the next chapter.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 4.40 Limited discussions with members of minority ethnic organisations reflected that they had no knowledge of the event. In addition, the general feel was of reluctance to be part of this as it was as one individual put it “*a Northern Ireland thing.*”

### Information

- 4.41 To support the development of the initiative a number of publicity materials were developed. These included leaflets, postcards and bookmarks. These formed an integral part of the promotion of the Day of Private Reflection. These were widely distributed and gave clear, succinct messages about the Day of Private Reflection. These are of a high standard and reflect the importance given to the Day.

Images of materials produced are included in Appendix III.

### Individual Support

- 4.42 The Sub Group also set up a free-phone telephone helpline in the weeks before, on the Day and in the weeks after the 21st June. This was to provide personal support to individuals. This ensured that if the Day of Private Reflection triggered any emotional difficulties or promoted a need to talk that individuals could be signposted to appropriate support services. These included victims/survivors groups, social services and the Samaritans. The phone line was staffed by individuals with previous experience of dealing with people in distress.
- 4.43 The Sub Group and staff are to be commended on this initiative. Again, it shows the consideration and sensitivity with which this entire process was developed.

### Media

- 4.44 There was, in the months coming up to the Day of Private Reflection, considerable coverage in the press. This was largely in the local press and was a response to letters sent by the Sub Group.
- 4.45 The Day of Private Reflection was publicly launched in March 2007. This received considerable media attention. However, some concerns have been voiced that the media was more focused on some of the individuals involved in the launch than on the actual launch itself. The role of the media will be further developed in the next chapter.
- 4.46 There was a considerable amount of coverage of the Day of Private Reflection, both in the build-up to the Day and on the Day itself.
- 4.47 Pre-publicity, mostly initiated by the Sub Group, appeared in a range of local newspapers across Northern Ireland. This generated a considerable number of enquiries about the Day to the organisations involved.
- 4.48 There was consistent coverage on the Day mainly on local radio – particularly Radio Ulster. Throughout the day a number of news items and interviews took place with both members of the community and Sub Group representatives.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

- 4.49 While the level of media activity, either before or on the Day is difficult to quantify, it is clear that there was considerable publicity.
- 4.50 Discussions with members of the Sub Group and with other individuals, with a knowledge of the media, would indicate that media input was positive and helped promote the Day.

### **Conclusion**

- 4.51 The build-up and development of the Day of Private Reflection was a well-balanced and considered approach. As with all HTR's work the hallmarks were ongoing consultation, dialogue and sensitivity to people's needs.
- 4.52 Given the short time span that was available between the decision to run the Day and the actual Day – less than a year in total – a considerable amount was achieved.
- 4.53 Numerous organisations and individuals were visited. Consultation was widespread and information and support mechanisms well thought out and put in place.



## 5. THE DAY OF PRIVATE REFLECTION – REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 There were a range of different events and opportunities created by organisations and individuals for people to partake in a Day of Private Reflection.
- 5.2 In many cases space was created within buildings to allow people a quiet room in which to reflect. This happened in a large number of organisations including many local councils and churches, colleges, businesses, and voluntary and community groups.
- 5.3 Use of the rooms was varied with some being used quite frequently while others were used only intermittently. Thus it is difficult to gauge the extent of the impact of the Day of Private Reflection in numerical terms.
- 5.4 This was the most common means of reflection or access to reflection provided in offices and/or public buildings.
- 5.5 The option to provide feedback was suggested by the Day of Reflection Sub Group and a considerable number of people were keen to provide this. However, as it would have been inappropriate to do things otherwise, feedback was voluntary and those who organised events were not asked to keep numbers or comments.
- 5.6 However a number of comments were gathered and these were largely positive. Individuals indicated that this was a unique opportunity to reflect on both personal circumstances and wider issues around the conflict. A selection of these comments is noted throughout this chapter.
- 5.7 Comments were left either in localities where reflection was taking place, on the Day of Reflection website or posted to HTR.

### Comment

“I don’t need a day like this. I have many days to reflect on my loss.”

- 5.8 A considerable number of churches opened their doors during the Day or at specific times. One church reported having over 70 visitors throughout the Day.

### Comment

“I found the period of quiet reflection in the church a very positive experience.”

