



# Healing Through Remembering Annual Report 2015



  
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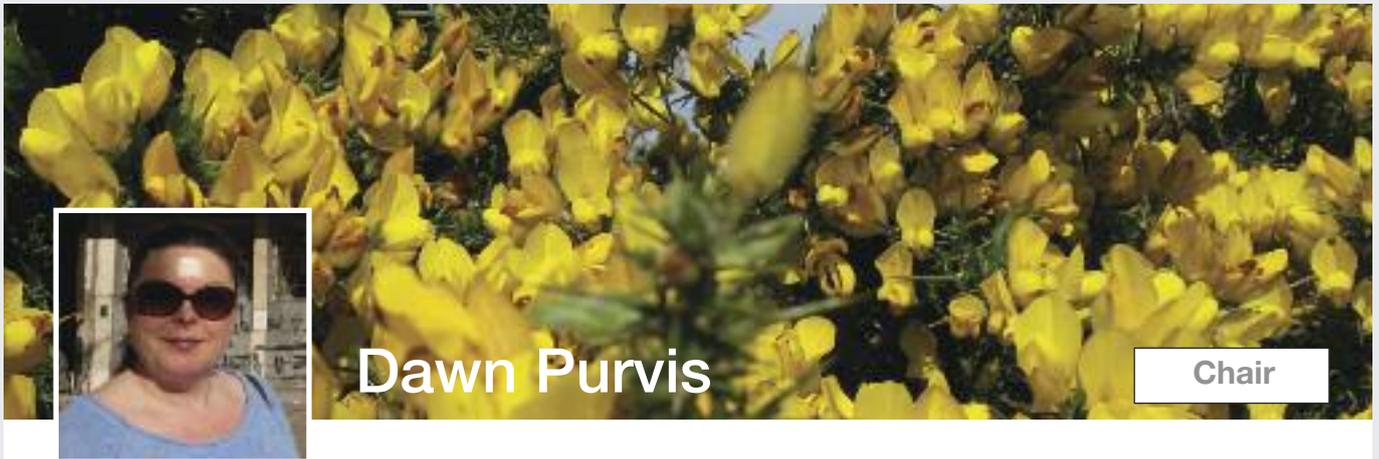


# Healing Through Remembering

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**Dawn Purvis** shared her thoughts

30 September at 11.19

## Chair Introduction

While we all await political progress on the Stormont House Agreement legacy proposals, Healing Through Remembering will continue to meet with decision makers, community groups, politicians and others to inform the ongoing debate.

These are difficult and sensitive issues, but it is clear to see how much work on this area - at all levels - has progressed over recent years. All this of course takes place in the continuing environment of the significant historical anniversaries which are currently being marked.

It is hoped to secure funding for small projects that respond to legacy proposals and that continue to help communities consider the wider implications of how we do - and don't - remember the recent, and distant, past.

HTR continues to offer a safe space for dialogue and discussion. The variety of international visitors - students, researchers, museum curators - shows the hope that we can not only find a way forward for our own society but also offer learning that is relevant for other situations.

HTR will continue to share its resources and to facilitate further discussion as we all seek to find ways to best address the legacy of the past.

As ever I would like to thank the staff team, the members, the Board and our funders for their ongoing commitment to the aims and objectives of HTR.

**Dawn Purvis**  
Chair





**Kate Turner** shared her thoughts

30 September at 11.20

## 2015 Overview

During 2015 Healing Through Remembering (HTR) responded to internal organisational changes as well as external political changes.

The Day of Reflection and Everyday Objects Exhibition both continued to offer accessible ways to remember and consider the past while focusing on the future.

The Stories Network briefing paper sought to bring attention to an area of the Stormont House Agreement which was receiving less attention than other elements of the proposals. This document - written by the diverse membership of the Network - offered points for consideration based on the original proposal in the Agreement.

Amongst the international engagement was a continued involvement with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and meetings with the Pablo de Greiff, the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-Reoccurrence. HTR also made a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

Throughout the year HTR's work remained rooted in its guiding themes and principles, i.e. commitment to consultation and engagement with diverse stakeholders. It continued its role as a resource to inform debate on how to address the legacy of the past.

**Kate Turner**  
Director



# Dealing with the past in and about Northern Ireland

## HTR Activities

Healing Through Remembering continued to develop the five key strands of work which have guided the organisation since the 2002 Report of the Healing Through Remembering Project. Newly outlined proposals for each strand were presented in the 2014 *Are We There Yet?* report, and were reflected in the activities carried out in 2015.



