



## Consultative Group on the Past

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

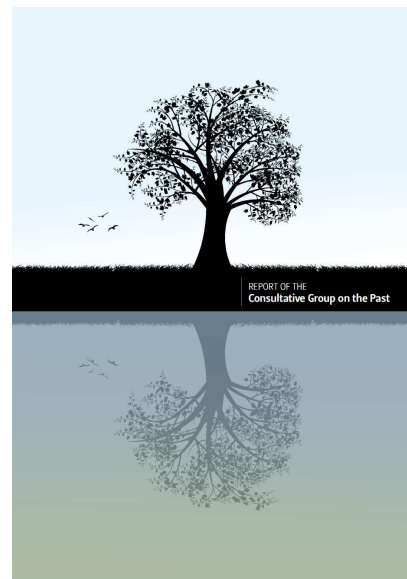
The report builds on the work of Healing Through Remembering and supports the view, long held by the organisation, that there is need for society to address the issues relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland in order to build a more peaceful future.

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

Brandon Hamber, Chair of Healing Through Remembering said "The report offers an opportunity to genuinely engage with the difficult issue of the past. Few places have consulted so widely in their deliberations on such issues. We should not squander opportunities for dialogue on these thorny issues on

the back of political posturing. Let's debate the recommendations and try and find a measured way of taking this issue forward."

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



For further information and for a full downloadable copy of the report please visit [www.cgpmi.org](http://www.cgpmi.org)

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

## Healing Through Remembering and Peace III

### 'Whatever you say, say something'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information on the project please visit the HTR website at [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org) or contact the HTR office using the details below.

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# 21 June 2009 - Day of Private Reflection

## Launch of the Day of Private Reflection



This year's Day of Private Reflection on Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 was launched at Healing Through Remembering.

Sean Coll, Chair of the Day of Reflection Sub Group, made clear the aim of the day stating that: "People from Northern Ireland, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and further afield

are invited to reflect individually and privately, on the past conflict, and the future. It is a day to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict, to reflect on our own attitudes, on what more we might have done or might still do, and to make a personal commitment that such loss should never be allowed to happen again."

The first Day of Private Reflection was in 2007 – on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The longest day of the year was selected because of its symbolic importance. The hours of light and dark could be seen as a symbol of the hope and pain in our society. This year's Day of Private Reflection coincides with Father's Day and so will have added poignancy for some.

The independent evaluations of the Day carried out in 2007 and 2008 indicated public support for the initiative, "There is a general positive attitude about the Day of Private Reflection initiative and many in the community welcome this as an opportunity to reflect on the past." The evaluation recommended that the emphasis should continue to be on private reflection.

The most common means of reflection was a private space or "quiet time" – in churches, offices or public buildings and spaces. The evaluation also indicated that people participating in the Day of Private Reflection last year found the support materials produced by Healing Through Remembering to be particularly helpful. Most importantly, the evaluation recommended continuation of the Day in 2009.

Healing Through Remembering have produced materials for 2009, including postcards, leaflets and bookmarks. These are available free of charge from the HTR office. For further information please visit the Day of Reflection website [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com).



## Day of Private Reflection— Evaluation 2008

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

The evaluation made the following points;

- There is still a general positive attitude about the Day of Private Reflection initiative and many in the community welcome this as an opportunity to reflect on the past.
- There is still a sense that this has a stronger resonance among the Nationalist community than the Unionist community. However, there is a move to more positive engagement from parts of the Unionist community who would have been previously less open to the idea of a Day of Private Reflection.
- HTR could explore the potential for the Day of Private Reflection to be linked to other initiatives which deal

with the past, that are currently taking place amongst communities and organisations.

- As with the previous Day of Private Reflection there is a concern from many in the public arena that they are not sure how they should get involved in the initiative.
- In 2009 HTR must take into consideration sensitivities due to the fact that the Day of Private Reflection falls on a Sunday and also coincides with Father's Day.

Overall the evaluation concluded.