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

5.9 There were a number of other activities on the day. Again they are too numerous to detail. The following examples indicate the range of organisations involved and activities that took place:

- RUC George Cross memorial garden – not taking group bookings on that day to facilitate private reflection;
- the Iontas Centre in Castleblaney created a version of the HTR logo and individuals were invited to write messages on yellow cards to form the flowers on the logo.
- Larne Museum set a room aside for private reflection and provided a book for people to record their comments;
- the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) sent information packs to its 75 affiliated schools, many of whom observed quiet periods;
- Corpus Christi Youth Club held a minute's silence;
- St Anthony's Retreat Centre in Donegal created a quiet space in the garden;
- the Eastern Health and Social Services Board held a minute's silence;
- Firinne lit candles and put them on an ornamental tree. They encouraged people to write personal messages on a reflecting moment to lost love ones.
- Restoration Ministries reflected on the 21st June instead of their usual monthly meeting;

5.10 It is impossible to gauge the level of input into the Day of Private Reflection as activities were widespread across Northern Ireland and beyond. The very nature of a Day of Private Reflection means that feedback will never be comprehensive and will always be anecdotal because many people did reflect in private.

### Comment

"If we permit our children to revisit our past we will have learned nothing and will have lost everything."

5.11 However, the list of people who sent in messages of support and the feedback on the website and by material sent to HTR show a high level of interest and activity.

5.12 What is particularly significant is that the interest and support for the Day of Private Reflection came from across the community and was equally embraced by Catholics and Protestants, Unionists and Nationalists, as well as those who would see themselves as outside these traditional groupings.

5.13 Again, without identifying individuals or organisations, it is important to note that the Day of Private Reflection created positive responses from across all shades of opinion in Northern Ireland.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 5.14 Events and opportunities to reflect were developed in communities and organisations that would often be seen as “in opposition” to each other.
- 5.15 The extent of this cross community and inclusive approach is, perhaps, the best identification of the breadth of response to the Day of Private Reflection.

### Comment

“We should never take our peace for granted again.”

- 5.16 Most of the events took place in Northern Ireland with further events, to a limited level, in the Republic of Ireland and a small number in Great Britain.
- 5.17 The Day of Private Reflection was intended as an opportunity to reflect for all those affected by the conflict and therefore had a wider context than Northern Ireland. This meant that the task of promoting the Day of Reflection had to give consideration to those affected by the conflict in other places – particularly the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain.
- 5.18 However, those interviewed as part of this evaluation were clear that if the Day is to be inclusive then it must respond to all of those affected by the conflict. As noted throughout this report there are a diversity of opinions about the Day of Private Reflection, its appropriateness and its value. There was, however, clear consensus that as one individual described it *“if it is going to happen it needs to offer something to everyone.”*

### Recommendation

- 5.19 *While this may put additional pressure on staff and on members of the Sub Group the Day of Private Reflection still needs to be promoted beyond Northern Ireland to create an inclusive recognition of the cost of the conflict.*

### Comment

“Consider an annual event.”

- 5.20 So many different activities or opportunities were promoted and supported by this event that it is impossible to give a response to the breadth of the activity. It is especially important to note that as a Private Day the effect on individuals can never truly be gauged. However, the fact that a significant number and range of people developed ways to reflect, and commented on it, would indicate a “hunger” for reflection time.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 5.21 A significant number of individuals interviewed as part of this evaluation would have liked more direction on the types of activities they could have undertaken. They would have welcomed suggestions which would have helped them develop their own responses.
- 5.22 However, the Sub Group were clear that it was not appropriate for them to be prescriptive about how people should reflect, particularly as it was a Day of Private Reflection. The Sub Group felt that if they were too directional that this would detract from individual and group ability to engage in their own unique and appropriate way.
- 5.23 However, there is a clear request for some initial guidance and direction to help individuals and groups develop their response to the Day of Private Reflection.

### **Recommendation**

- 5.24 *It is suggested that the Sub Group further support organisations and individuals to explore ways in which to take part in the Day of Private Reflection.*
- 5.25 The evaluation indicated that the Day of Private Reflection gave an opportunity to many individuals who felt they had not been seriously affected permission to recognise the impact of the conflict on themselves and others.

### **Comment**

“Remembering - particularly a lady who died of a broken heart at this time of year for her murdered husband.”

