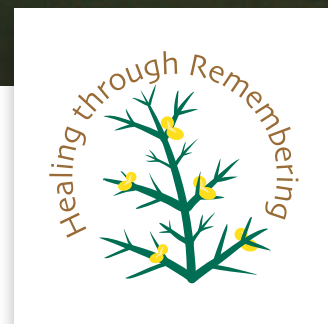


→ Annual Report 2017





Report Author - Sara Templer  
Photo credits - Healing Through Remembering

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## Chair's Introduction →

Commentators will look back at 2017 as yet another defining moment in the politics and dynamics of conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The collapse of the Assembly in January was a low point in the evolution of the peace process, and the failure to re-establish power sharing by the end of the year is cause for deep concern across society. The absence of an Assembly has significant implications for the delivery and improvement of services across all sectors, and has stalled political discussion and progress in relation to the *Stormont House Agreement* and *Fresh Start* proposals. In the absence of clear direction and action, the current piecemeal approach to engaging with legacy issues has continued, with painful and divisive stories emerging in the press from the courts and the Office for the Police Ombudsman, and ongoing delays to the delivery of outstanding Legacy Inquests.

In this context, it seems that the work of Healing Through Remembering, and our longstanding commitment to fostering civic discussion around the challenges of dealing with the past, has never been so relevant. Recognising this, the Board, staff, and friends of the organisation have worked hard this year to maintain HTR's active outreach and engagement profile. We are proud to report that, despite the funding and logistical challenges that the organisation has faced, this has been a fruitful year. The activity described in this report has reaffirmed and expanded the relationships that HTR has built over the years, and demonstrated the value and necessity of creating spaces in this challenging landscape for dialogue, learning, and shared reflection on a better way forward.

**Dawn Purvis**  
Chair

# OVERVIEW

## 2017 Overview →

While 2017 will always be remembered as the year we had to move from our extensive offices in Alexander House, Ormeau Avenue due to reduced finance there were a number of other key activities. The office move was a huge task that was accomplished with the help of our Board, interns, former interns and friends: our thanks is due to everyone who lent a hand in the sorting, packing, and relocation process. Despite the inevitable disruption, we are proud to report that HTR successfully contributed to the *International Network of Museums for Peace Conference* hosted in Belfast in April, and recruited a Pilot Coordinator to ensure ongoing outreach, delivery of key events including the Day of Reflection and Everyday Objects

Exhibition, and continued hosting of The Stories Network. By October, the new more compact office was fully operational and representing the organisation as a friendly accessible venue suitable for meeting and discussion. Having consolidated our work and resources in this way, we are looking forward to 2018, hopeful that the new year will bring some clarity and resolution to the prevailing political uncertainty. We are mindful that, whatever happens next, legacy issues will remain high on the public agenda. In that context, HTR remains ready to draw on the research, resources, and learning we have developed up to now, to support the debate around how to deal with the past and build a better future.

**Kate Turner**  
Director

## HTR Activities

### Office Move

In 2017, the HTR Board agreed to relocate the organisation to smaller and more cost-effective premises. Following a review of the options available, it was important that the organisation should relocate to an accessible building with shared meeting facilities, within easy distance of public transport routes. On this basis, HTR moved to its new office in Bryson House on Bedford Street, Belfast in August 2017.

The process of planning, sorting, downsizing, packing, and moving the office – home to HTR for

more than 10 years – was a considerable project that spanned several months and involved practical and logistical support from HTR’s Board Members, staff, current and previous interns, and associates and friends.

Despite the labour intensive and disruptive nature of this work, HTR maintained its public profile and open door over the course of the year, and continued to deliver on its objectives to conduct outreach and engagement in relation to dealing with the past.



## International Network of Museums for Peace Conference

As reported in 2016, the HTR Director Kate Turner and Board Member Brandon Hamber were invited to participate in the advisory group for the *International Network of Museums for Peace* Conference hosted in Belfast in April 2017. The conference took place as planned, with HTR making a significant contribution to the event. Specifically, HTR enabled the participation of six community-based speakers who facilitated meaningful exchange of experience, perspectives, and views both during and after the event; HTR secured attendance bursaries funded by the Community Relations Council for four of these speakers.

HTR also staged the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict* Exhibition in the conference foyer, raising public awareness of both the exhibition and the work of HTR in general.

## Pilot Co-Ordinator

In late November 2016, HTR secured funding from the William Cadbury Trust for a Pilot Co-Ordinator to lead on the delivery of a series of events and activities in 2017. This enabled the organisation to continue to deliver its outreach and engagement activities, including the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict* Exhibition and the *Day of Reflection*, while also undertaking the office move.



