



**Healing Through Remembering
Annual Report 2018**



Compiled by Lee Purvis + Sara Templer + Karine Bigand
Photo credits – Kate Turner



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Chair's Introduction

Healing Through Remembering (HTR)'s core purpose is to contribute to and inform public debate on dealing with the past in Northern Ireland. Over the last two decades, we have carefully researched five overarching themes with both local and international resonance – Storytelling, Truth Recovery and Acknowledgement, Commemoration, a Living Memorial Museum, and a Day of Reflection – and we have worked with people from all backgrounds to create safe spaces for challenging but constructive conversations to take place, and to enable others to do the same. Our extensive record of engagement – despite the challenges we have faced over the years to survive as a small Non-Governmental Organisation – and the ongoing public profile of issues relating to the conflict and its legacies, are evidence of the persistent demand that exists across society to find a better way to deal with the past.

While progress towards this better way has, at times, felt slow, 2018 has marked an important moment in our collective journey. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) public consultation on *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past*, which opened in May 2018, invited comment on the Legacy Institutions and processes proposed in the *Stormont House Agreement*, creating a fresh opportunity to consider the challenges we face and how we might work together to deal with them. While the NIO has yet to deliver its analysis of the consultation's findings, it reportedly received more than 17,000 responses to the proposals.

At HTR we are very proud to have developed resources and created spaces to facilitate, along with other individuals and organisations, the unprecedented level of public engagement with issues raised in the NIO's proposals; and that this effort has been highlighted through the public consultation process. In the wider context of uncertainty surrounding both the collapsed Northern Ireland Assembly and Brexit, we are affirmed in our purpose, and we look forward to the publication of the NIO Consultation findings and next steps. In the meantime, we present this Annual Report as a record of our intensive activity in 2018, noting with thanks the hard work and contributions of our staff, associates, and volunteers over this busy period.

Dawn Purvis
Chair

Comment shared by participant on Day of Reflection then tweeted by HTR



2018 Overview

I am pleased to present this summary of HTR's activities in 2018.

Inevitably, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) public consultation *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past* has been our primary focus this year. It does not follow, however, that the work itself was predictable: our team rose to the challenge of developing an accessible set of resources to support public engagement with the consultation with characteristic energy and creativity. We are proud of not only the bespoke materials we produced, but also the partnership approach we adopted to disseminate them across different sectors, and the exceptional levels of interest and engagement that they helped to generate. Thanks are due in particular to the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) and The Executive Office (TEO) for the practical and financial support that enabled HTR to respond swiftly to the launch of the consultation, to deliver the user-friendly response aids within a very short period of time, and in this way to meaningfully support the public engagement process.

While this work was ongoing, and over the period following the closure of the consultation, HTR continued to develop public engagement and discussion around its five overarching themes. *The Past Talking!* project funded by TEO supported legacy workshops and enabled *The Stories Network* to continue meeting; the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition*, now in its sixth year, has continued to tour around community-based venues; the *Day of Reflection* was marked for the twelfth consecutive year; and HTR members, associates, and I have delivered various workshops and seminars, and conducted local and international networking, from low-key festival events in Belfast to conferences in Sri Lanka and beyond.

In all these areas and on all these different platforms, we have been proud to represent the learning and insights that have been consolidated by HTR since 1999. We look forward to marking HTR's 20th anniversary next year, and to continuing our important and shared work.