### **Conclusion**

- 5.26 A Day of Private Reflection by its very nature suggests that the full extent of activities and engagement will never be known.
- 5.27 From the information available it is clear that activity was widespread on the Day of Private Reflection. Comments received by the organisation and as part of this evaluation indicate that individuals and organisations intend to continue to hold a Day of Private Reflection.
- 5.28 Many of those contacted for the evaluation who had not been involved in the Day indicated a willingness to promote and participate in a future Day of Private Reflection. These responses, in addition to those who have already indicated their continued support for another Day, reveal a hunger for this form of reflection.

### 6. PARTICIPATION – FURTHER OPINIONS

- 6.1 Many individuals and organisations did not feel the need for such a day. Others recognised the need for such a day but did not feel it was appropriate for them to take part.
- 6.2 HTR and the Day of Reflection Sub Group have always recognised and respected people's choice in this matter. This is consistently referred to throughout the material regarding this initiative.
- 6.3 As part of the sensitivity to the wide range of opinions this evaluation was tasked to ensure that the views and opinions of those negative or unsure about the value of the Day be included in the report.

#### Education

- 6.4 For some this particular day was not practical. This was the feedback from some in education who felt that the time of year was not ideal as it was either end of term or in the middle of exams. However, many schools did take part and had activities such as a minute's silence, while others highlighted the Day at assembly.
- 6.5 Feedback from one further education establishment suggested that the introduction of such a day could potentially be divisive within the College. They stated that they choose to promote inclusion by other means such as outreach.

#### Other Remembrance Occasions

- 6.6 A major concern voiced, even among those who were not opposed to the Day of Private Reflection, was that there were already a number of remembrance days. Concerns ranged from the view that there were already enough days of remembrance and so why have another, to a concern that a "new day" might dilute or take away from other days which already existed.
- 6.7 Among some there was a view that as a society we need to look forward and not back so that days such as this are not of particular value.

#### Concerns

- 6.8 For many, there was a sense that the development of such a day was inappropriate. Feedback suggested that the Day could be viewed as an opportunity for perpetrators of violence to be seen in a positive light. Comments ranged on this but might be summed up by one individual who stated *"Why would I want to stand beside those who killed my nephew?"*
- 6.9 A further concern was raised that a day such as this could be "hijacked". In particular, examples were cited of other days of remembrance which had on different occasions been perceived as led by one political party or group within our society.
- 6.10 These concerns hindered the Day of Private Reflection as many were suspicious after what they saw as divisive initiatives in the past.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

- 6.11 These concerns and anxieties will, as HTR has clearly recognised, always be an issue when any society emerging from conflict begins to reflect on its past. HTR was aware of these difficulties and therefore emphasised the importance of marking the Day in a respectful and sensitive manner.
- 6.12 Organisations and individuals who had concerns about the Day of Private Reflection did however feel that HTR had engaged them in the process and that their voices had been heard.

### **Conclusion**

- 6.13 There will always be suspicion and caution over 'events' such as the Day of Private Reflection. Dialogue and transparency will continue to be the cornerstones on which HTR can promote and gain acceptance for the need for private reflection.

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Day of Private Reflection proved to be a positive experience for many people. This has been indicated by both feedback received and evaluation interviews.
- 7.2 The process of consultation, dissemination and support was handled sensitively. At all stages HTR promoted transparency and inclusion in their materials, processes and engagement.
- 7.3 A Day of Private Reflection was always going to have a wide range of responses both positive and negative. However, the evaluation identified that there was considerable support for an opportunity to reflect on the past.
- 7.4 The positive messages from the Day of Private Reflection were:
- the research and initial debate were important in shaping the process and consultation;
  - the consultation was inclusive; and
  - the Day itself was handled very sensitively.
- 7.5 The overall consensus from those who took part in the initial day is that the Day of Private Reflection should be undertaken again.
- 7.6 Most of the individuals and organisations who had not been part of or did not know about the Day felt that they would like to contribute to any future days. Many Network Support Organisations indicated that they would be happy to promote the day among their members.
- 7.7 All aspects of the development of the Day were dealt with in a thoughtful inclusive manner. Consultation was widespread and staff and Sub Group members made every effort to facilitate debate and reach out to a broad spectrum of the community in Northern Ireland. Even those who were not supportive of the Day felt they had been engaged in the process.
- 7.8 The efforts to contact and engage with those who had lost loved ones on the 21st June and the development of the support line are examples of the sensitivity with which this process was undertaken.
- 7.9 The entire process was clearly underpinned by a sensitivity to others needs and views. At each stage of development the consistent question raised was *"How will this affect other people?"*
- 7.10 Issues still exist for initiatives such as a Day of Reflection. These include concerns raised that such a day is not important or relevant as other remembrance days already exist. A Day of Reflection raises concerns among those who feel that as victims of the conflict they are being, as one individual put it, *"asked to share a platform with perpetrators."*
- 7.11 The main message from the evaluation was that there was an eagerness to engage in such a Day.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