### Healing Through Remembering

Published by HTR - 27 September at 10:38

#### Key Strands of Work

##### Truth Recovery & Acknowledgement

Development of the Acknowledgement Report continued, and was shaped by members of the Truth Recovery and Acknowledgement working group who met to consult on how best to proceed with the project. The aim of the report was to be a tool for organisations and institutions to use while crafting statements of acknowledgement. It is particularly pertinent as proposals contained in the Stormont House Agreement (SHA) state that major institutions should provide statements of acknowledgement about their respective roles in the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

It was decided that the report should be published at an appropriate time to coincide with development of the SHA proposals. Publication of the report was therefore postponed to ensure its impact and relevance at the time of its launch. As such, HTR continued to incorporate new statements of acknowledgement and examples of group engagement with acknowledgement and truth recovery as they arose.

A key resource in the drafting and re-drafting process was HTR's Apology and Acknowledgement Database, compiled over several years and updated as groups and individuals acknowledged and/or apologised for conflict-related events. At the end of 2015, it contained over 150 apology and acknowledgement statements, including 93 statements directly referencing the conflict, five historic and 24 international statements as well as 28 calls for apology and/or acknowledgement by various groups.

##### Commemoration

Healing Through Remembering continued to take part in ongoing discussions held by other groups and organisations on the Decade of Centenaries. HTR engaged with a range of stakeholders involved in commemoration work including, but not limited to, community groups, political representatives, statutory bodies, non-profits and educational institutions.

##### Day of Reflection

The 21 June 2015 marked the ninth annual Day of Reflection. As in previous years, many different organisations took the opportunity to pause and facilitate personal, private and individual reflection.

To help raise awareness of the Day of Reflection and coordinate with groups interested in marking the Day a fieldworker was appointed. He provided invaluable resources to support and helped coordinate activities between HTR and participating groups on the Day.

A number of organisations continued to show support for the Day of Reflection, holding their own events to offer people different ways to reflect.

Healing Through Remembering provided a public space in the Linen Hall Library to reflect. The event included guest readings and HTR provided a range of films and other resources to aid reflection. Panels

were displayed from the Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition, various publications such as *Lost Lives* were available to browse and short films such as *Ordinary Objects Extraordinary Times* and *When the Summit is Shrouded in the Mist* were screened. Reflective pieces were read by Paul McLaughlin (NIMMA/HTR Member), Suzi Swain (HTR Delivery Partner) and Thomas Wilkinson (HTR Administrator). Participants were also invited to share their thoughts on the HTR Thought Wall and create their own gorse pins.

WAVE Trauma Centre, Belfast held their 2015 Day of Reflection in the Garden of Hope on their premises. The event began with a Day of Reflection lecture by Reverend Dr Johnston McMaster, before WAVE members made contributions by performing personal pieces they developed in reflection. To mark the 2015 Day of Reflection, WAVE also planted a memorial rose garden.

Children in Northern Ireland encouraged teachers and youth workers to assemble lesson plans, discussion guides and supportive media to enable children and young people to reflect on the past and discuss the kind of society they would like in the future.

### Living Memorial Museum

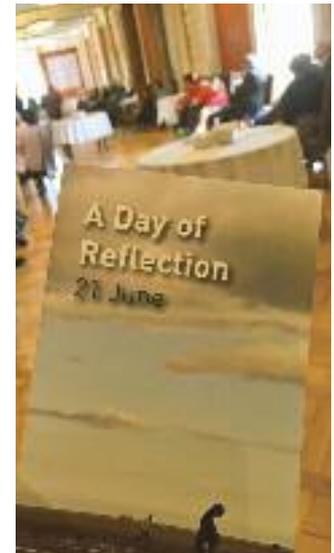
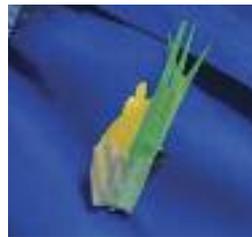
The Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict exhibition continued in 2015 to serve as a public resource to spark discussions around remembering and the past as well as provide space for reflection and engagement.

The exhibition returned to its shop front location on Queen Street in Belfast City Centre during the summer months, and was open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00-15:00. During that time the exhibition drew in nearly 90 individuals who included locals, tourists and visiting groups.

Several new objects were added to the exhibition in 2015.

As in previous years, visitors were encouraged to leave comments about the exhibition on luggage tags, which provided HTR with an indication of public responses to this type of project.

The exhibition was promoted by Visit Belfast as a local site to visit, and the subject of a Discover Society article.