Kate Turner
Director

Kate Turner at workshop in Sri Lanka



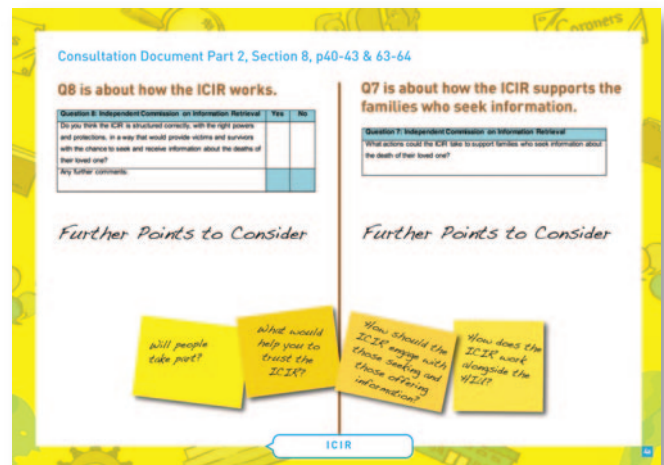
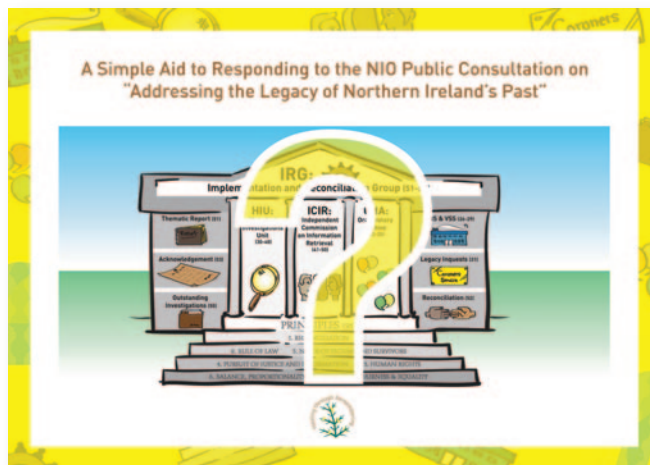
HTR Activities

The NIO Consultation “Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland’s Past”

Facilitating Public Engagement

On 11 May 2018, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) launched its public consultation, *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland’s Past*. The documents published for public comment comprised an outline of the structures and processes described in the *Stormont House Agreement*, specifically:

- Four key ‘Legacy Institutions’: the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU), the Independent Commission on Information Retrieval (ICIR), the Oral History Archive (OHA), and the overarching Implementation and Reconciliation Group (IRG);
- Six core principles to underpin this work: reconciliation, the rule of law, the needs of victims and survivors, the pursuit of justice and information, human rights, and the importance of balance, proportionality, transparency, fairness, and equality; and
- Acknowledgement of related, ongoing areas of work (including, for example, outstanding investigations, services for victims and survivors, the Coroner’s service, etc.).



HTR welcomed the announcement, and set to work immediately: over the next five months we worked intensively both independently and in partnership with other organisations to support and facilitate public engagement with the consultation. It was critically important to us and others to ensure that the proposals could be readily accessed, understood, and discussed at every level across society. In 2016, we had produced the *Discussion Resource on the Legacy Elements of the Stormont House Agreement*. We built upon this to develop three interactive and user-friendly aids to support public engagement with the consultation:

- *A Simple Aid to Responding to the NIO Public Consultation on Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland’s Past*, which drew out the key elements of the proposals and suggested ‘points to consider’ in relation to each one;
- *A Detailed Aid*, to facilitate more in-depth discussion of the proposed legislation; and
- *A Response Document*, which was offered as an easy-access, paper-based format on which to submit individual and organisational responses.¹

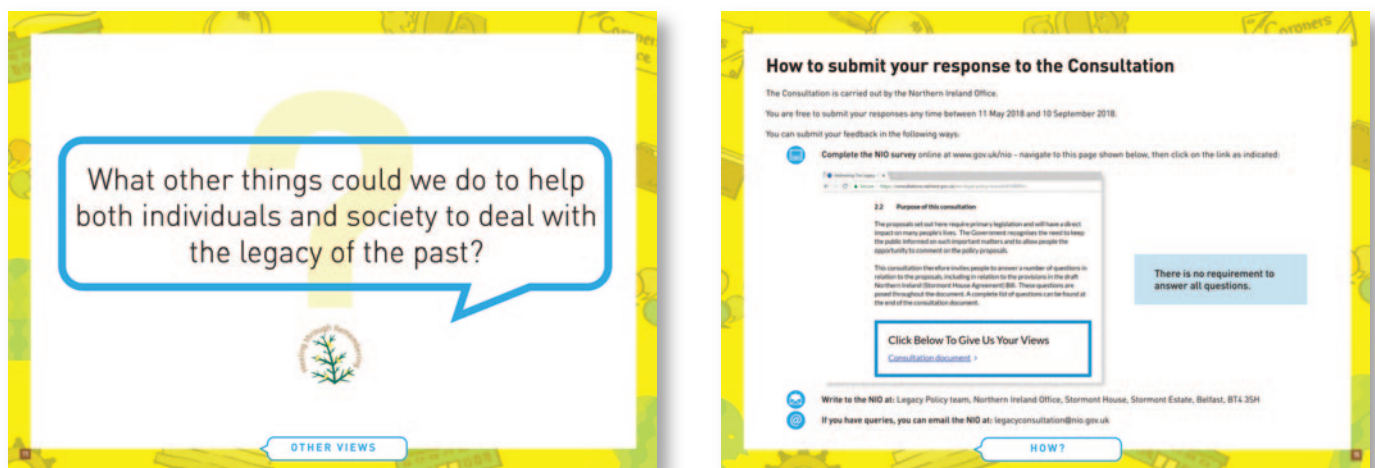
¹ The three aids are available here: <http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/legacy-resources/>