- 7.12 There was a lack of clarity about what constituted a “private” day and many requested help on this from HTR.
- 7.13 There was a sense, among many, that the Day of Private Reflection could focus on those who were, or felt they were, less affected by the conflict. This could be an opportunity for the wider society to see that they too were affected by events as well as to remember others. This is closely linked to one of the purposes of the Day to *“remember the men, women and children who on a daily basis live with the consequences of the conflict.”*
- 7.14 However, others expressed an opinion that they remembered every day and so did not see the need for a specific day of reflection. Others questioned the need for another day in addition to already well-established remembrance days.
- 7.15 HTR made a decision to make sure that the Day of Private Reflection was properly and sensitively organised. Therefore, there was considerable consultation with a range of organisations and individuals. Additionally, there was ongoing internal debate and discussion to help ensure that the Day was promoted properly.
- 7.16 However, this focus on consultation meant that the impact of the Day was not necessarily as widespread as might otherwise have been achieved. In other words choosing to do things properly had an effect on the impact and many in the wider community were not aware of the Day.
- 7.17 Additionally, HTR had limited resources to promote the Day of Private Reflection. There were limited resources for materials and most of the promotion fell to a small staff team and volunteers, largely from the Sub Group.
- 7.18 Given the restrictions it has been suggested by some individuals (both inside and outside the organisation) that HTR were overly ambitious in taking on this role. However, the feedback from individuals and representatives of organisations would indicate that this was a positive experience for those who took part. Additionally, many who did not take part indicated that they would like to be involved in the future.
- 7.19 There is clearly a hunger for many people to reflect and remember. HTR has provided a lead in promoting and supporting the opportunity for this to occur.
- 7.20 It is clear from discussion, from feedback, from emails to HTR and communication that the Day had a considerable and positive impact on many people. The view is clearly to repeat and expand.
- 7.21 Given that the Day of Private Reflection was promoted clearly as an opportunity to reflect in people’s own considered way, the response from the wider community was sensitive and low key. This was the ideal response wished by HTR.
- 7.22 Each organisation and individual had the choice of how they responded to this Day of Private Reflection. The fact that it was handled sensitively and appropriately is likely to be linked to the way that HTR promoted the Day, and the materials and support provided had a considerable effect on the tone and shape of the Day.



## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

- 7.23 If such a day is to be run again it will need to reflect the findings and recommendations in this report.
- 7.24 Finally, it is clear that at this stage the Day of Private Reflection was a positive initiative for many. There is clearly a need to continue to support this. At this stage there is no other organisation in a position to do so and as such HTR and the Sub Group should continue to support and promote this initiative in the future.