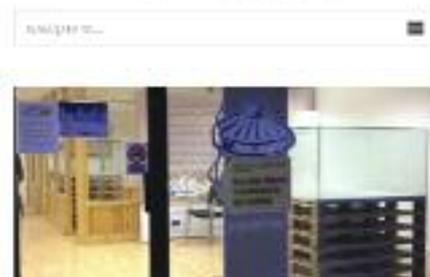
## Storytelling

Healing Through Remembering continued to host and chair The Stories Network (TSN), a network for those gathering and sharing personal narratives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. In 2015, the Network gained several new members and expanded its remit.

The Network was established as a resource for those involved in gathering and sharing conflict-related narratives to learn from one other, share expertise and promote good practice in relation to their work in storytelling.

In 2015, however, the Network began to act collectively. In particular, the Network presented themselves as a resource to those shaping the Oral History Archive (OHA) proposed in the 2014 Stormont House Agreement.

The Network produced *The Stories Network: Briefing Paper on the Oral History Elements of the Stormont House Agreement* and disseminated it widely. This Briefing Paper was an opportunity for the Network to compile and record their diverse learning on specific aspects of story gathering work in an attempt to influence policy. The paper was sent to political representatives, civil servants, the Public Records Office (PRONI), the Northern Ireland Office and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. It was also disseminated by Network members within their personal networks and used in HTR meetings with key decision makers as part of wider conversations.



## Local and International Engagement

Healing Through Remembering built upon its local and international network in 2015. This involved engagement with a variety of stakeholders in discussions related to the five key strands of work and more general issues related to dealing with the past. The Board and membership have met with politicians, community groups, student groups, international non-governmental bodies and government representatives.



## Work with Officials

HTR maintained and expanded relationships with local and international officials responsible for influencing and shaping policy on the legacy of the past.

### United National Special Rapporteur Pablo de Greiff

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, was invited by the UK government to visit Northern Ireland and to assess progress in addressing the legacy of conflict according to his mandate. On 13 November 2015 he met with HTR members to discuss issues around community interfaces, community dialogue and truth-telling.

### Joint Oireachtas Committee on Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement

HTR was invited to present on legacy issues in Northern Ireland as they affect victims/survivors and relatives. The Joint Committee considers issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement, and ongoing developments in relation to the implementation of the Agreement.



## Seminars and Presentations

HTR presented and shared its learning with new audiences at conferences, lectures and other panel or roundtable events. HTR also continued to work with academic, statutory and community organisations including the Victims and Survivors Forum and Prison to Peace, and was invited to events at Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and Aras an Uachtaráin.



## Work with Organisations from Other Countries

HTR maintained its status internationally as a resource for those holding conversations and doing work around how societies can remember conflict in a way that facilitates healing, and welcomed the opportunity to learn from those in other contexts.

### International Coalition for Sites of Conscience

HTR continued to participate in meetings to share learning about transforming places that preserve the past into dynamic spaces that promote civic action. In 2015, the HTR Director was appointed to the Board of Trustees for the European Sites of Conscience Network.

### Center for Health and Unification of Korea in Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

The group was conducting research on 'Social Trauma and Social Healing', in an attempt to recover and move forward from the war between the Republic of Korea and North Korea.



## Student Groups

HTR hosted a number of local and international student groups learning about how societies emerging from conflict deal with the legacy of the past, and the different types of organisations and projects aimed at facilitating this work.

- Queen's University Belfast
- Ulster University, International Conflict Research Institute
- Hebrew University (Jerusalem, Israel)
- Utah Valley University (Utah, USA)
- Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (USA)



## Interviews

The work of HTR drew interest from a number of researchers in 2015 and, when possible, HTR gave interviews about the organisation and its process.

## Resources and Communication

Healing Through Remembering continued in 2015 to function as a resource, gathering learning and information and producing outputs that were accessible to wide range of audiences.

**The Stories Network: Briefing Paper on the Oral History Elements of the Stormont House Agreement**  
A briefing paper produced by The Stories Network as a response to the Stormont House Agreement (SHA) proposal for an Oral History Archive (OHA). The briefing paper contained the Network's considerations relating to archiving existing stories, the gathering of new stories, the sharing and wider use of new and existing stories and the OHA and SHA more broadly. The Briefing Paper also demonstrated how the diversity of voices present in the Network can enrich the conversation on storytelling and oral history.



## Newspaper Articles Archive

The Healing Through Remembering Newspaper Article Archive, containing articles identified as broadly relevant to the legacy of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, was donated to the Linen Hall Library's Political Collection. The Archive was always intended as a public resource, and its inclusion in the Political Collection made it accessible to a much wider audience.

## Website

In 2015, work began to re-design the HTR website to a more modern and user friendly platform. This was an opportunity to update the website to better reflect the work of HTR as it evolved over the years and provide access to its vast resources.

The HTR main website had a decrease in visits by 47%, due in part to periods of time where the website was not live. 78% of these, however, were new visitors. The main international visitors this year were from USA, Brazil, South Korea, Canada, Italy, France, India and Spain.