These resources were made available on the HTR website and promoted on our social media feeds. Thanks to funding secured through the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS), an arms-length body of The Executive Office (TEO), the aids were also printed and disseminated in large numbers (approximately 14,000) across HTR, VSS, and other stakeholder networks.

To maximise the reach and impact of these materials, HTR engaged a number of its associates to conduct outreach activities and convene discussions across the region. These diverse HTR associates – already embedded in their respective communities and networks – were trained in the delivery of the bespoke consultation aids. With the support of funding from TEO (see Past Talking! Below), they successfully engaged with a range of groups, including victims/survivors, ex-combatants, community associations and young people.

The HTR Response

Having initiated a public engagement process, HTR turned to its members and Board to consider the NIO consultation documents and develop the organisation’s response. This was an iterative process: the Board met several times over the summer to discuss, review, and refine its agreed position on the proposals.



HTR Simple Aid to responding to the NIO Public Consultation “Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland’s Past”

The HTR response emphasised that, for the proposed Legacy Institutions to function effectively, further and considerable effort is still required by Government, to work through the precise detail not only of specific founding principles, aims, design, and operations of each element, but also of how the different elements relate to and resonate with one another i.e. the interrelated working of the system as a whole. HTR’s response made specific comments and recommendations to inform that process, based on the extensive research, consultation, and grassroots-level engagement that HTR has documented and shared over the past 20 years. All the comments included in the response were offered in a constructive spirit, re-affirming the HTR commitment to remain open to and ready for further engagement in relation to any questions that may arise from this process, and willing to assist in whatever ways we can.

HTR also hosted a number of meetings of *The Stories Network*, specifically to prepare a separate response to the consultation (see below).

Both the HTR and *The Stories Network* submissions were made available on the HTR website to assist others in making collective responses.²

² Available here: <http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/legacy-resources/>

Next Steps

Due to public and stakeholder demand, the NIO extended the deadline for responses by four weeks, and eventually closed the consultation on 5 October. HTR, along with other respondents and stakeholders, looks forward to the publication of the findings of the consultation, and the clarification of the next steps.

Past Talking!

In July 2018, against the backdrop of the NIO public consultation, HTR secured funding of nearly £20,000 from The Executive Office (TEO) to deliver a series of workshops addressing themes and issues with core relevance to the ongoing legacy discussions. The desired outcomes of this investment were to both create opportunities for safe discussion around challenging subjects, and develop capacity for constructive interaction and engagement around these issues among individuals and groups with divergent opinions and beliefs about the past. Over the period July to December 2018, the funding enabled HTR to host workshops in twelve locations across Northern Ireland, specifically looking at responding to the NIO Consultation. It also enabled over a dozen workshops on specific issues relating to dealing with the legacy of the past relating to the conflict, such as Storytelling and oral history.

Pilot Co-Ordinators

The Pilot Co-Ordinator post was funded by the William Cadbury Trust in November 2016. While the grant was awarded initially for the period January to December 2017, based on an assessment of HTR's limited staff complement and resources, we requested and received approval for an extension to the end of March 2018, enabling the funded project plan to dovetail with our wider programme of activities and engagement. In addition, we proposed engaging two individuals on a part time basis, rather than one: this amendment was also approved by the Trust. Having secured these adjustments, HTR appointed Joe Blake and Lisa Byrne in the positions and worked with them to deliver events and activities including outreach, workshops, and discussions in relation to the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition*, networking and scoping of potential future venues for the Exhibition, as well as coordination and facilitation of the *Day of Reflection* and of *The Stories Network*.

Further to activity outlined above, their work included:

- Responding to emails and requests for information; and
- Attending conferences and events convened by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ulster University, Queen's University and community-based organisations.