### 8. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 A number of recommendations are suggested which reflect the findings of the evaluation. These are listed below.
- 8.2 The process of developing, promoting and reviewing a Day of Private Reflection is important. Learning from this may be of value to others. It is, therefore recommended that, where appropriate, this process and its resultant publications are used to promote debate and provide support to others emerging from conflict situations.
- 8.3 Some organisations felt that initial discussions were not followed up and that there was a need for further dialogue beyond the Day of Private Reflection. HTR need to consider ways of maintaining contact and improving dialogue with organisations beyond the immediate consultation on the Day of Private Reflection.
- 8.4 The Day of Private Reflection was widely promoted. However some key sections of society were not particularly well engaged. For example, there was little targeting of older people. Older people form a group which may have most to reflect upon and much to offer others in supporting reflection. Consideration of how to access the key special interest groups and community fora organisations in Northern Ireland may help to ensure that there is wider awareness of, and support for, the Day of Private Reflection which included a wide range of special interest groups and sections of the community.
- 8.5 Many of the organisations contacted by the Sub Group to promote and take part in the Day of Private Reflection contributed widely and positively to the initiative. Other contacts were less successful. For example, a meeting with identified individuals in the youth sector had a limited response and failed to engage some potentially influential stakeholders. There is a need to review the list of contacts to ensure that they are in a position to promote and support the Day of Private Reflection at a strategic level. The Sub Group should review all of its key contacts and assess how beneficial this contact proved in promoting the Day of Private Reflection. These reviews should form the basis of further discussions to improve the level of their support for the initiative.
- 8.6 There was very limited response to the Day of Private Reflection beyond Northern Ireland. While this may put additional pressure on staff and on members of the Sub Group the Day of Private Reflection still needs to be promoted beyond Northern Ireland to recognise that the impact of the conflict goes beyond Northern Ireland.
- 8.7 While HTR and the Day of Reflection Sub Group were supportive to those wishing to be involved in the Day they felt it was not their role to suggest activities or ways in which people should take part. Yet this evaluation found that people would have welcomed more guidance. It is suggested that the Sub Group further support organisations and individuals to explore ways in which to take part in the Day of Private Reflection.

### Appendix I

#### Members of the Day of Reflection Sub Group 2007

**Seán Coll** is Community Victim Support Officer with the "Victim and Survivor Matters" programme of the Western Health and Social Care Trust (Southern Sector) based in Enniskillen. He is Chair of the Healing Through Remembering Day of Reflection Sub Group and member of the project Board. Living in County Cavan, he has worked in Fermanagh and Tyrone for over 15 years.

**Kevin Cooper** has been a press photographer for over 25 years. A trade union activist and Civic Forum member, he is interested in news and current affairs, freedom of expression, equality, human rights, truth, peace and reconciliation. He grew up in East Belfast now living north of the city. Former Vice Chair of the Sub Group.

**Michael Culbert** is the Director of the Republican ex- prisoners' association – Coiste. Also a member of the EHSSB Trauma Advisory Panel and Dunlewey Substance Advice Centre management, Michael worked fulltime as a counsellor in North Belfast for six years.

**Harold Good**, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, 2001 - 2002, has served congregations in Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and the USA. Currently, Chair of the Advice Services Alliance and formerly a member of the NI Human Rights Commission, Director of the Corrymeela Centre Ballycastle and Chair of NIACRO. In September 2005, was one of two independent witnesses to the decommissioning of the weapons of the IRA.

**Maura Kiely** is the founder of the Cross Group which has been in existence for 31 years.

**Alastair Kilgore** worked as a teacher in East Belfast. He is a member of the Corrymeela Community and has helped host families and individuals severely traumatised by the Troubles.

**Heather Kilgore** is a former general practitioner who worked in East Belfast. She is a member of the Corrymeela Community and has helped host families and individuals severely traumatised by the Troubles.

**Michaela Mackin** is Director of the Funding & Development Programme with the Community Relations Council. Since 1999, Michaela has been responsible for the management of financial resources and developmental support with groups working with victims and survivors of the Troubles.

**Frances McCandless** is Director of Policy at NICVA, the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector. She has worked in the sector in Northern Ireland and elsewhere for 16 years.

**Tommy McCay** is a retired primary school teacher with over 35 years experience in education. He has been a full time voluntary member of the Columba Community of Prayer and Reconciliation in Derry and Donegal for over 25 years.

**Kevin Mullan** is a native of Omagh. He has worked in the North West since the 1970s in a community and priestly role.

## Day of Private Reflection - Evaluation Report

---

**Martin Murphy** has been manager of the NOVA Trauma Support Service since it began, in August 1998. Part of the Barnardo's (NI) organisation, NOVA attempts to address the impacts of psychological trauma, including those directly related to the Troubles, on individuals, their families and communities.

**Andrew Rawding** is an Anglican priest. He was the Vice Chair of the Healing Through Remembering Day of Reflection Sub Group.

**Trevor Ringland** is a solicitor in Belfast. He is chairman of the One Small Step Campaign, which promotes a shared future where people work together constructively for their mutual benefit. He is also a trustee of the RUC George Cross Foundation and an independent member of the Policing Board.