The Day of Reflection and Everyday Objects websites had peaks of visitors coinciding with the months and weeks around the Day of Reflection on 21 June and the months during which the exhibition was open in Queen Street respectively.

## Social Media

HTR's social media presence includes Facebook and Twitter accounts for HTR, the Day of Reflection, the Everyday Objects exhibition and – as of 2015 – The Stories Network. The main HTR accounts continue to function primarily as a news service for articles and commentary relating to dealing with the legacy of the past in and about Northern Ireland. The other dedicated accounts function to publicise events and the exhibition.

In 2015, the main HTR Facebook page gained 58 new followers and its top post reached 1651 people. The main HTR Twitter account gained 106 new followers, and the top tweet accrued 1495 'impressions'.





## Board of Directors - 9



Dawn Purvis



Irwin Turbitt



Pat Sheehan



Oliver Wilkinson



Brandon Hamber



Geraldine Smyth



Claire Hackett



Alan McBride



Brian Lambkin

**Dawn Purvis**  
Chairperson

**Oliver Wilkinson**  
Secretary

**Claire Hackett**  
Treasurer

**Irwin Turbitt**  
Responsibility: Day of Reflection

**Brandon Hamber**  
Responsibility: Storytelling

**Alan McBride**  
Co-optee

**Pat Sheehan**  
Responsibility: Truth Recovery  
and Acknowledgement

**Geraldine Smyth**  
Responsibility: Commemoration

**Brian Lambkin**  
Responsibility:  
Living Memorial Museum



## Staff / Interns / Consultants - 9



Kate Turner



Thomas Wilkinson



Kate Loughran



James Grant



Sarah Jankowitz



Lee Purvis



Patrick Maguire



Ruairí Rowan



Evan Whetsell

### Staff

Kate Turner  
Director

James Grant  
Finance & Personnel Manager

Patrick Maguire  
Administrator

Thomas Wilkinson  
Administrator

### Consultants

Ruairí Rowan  
Day of Reflection Fieldworker

Sarah Jankowitz  
Social Media Consultant

### Interns

Kate Loughran

Lee Purvis

Evan Whetsell

### Thanks

HTR thanks the following for ongoing support and encouragement:

Fire Defence – fire and security sales and service, Cunningham and Dickey solicitors, Ronnie Horner



**Claire Hackett** shared her calculations

27 September at 11.59

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(incorporating income and expenditure account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>					
Other Income		-	2,261	2,261	2,469
Investment income		-	-	-	3
Incoming resources from charitable activities	1	171,574	11,465	183,039	215,946
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>171,574</u>	<u>13,726</u>	<u>185,300</u>	<u>218,418</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenses		13,460	-	13,460	22,719
Charitable activities		91,379	6,383	97,762	210,048
Governance costs		3,071	-	3,071	3,302
<b>Total resources expended</b>	2	<u>107,910</u>	<u>6,383</u>	<u>114,293</u>	<u>236,069</u>
<b>Net income (expenditure) for the year</b>					
Transfer between funds		63,664	7,343	71,007	(17,651)
Total funds at 1 January 2015		<u>17,814</u>	<u>18,346</u>	<u>36,160</u>	<u>53,811</u>
<b>Total funds at 31 December 2015</b>		<u><u>81,478</u></u>	<u><u>25,689</u></u>	<u><u>107,167</u></u>	<u><u>36,160</u></u>



**James Grant** checked the calculations

27 September at 11.59

## 2015 OVERVIEW

	Restricted funds 2015 £	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
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**Note 1**

**Other Incoming Resources**

Grants receivable for core activities	171,574	11,465	183,039	215,946
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**Grants receivable for core activities**

**Restricted funds:**

	2015 £	2014 £
Voyager PEACE III SEUPB Grant	-	156,949
Northern Ireland Community Relations Council	3,475	1,971
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade – Reconciliation Fund	38,748	7,676
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	128,521	37,759
Duke University	-	1,004
Awards for All	-	7,991
St Anne’s Cathedral Sit-Out for Charity	800	800
The Queen’s University Belfast	-	1,100
University of Ulster	-	100
Cinemobile	30	510
Unfinished Business Project	-	86
	171,574	215,946

**Note 2**

In 2015, expenditure on charitable activities (£114,293) includes the following::

	2015 £
Employment costs	64,529
Rent	22,384
Consultants	9,436
Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,713
Audit & Accountancy	2,593
Travel	825
Telephone & Fax	1,106
Advertising, Design & PR	2,481
<b>Total</b>	105,067



## Healing Through Remembering Annual Report 2015



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