The Pilot Coordinators worked throughout the whole period to ensure that the role, function, aims, and objectives of HTR were promoted to various audiences.



Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition

Now in its sixth year, the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition* (EOE) offers diverse views, memories, and experiences of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The Exhibition reveals both unique and everyday stories through a range of loaned objects and their accompanying descriptive labels, all written in the words of those who own them. In 2018, HTR continued to work with community-based organisations and networks to bring the Exhibition to new venues. The Exhibition was accessible in these new spaces over the course of the year:

- The Training for Women Network, East Belfast (October 2017 – April 2018);
- Brownlow House, Lurgan (April 2018 – July 2018);
- Museum of Free Derry (July – September 2018); and
- Holywell Trust, Derry-Londonderry (November 2018 – January 2019).

As in previous years, HTR worked in partnership with these venues to deliver workshops, seminars, and group visits to promote the Exhibition, and to create opportunities for meaningful discussion and engagement around the issues it raises.



Images of EOE in Holywell Trust



Day of Reflection

HTR marked the twelfth annual *Day of Reflection* (DoR) on 21 June 2018 by hosting an event in Bryson House. As always, the DoR was open to the public as a safe space to reflect, and share experiences of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. There were guest readings and video clips shown from HTR films including the *Day of Reflection*, *Ordinary Objects Extraordinary Times*, and *When the Summit is Shrouded in Mist*.

Reflective pieces were read by Dawn Purvis (Chair of HTR), Brian Lambkin (HTR Member), Hedley Abernethy (HTR Member), Kate Turner (HTR Director) and Judith Thompson (Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland).

Various DoR activities were also organised by diverse groups and organisations across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and Great Britain. HTR provided these groups with resources, readings, and advice on how to help others reflect as part of a group. Throughout the day, thoughts and activities were regularly shared on HTR’s Twitter @DayOfReflection, to encourage followers to do the same.



Brian Lambkin reading on Day of Reflection



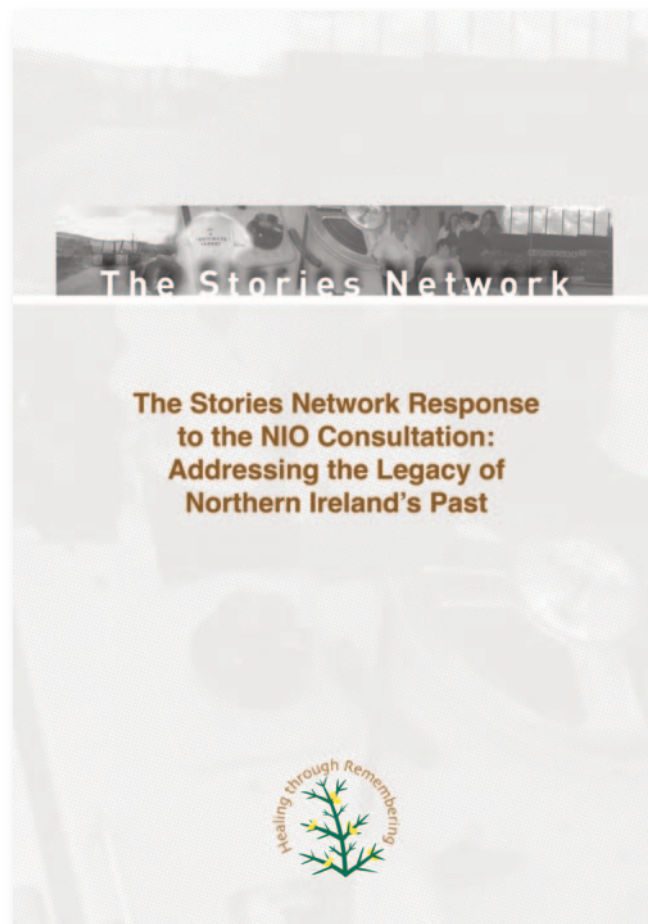
Comments shared by participant on Day of Reflection then tweeted by HTR



The Stories Network

The Stories Network continued to meet throughout 2018, with HTR hosting and chairing the meetings. This year the network gained several new members, and all continued to share their experience of working with, gathering, and sharing personal narratives of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The *Past Talking!* project funding from The Executive Office (TEO) (see above) provided the resources required to facilitate and document some of these meetings.