**Bernice Swift** is Project Manager with Fírinne working on behalf of victims of State Violence throughout County Fermanagh. Through her campaigning work on victim's issues, Bernice was introduced to the political arena and is now also an elected Councillor for Sinn Féin on Fermanagh District Council.

## Appendix II

### Healing Through Remembering Staff 2007

**Elaine Armstrong** was the Administrative Assistant with Healing Through Remembering from August 2004 to March 2008.

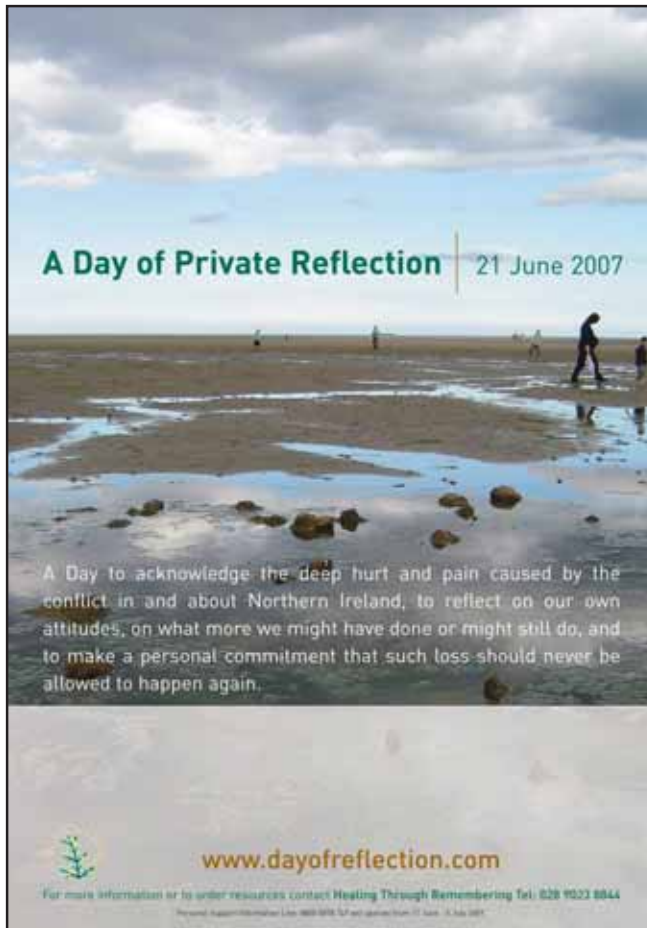
**Lainey Dunne** was the Communications Officer with Healing Through Remembering from August 2005 until September 2007.

**Jayne Reaves** has been an intern and a consultant with Healing Through Remembering since October 2006.

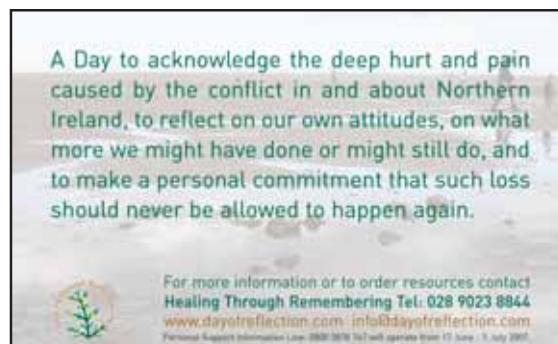
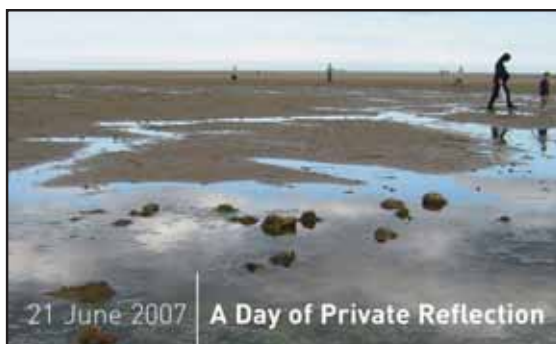
**Kate Turner** has been the Project Co-ordinator with Healing Through Remembering since December 2000. She has twenty years experience in the voluntary sector.