## HTR Activities

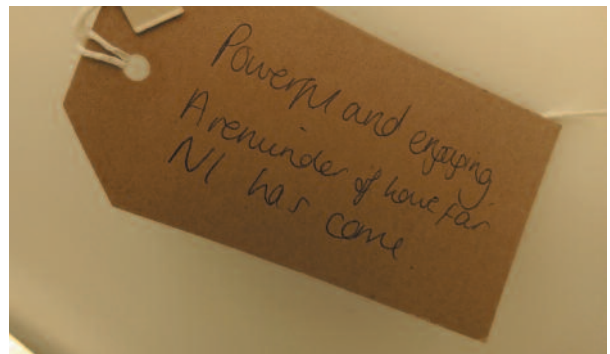
### Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition

Following the *International Network of Museums for Peace Conference*, HTR engaged with community-based venues to enable public access to the Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition.

Over the course of the year, the Exhibition was hosted by Intercomm, North Belfast (August to September), Girdwood Community Hub, North Belfast (September to October) and The Training for Women Network, East Belfast (October 2017 – April

2018). A range of community venues are being investigated for 2018. The hosting organisations coordinated events and seminars around the Exhibition in each case.

Contact was maintained with a range of other local museums and exhibitions which look at the past with the aim of informing society so we can all create a better future.





## Day of Reflection

HTR marked the eleventh annual Day of Reflection on 21st June 2017 by hosting an event at the Linen Hall Library. Building on events held in previous years, HTR convened a number of contributors from a range of backgrounds including academics, faith-based leaders, the community and voluntary sector, and the media. Space was made available for these contributors and members of the public to reflect on the past and the future that is before us: they shared memories, selected poetry and prose readings and viewed the *HTR Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Times* films.

A number of Day of Reflection activities were also organised by different groups and organisations across Northern Ireland, Ireland, and Great Britain. Members of the public here and further afield followed the day on social media, following the dedicated Twitter handle @DayofReflection.



## The Stories Network

The Stories Network continued to meet regularly throughout the year. The meeting continues to provide a unique platform for sharing information and good practice, and developing relationships between organisations involved in storytelling and oral history work across the region.

## Stormont House Agreement Legacy Resource

The HTR Discussion Resource on the Legacy Elements of the *Stormont House Agreement*, published in March 2016 and launched with diverse stakeholders in Belfast, Armagh and Derry, is a user-friendly guide to the legacy proposals outlined within the Agreement.

In 2017, HTR continued to conduct formal and informal outreach with community-based organisations, individuals, and networks to disseminate the resource and encourage discussion and engagement in relation to the proposals. It is anticipated that government will conduct a public consultation on the proposals.

## International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC)

The HTR Director was re-asked to remain as a trustee of the European branch of the ICOSOC for a further third year, and attended its annual meeting at Terazin in Prague in November 2017.

## HTR Activities

### Local and International Engagement: Seminars, Group Visits, Workshops

As in previous years, during 2017 the HTR Director and members of the Board and wider organisation represented HTR by delivering seminars, lectures, and facilitated discussions around dealing with the past and the work of the organisation. In this way, HTR continued to engage with a wide range of local, regional, and international partners and the public.

Some examples of this activity included:

- Engagement with the Commission for Victims and Survivors, Belfast City Council, and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs;
- Delivery of seminars for postgraduate students from the Irish School of Ecumenics (MPhil in Reconciliation Studies Programme), Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast (Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice – Spring Festival Event and Human Rights Summer School), and Utah Valley University;
- Engagement with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and International Museums for Peace; and
- Participation in the annual Féile an Phobail, also known as the West Belfast Festival.



## HTR Key Strands of Work

Further to the streams of activity outlined above, over the course of 2017, engagement with community-based organisations, academics, practitioners, and decision makers continued in relation to the five overlapping strands of HTR's work. As in previous years, this activity was guided and informed by the proposals agreed by HTR in its 2014 report, *Are We There Yet?* These are summarised below:

### Commemoration

All groups and organisations organising potentially contentious commemorative events or activities in the public space should ensure that they are run according to their own publicly available Code of Conduct.

### Living Memorial Museum

The creation of a Living Memorial Museum which presents a diverse range of both the experiences and perspectives of the everyday experience of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and the steps to peace. This museum will provide an opportunity to gain new knowledge and perspectives; and to act as a signpost to other museums, memorials, tours and collections.