A core element of *The Stories Network's* activities in 2018 involved developing and issuing their collective response to the NIO public consultation *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past*.⁴ The response focused on the proposals to establish an Oral History Archive: based on the network's extensive and diverse experience and skills in this field, the response outlined key concerns and issues raised by the proposals, and made specific suggestions and recommendations for the way forward. As in the case of the HTR response to the consultation, *The Stories Network* submission was offered in a considered, constructive spirit, with all members emphasising their commitment to remaining open to and ready for further engagement around the proposals.



⁴ Available here: <http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/legacy-resources/>

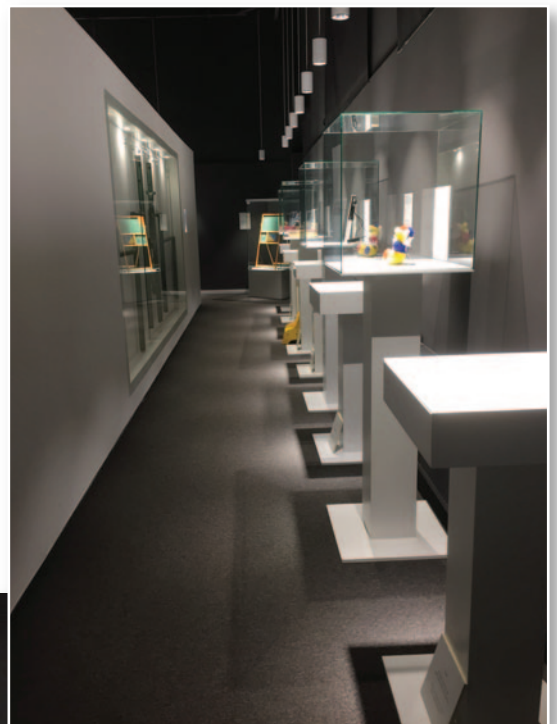
International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC)

In 2018, the HTR Director concluded her tenure on the Board of Trustees for the European Network of the International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC). Nevertheless, HTR's association with this important network continues: the HTR Director delivered training at an ICSOC workshop for community story-gatherers in Sri Lanka in October. Over the course of the year HTR participated in several Skype meetings to continue international discussions on how to promote constructive engagement and civic dialogue around contentious and evocative sites and events.

While on a private trip in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the HTR Director visited the Sites of Conscience member War and Childhood Museum which opened in 2017. The permanent display there includes dozens of items with associated personal stories relaying the complexity of children's experience of war. The museum is carefully designed and laid out and includes a reflective area.



Workshop in Sri Lanka



War and Childhood Museum, Sarajevo



Local and International Engagement: Seminars, Group Visits, Workshops

HTR continued to consolidate and build upon its local and international networks in 2018. The HTR Director, members of the Board, and members of the wider organisation represented HTR by delivering seminars and workshops and facilitating discussions around dealing with the past and the work of the organisation. This included, for example:

- Working in partnership with universities, including delivering workshops and seminars, and participating in panel discussions convened for postgraduate students from Whitworth University (USA), Aix-Marseille Université (France), the Irish School of Ecumenics, and Queen's University Belfast (Irish Studies and Senator George J Mitchell Institute Summer Schools);
- Engaging with church networks to deliver workshops for St Polycarp's Mothers Union and St Nicholas Mothers' Union;
- Contributing to public festival programmes, including facilitating panel discussions at Four Corners Festival, Féile an Phobail (West Belfast Festival), and Imagine! Belfast Festival;
- Networking with international partners, delivering training at the International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC) community workshop in Sri Lanka;
- Speaking at the Korean Peace Conference in Incheon, visiting the civilian control zone at the border with North Korea, and taking part in a peace rally in Seoul; and
- Presenting at a roundtable at the UK Museums Association annual conference, held in Belfast for the first time at the Waterfront Hall.

HTR is grateful for these local and international opportunities to engage with others who are committed to building a peaceful future.



Four Corners Festival Event



Talk in Aix-Marseille Université



Museums Association Conference



HTR Key Strands of Work

Further to the activity outlined above, over the course of 2018, 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 is maintained as an up-to-date record of HTR's activities and key relevant news pieces, and remains a key channel for communication both regionally and internationally. During 2018 the HTR website had 26,798 unique visitors, with more than 50% located internationally.