## Appendix III

### Materials for the Day of Private Reflection 21 June 2007



Poster (not actual size)



Wallet card (not actual size)

**Other Resources**  
Organisations and groups are encouraged to develop their own materials to aid reflection and to facilitate their members' engagement with and participation in the Day of Private Reflection. A list of other resources which have been developed is available in the resources section on [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com)

**Evaluation**  
An important element of this initial Day of Private Reflection will be the evaluation of the impact and public response to the Day. This evaluation will help inform the decision on whether a Day of Reflection should be held in future years and if so how.

The evaluation process will address both the planning of the Day and the impact of the Day.

If you or your organisation is planning to engage in the Day of Private Reflection we would value your participation in the evaluation process. Please contact us for more details.

**Support**  
HTR has met with a number of organisations and groups to ensure they are aware of the Day of Private Reflection, and prepared to meet the needs of their members, or the public, regarding this Day.

If you require further support please contact our freephone support information line 0800 5876 747 for details of relevant support services and agencies.

This line will operate from 17 June – 5 July 2007 to provide support information as appropriate.

**Who We Are**  
The Day of Private Reflection is an initiative of Healing Through Remembering and its Day of Reflection Sub-Group.

Healing Through Remembering is a cross-community organisation focused on ways of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The organisation is made up of a range of individuals from different political perspectives and social experiences and has been in existence since 1997.

**Members of the Day of Reflection Sub Group**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jeanette Chapman | Michaela Mackin    |
| Sean Coll        | Frances McCandless |
| Roslin Cooper    | Tommy McCay        |
| Michael Culbert  | Kevin Mullan       |
| Harold Good      | Martin Murphy      |
| Tony Kennedy     | Andrew Rowling     |
| Maura Kiely      | Trevor Ringland    |
| Alastair Kilgore | Bernice Swift      |
| Heather Kilgore  |                    |

**Contact Details**  
Day of Reflection  
Healing Through Remembering  
Allison Street  
17a Omeauk Avenue  
Belfast  
BT2 8JG  
Tel: +44 (0)181 502 3100  
www.dayofreflection.com

**What is the Day of Private Reflection**  
This initial Day of Private Reflection on Thursday, 21 June 2007 is an initiative proposed by Healing Through Remembering (HTR).

The idea for private reflection was part of an original recommendation made in 2002 in the Report of the Healing Through Remembering Project, June 2002. This report followed a public consultation on ways of dealing with the past.

Following local and international research into the recommendation for a Day of Reflection HTR is inviting people to take the opportunity to privately reflect. Research and consultation suggests such an initiative can benefit both individuals and wider society.

The Day of Private Reflection is offered as an inclusive and positive event that emphasises a commitment to a peaceful new society. It provides a voluntary opportunity for everyone in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain and further afield to reflect upon the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and the future that is before us.

The Day of Private Reflection on 21 June 2007 is offered as a day for personal, private and individual reflection, for example, at home or at work, within a family, group or organisation.

Public events will not be a feature of the Day.

This initial Day of Private Reflection will be evaluated to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this initiative in future years – and if so in what format.

**Why 21 June?**  
The date was chosen following thorough research into possible dates for such a day. This highlighted that there is no single date in the calendar year which is not the anniversary of the death of at least one person in relation to the conflict.

It was felt that 21 June, the summer solstice and the longest day of the year, was a symbolically important day. The striking relationship between the hours of light and dark could be seen as a symbol of the past and hope in our society. It is a day that is forward-looking and backward-looking at the same time. It is a day which represents a pause in the cycle of nature, a moment to reflect. Furthermore, the day's significance is related to a naturally occurring event and nature makes no distinction between races, creeds or political perspectives.

**Purpose of the Day of Private Reflection**  
The Day of Private Reflection offers an opportunity for us all:

- to acknowledge the deep hurt and loss caused by the conflict in and about Northern Ireland,
- to remember the men, women and children who on a daily basis live with the consequences of the conflict,
- to reflect on our own attitudes that might have the potential to negatively impact on others and society,
- to reflect on what more each of us might have done or might still do to uphold and enhance all other people's right to life and quality of life, and
- to make a personal commitment that, as we begin to move forward as a society, such loss should never be allowed to happen again.