### Day of Reflection

Wider support for the 21st June to be annually marked as a Day of Reflection on the impact and effect of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

### Storytelling

Development of a network linking personal narrative and storytelling projects and archives related to the conflict. This will include support for repositories for stories and narratives thereby enabling wider audience engagement.

### Truth Recovery & Acknowledgement

**Truth Recovery:** Develop a comprehensive framework for truth recovery which can uncover as much information as possible to support people who have been most impacted by the past.

**Acknowledgement:** Develop an agreed process that allows for groups/organisations to make statements of acknowledgement relating to their role in the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. This process will have an element of genuine engagement with the potential audience, demonstrate sincerity of intent and a commitment to a peaceful future.



## Communication

### Website

The HTR website, renewed in 2016, was maintained by the Pilot Coordinator over 2017, with the support of the Social Media Officer. In the context of the office move, the website functioned as a key source of information and up to date contact information for the organisation, enabling HTR to maintain a continuous online presence and public point of access over the whole period.

### Social Media

HTR's social media presence continues to include Facebook and Twitter accounts for HTR, the Day of Reflection, the Everyday Objects Exhibition, and 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.

Across all platforms, HTR aims to publicise events and the Exhibition, while use of #HTRactive social media posts also highlight HTR engagement and participation at local and international events.

In 2017, the main HTR Facebook page gained 50 new followers, a six per cent increase, and its top post reached 9,661 people. The main HTR Twitter account gained 121 new followers, and the top tweet accrued 6,690 'impressions'. The HTR website had 58 visitors, 98 per cent of which were new and many located internationally including in Brazil, the United States, India, Italy and Egypt.



## Board of Directors

### Board of Directors

Dawn Purvis - Chair  
Oliver Wilkinson - Honorary Secretary  
Claire Hackett - Honorary Treasurer  
Hedley Abernethy  
Alex Bunting  
Philip Dean  
Brandon Hamber  
Conor Keenan  
Brian Lambkin  
Louise Purbrick  
Geraldine Smyth  
Irwin Turbitt

### Staff/Interns/Consultants

Kate Turner - Director  
James Grant - Finance and Personnel Manager  
(to December 2017)

Lisa Faulkner-Byrne - Pilot Co-ordinator (Consultant)

Sarah Jankowitz - Social Media Officer (Volunteer)

Eleanor Care - Intern  
Declan McKeown - Intern

Special thanks to: **Ronnie Horner**, who was not just security at Alexander House but was a valuable member of the HTR team during the thirteen years we operated out of that building.



## Statement of Financial Activities

### HEALING THROUGH REMEMBERING (A company limited by guarantee)

(incorporating income and expenditure account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	Restricted funds 2017 £	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>					
Other Income		-	1,800	1,800	1,931
Incoming resources from charitable activities	1	110,604	-	110,604	57,754
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>110,604</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>112,404</u>	<u>59,685</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities		109,107	-	109,107	123,981
Governance costs		2,692	-	2,692	2,685
<b>Total resources expended</b>	2	<u>111,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,799</u>	<u>126,666</u>
<b>Net income (expenditure) for the year</b>					
Net movement in funds		(1,195)	1,800	605	(66,981)
Total funds brought forward		<u>17,649</u>	<u>22,537</u>	<u>40,186</u>	<u>36,159</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u><u>16,454</u></u>	<u><u>24,337</u></u>	<u><u>40,791</u></u>	<u><u>40,186</u></u>

	Restricted funds 2016 £	Unrestricted funds 2016 £	Total funds 2016 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>Note 1</b>				
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants receivable for core activities	110,604	-	110,604	57,754
	<u>110,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,604</u>	<u>57,754</u>
<b>Grants receivable for core activities</b>				
<b>Restricted funds:</b>				
Northern Ireland Community Relations Council			2,050	1,600
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust			70,983	4,017
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade – Reconciliation Fund			24,607	45,217
Belfast City Council - Good Relations			2,464	6,120
St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out for Charity			500	800
Cadbury Trust			10,000	0
			<u>110,604</u>	<u>57,754</u>
			<u>110,604</u>	<u>57,754</u>
<b>Note 2</b>				
In 2017, expenditure on charitable activities (£111,604) includes the following::				
			<b>2017</b>	
			<b>£</b>	
Employment costs			55,573	
Rent			21,289	
Consultants			8,180	
Printing, Postage & Stationery			1,822	
Audit & Accountancy			2,692	
Travel			535	
Telephone & Broadband			1,486	
Advertising, Design & PR			2,629	
<b>Total</b>			<u>94,206</u>	



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