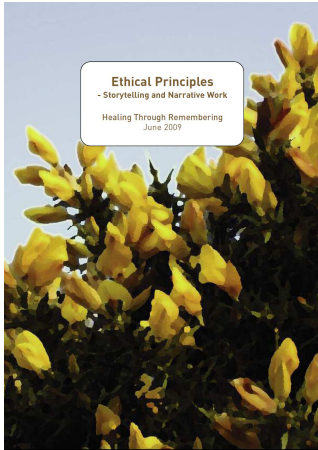
***"Bearing in mind these considerations and responding to the recommendations in the report, the Day of Private Reflection should go ahead as this is increasingly seen as positive by many and non-threatening by others."***

A summary of the evaluation is available on the HTR website [www.dayofreflection.com](http://www.dayofreflection.com) and full copies of the evaluations of 21 June 2007 and 21 June 2008 will be available shortly from the office of Healing Through Remembering.

## Forthcoming Events

### Storytelling Report Launch

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



### Ethical Principles - Storytelling and Narrative Work Launch

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at  
10:30am at  
Healing Through  
Remembering

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

### HTR Members Meeting

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

### Kate Turner - Director

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

### James Grant - Finance and Personnel Officer

James is an accountant and former CEO of Northlands with considerable experience in the community and voluntary sector. James manages all financial aspects of the 'Whatever you say, say something' project.

### Claire Smith - Administrator

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

### Angus Lambkin - Project Coordinator

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

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

**Ruairi Rowan** is working as an intern on HTR communications and media.



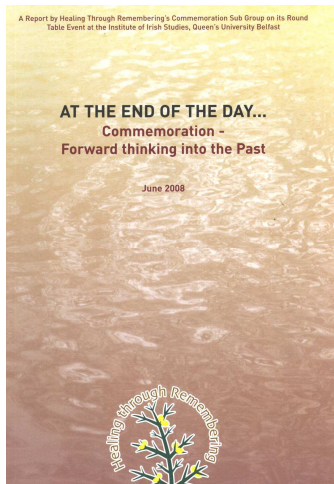
## Recent Events

### At The End of the Day... Commemoration – Forward thinking into the Past

Healing Through Remembering organised an event on Commemoration to build on the work of the Sub Group and ensure wide dissemination of work already undertaken and to expand the debate on why, how, where and when our past conflict and all our losses will be commemorated.

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

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



## AT A GLANCE ...

### Commemoration

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

### Storytelling

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

### Day of Reflection

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

### Truth Recovery and Acknowledgement

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

### Living Memorial Museum

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

Visit [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org) for regular updates on the work of HTR.

# PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

## HTR REPORTS TO ORDER

Copies of all reports produced and published by Healing Through Remembering are available to order direct from the Healing Through Remembering offices or online in the resources section of the HTR website [www.healingthroughremembering.org](http://www.healingthroughremembering.org)

Full list of publications now available to order

Momentum and Change 2008

Day of Private Reflection: 2007 and 2008 Evaluations

Making Peace with the Past: Options for truth recovery regarding the conflict in and about Northern Ireland

Making Peace with the Past - Executive Summary

The Viability of Prosecution Based on Historical Enquiry

Acknowledgement & Its Role in Preventing Future Violence

A Day of Private Reflection: Discussion Paper and Proposal

A Day of Reflection: Local Scoping Study

Conference Report: Storytelling as the Vehicle?

International Experiences of Days of Remembrance and Reflection

Storytelling Audit: An audit of personal story, narrative and testimony initiatives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland

The Report of the Healing Through Remembering Project 2002

## HTR EVENTS

### Commemoration Report Launch

10th June 2009

10:30am

Healing Through Remembering  
Office

### Storytelling

#### Ethical Principles Launch

24th June 2009

10:30am

Healing Through Remembering  
Office

### Members Meeting

September 2009

Date to be confirmed



## EVENTS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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

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

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

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

World Refugee Day - 20 June

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

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

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

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

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

Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace -  
Understanding the Human impact of conflict  
Survivors for Peace - 12 July

Epilogues - 'Exploring the Conflict'  
Summer School - 10-14 August



### European Union

European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future

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