**Getting Involved**  
The Day of Private Reflection is a voluntary opportunity for those in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland to engage in personal, private and individual reflection on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

While the emphasis is not upon events for the Day of Private Reflection, all groups can be involved by raising awareness among their members and/or offering a place where reflection could take place, facilitating reflection, or assisting in developing materials which would aid and enable meaningful reflection.

The following are some suggestions, made by groups and individuals, of ways of reflecting that you may like to consider:

- A moment of silence
- Reading an appropriate poem
- Saying a prayer
- Sharing your story or listening to someone else's story
- Meditation
- Recording your memories and hopes in a book or journal
- Visiting a place of worship or other reflective place

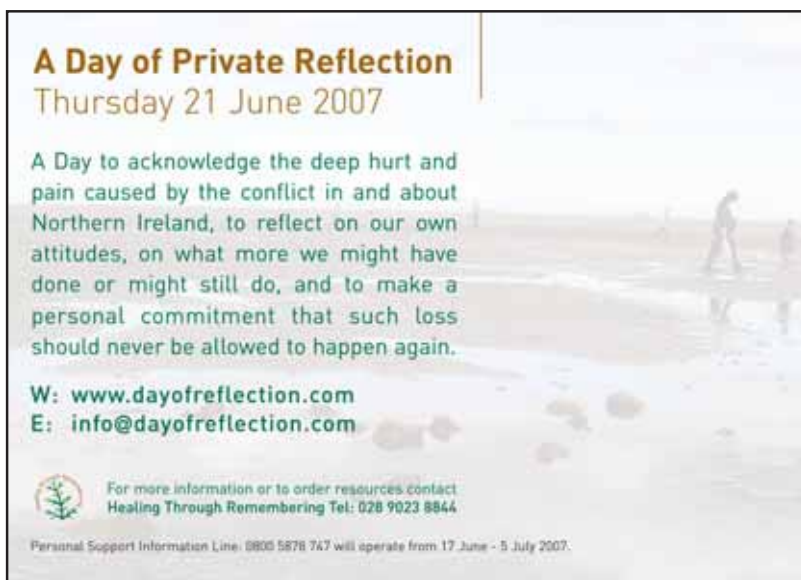
**Materials**  
A number of information, guidance and promotional materials for the Day of Private Reflection have been developed. These include:

- Posters
- Postcards
- Bookmarks
- Wallet cards
- Leaflets

All materials are free of charge and can be ordered from the HTR office or online at [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com)

Leaflet (not actual size)



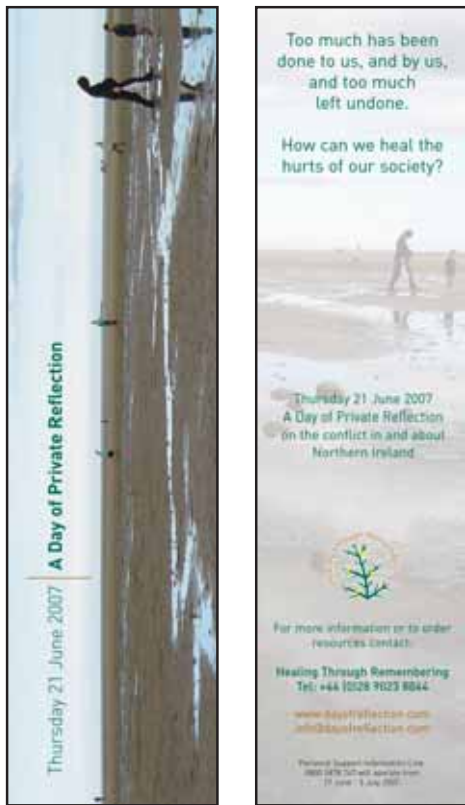


Postcard (not actual size)



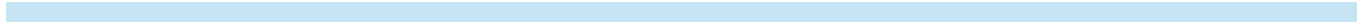


Website home page (not actual size)



Bookmark (not actual size)

**Notes**





### Contact Details

Day of Reflection  
Healing Through Remembering  
Alexander House  
17a Ormeau Avenue  
Belfast  
BT2 8HD

Tel: +44 (0)28 9023 8844  
Fax: +44 (0)28 9023 9944  
Email: [info@dayofreflection.com](mailto:info@dayofreflection.com)  
Website: [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com)