The work to maintain the website was shared over the course of the past year: one of the Pilot Co-ordinators (Lisa Byrne) fulfilled this role until April 2018, and then, a volunteer Website and Social Media Officer (Sarah Jankowitz) ensured the information made available was current and accurate. This was especially important over the six-month period of the NIO public consultation on *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past*.

Social Media

HTR maintained its social media presence, including its Facebook page and four Twitter accounts: the HTR account, and the additional accounts for the *Day of Reflection*, *Everyday Objects Exhibition*, and *The Stories Network*. The main HTR account continued 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 publicised events, themed activities, and the Exhibition as it toured community venues.



Comment shared by participant on Day of Reflection then tweeted by HTR

In 2018, the main HTR Facebook page gained 41 new followers, a five per cent increase on the previous year. Its top post reached an audience of 1,560. The main HTR Twitter account gained 108 new followers, and the top tweet reached 7,501 'impressions'.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

HEALING THROUGH REMEMBERING (A company limited by guarantee)

(incorporating income and expenditure account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

| | Note | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | | - | 1,051 | 1,051 | 1,800 |
| Charitable activities | 1 | 74,133 | - | 74,133 | 110,604 |
| Total income | | <u>74,133</u> | <u>1,051</u> | <u>75,184</u> | <u>112,404</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 2 | 68,105 | - | 68,105 | 111,798 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>68,105</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>68,105</u> | <u>111,798</u> |
| Net movement of funds | | <u>6,028</u> | <u>1,051</u> | <u>7,079</u> | <u>606</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 16,454 | 24,338 | 40,792 | 40,186 |
| Net movement in funds | | 6,028 | 1,051 | 7,079 | 606 |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>22,482</u> | <u>25,389</u> | <u>47,871</u> | <u>40,792</u> |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Note 1.**Income from charitable activities by funder**

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Northern Ireland Community Relations Council | 370 | 2,050 |
| The Executive Office - Past Talking! | 15,000 | - |
| Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust | 35,000 | 70,983 |
| Belfast City Council - Good Relations | - | 2,464 |
| The Belfast Cathedral Sit-out | 550 | 500 |
| Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Reconciliation Fund | 23,213 | 24,607 |
| Cadbury Trust | - | 10,000 |
| | <u>74,133</u> | <u>110,604</u> |

Note 2.**Analysis of direct costs**

| | Project £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Management | 1,798 | 1,798 | 1,399 |
| Bank charges | 217 | 217 | 294 |
| Travel & Events | 938 | 938 | 535 |
| Insurance | 1,424 | 1,424 | 1,225 |
| Rent | 12,875 | 12,875 | 21,289 |
| Printing, stationery and postage | 2,030 | 2,030 | 1,822 |
| Telephone and fax | 962 | 962 | 1,486 |
| Events | 468 | 468 | 433 |
| Consultancy fees | 13,666 | 13,666 | 8,180 |
| Website design | 1,876 | 1,876 | 2,629 |
| Other costs | 2,799 | 2,799 | 2,880 |
| Wages and salaries | 12,112 | 12,112 | 49,685 |
| National Insurance | 9 | 9 | 2,147 |
| Pension costs | 905 | 905 | 3,741 |
| Depreciation | 106 | 106 | 404 |
| | <u>52,185</u> | <u>52,185</u> | <u>98,149</u> |

Analysis of support costs

| | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Subscriptions | 234 | 95 |
| Wages and salaries | 12,112 | 9,795 |
| National Insurance | 9 | 320 |
| Pension costs | 905 | 748 |
| Governance costs | 2,660 | 2,691 |
| | <u>15,920</u> | <u>13,649</u> |



Personnel

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
Lee Purvis - Admin Support
Sara Templer - Consultant (Msasa Research & Engagement)
Sarah Jankowitz - Website and Social Media Officer (Volunteer)
Joe Blake - Pilot Co-Ordinator
Lisa Byrne - Pilot Co-Ordinator
Suzi Swain - Delivery Partner (Think Textured)
Martin Snoddon - Delivery Partner (Northern Spring)
Laurence McKeown - Delivery Partner
Justin Holmes - Intern
Shona MacKay - Intern
Chelsea Kaplan - Intern
Catherine Smyth - Intern

Special thanks to **James Grant**, who was HTR's Finance and Personnel Manager and a valuable member of the HTR team until December 2017. He is greatly missed and wished all the very best in his future endeavours.



HTR Interns Shona and Chelsea preparing HTR material on a train



HTR Intern Justin presenting on HTR







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