

2019



Healing Through
Remembering
Annual Report



Compiled by Sara Templer and Karine Bigand
Photo credits – Kate Turner

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Chair's Introduction



Healing Through Remembering turned 20 this year. Since the initial meetings and discussions in 1999 which led to the formation of HTR, the organisation has been working to reach out, share learning, and build relationships across boundaries. Our goal in doing so is to support individuals, communities, and government to consider how to 'deal with the past' in relation to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, and in so doing, build a better future.

In this context, we have found that the term 'The Past' is almost euphemistic: a neat label that conceals the complexity of the challenges that we need to work through – the pursuit of truth and justice; understanding what acknowledgement, commemoration, and reparations mean and look like; the process of storytelling; developing education for the future; and so much more. Over the last two decades, we have worked with people from all backgrounds to create safe spaces for challenging but constructive conversations around these divisive themes to take place, and to enable others to do the same. We have conducted consultations, research, and

engagement, including conferences, exhibitions, site visits, and other local, regional, and international networking. 20 years on, this work remains as current and pressing as ever.

Visiting Belfast on 5 February 2019, Prime Minister Theresa May noted the progress made in recent decades to consolidate peace and improve relationships in the region, specifically acknowledging the contribution of HTR along with other civil society groups, the political parties and governments, "and above all ... the people of Northern Ireland." In the wider context of uncertainty surrounding both the collapsed Northern Ireland Assembly and Brexit, we warmly welcome this recognition of the dedicated, long-term efforts of grassroots organisations and people across society to build a better future.

HTR welcomed the publication in July of the findings of the Northern Ireland Office 2018 Consultation *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past*. We also embraced the opportunity to give feedback to the subsequent consultation in November, regarding the proposed *Legal Framework for a Troubles-related Incident Victims Payment Scheme*. In sharing our views with government, we have emphasised our informed position that we need a multifaceted, coherent, and holistic approach to dealing with the past and building for the future, that takes into account the needs, rights, and aspirations of everyone in our society. With this perspective in mind, we look forward to the re-establishment of our Northern Ireland Executive as soon as possible, and on that basis, the publication of a clear roadmap of practical next steps.

We look forward to continuing our work from our new office set up in University Street.

Dawn Purvis
Chair

2019 Overview



Following the intensity of HTR's activity in 2018 around facilitating and enabling public engagement with the NIO Consultation *Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past*, HTR was pleased that the analysis of consultation responses included the Government's firm commitment to implement the Stormont House Agreement.

This year we responded to the subsequent consultation on *A Legal Framework for a Troubles-related incident Victims Payment Scheme*. HTR's response welcomed this important development in recognising the scope of societal responsibility around dealing with the past.

In March of this year, HTR met with the Secretary of State, challenged her on the remarks she had made in the House of Commons and presented to her a unified voice about the issues of dealing with the past.

Over the course of the year, HTR delivered a broad schedule of activities and engagements, including the ongoing tour of the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition*, workshops facilitated through *The Stories Network*, collaboration with universities, and participation in various project advisory groups. We have also maintained our commitment to building relationships and continuing conversations within and across our membership, and with partners across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and Great Britain. We are grateful for the patchwork of funding that has enabled this ongoing work. HTR wishes to acknowledge the grants received from The Executive Office, the Department of Foreign Affairs and in particular the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), as this year marks the end of three years' core funding from JCRT.

In April we were informed that Bryson House was selling the Bedford Street premises so we were again on the hunt for new office premises. We have now agreed a tenancy in the Mediation Offices in University Street and the move will be complete in early 2020. Once again we are have the task of replanning office space, and downsizing the HTR resources, files and archives.

We have been proud to mark HTR's 20th anniversary this year. It has been an opportunity to remember and recognise all the people who have worked with us, and those who continue to commit their time and energy to the process of dealing with the past.

Kate Turner
Director

HTR Activities

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

In July 2019, the Northern Ireland Office published its analysis of responses, a summary overview of the more than 17,000 formal submissions received over the extended 21-week consultation period. Following HTR’s intensive facilitation to maximise public engagement during this consultation, the publication of this report was welcome. The Northern Ireland Office acknowledged that “new ways to address the legacy of the past will only succeed if the institutions can command broad support and trust from the community.”

HTR welcomes in particular the following observation made in the report: that despite the inevitable breadth of views expressed by the public, “the overarching message from the vast majority of those who have responded to the consultation is clear: the current system needs to be reformed and we have an obligation to seek to address the legacy of the past in a way that builds for the future. This means ensuring that the way forward will contribute to a better future and further reconciliation across society.”

We also welcome the following commitment: “The Government remains fully committed to the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement and it is essential that our work continues.”

HTR remains open to and ready for further engagement in relation to this process, and willing to assist in whatever ways we can.

The NIO Consultation Victims Payment Scheme

In November, the HTR Board considered the detail of the Northern Ireland Office’s most recent Consultation: *A Legal Framework for a Troubles-related incident Victims Payment Scheme*. Having previously registered our concern in relation to the absence of a clear resolution of the matter of a pension for the seriously injured, we welcomed this opportunity for views to be gathered.

The HTR response to the consultation emphasised our collective view that the proposed Victims Payment Scheme is one important part of what we believe should be a multifaceted, coherent, and holistic approach to dealing with the past. It also highlighted that building for the future should take into account the needs, rights, and aspirations of everyone in our society.



HTR Reports - All Truth is Bitter and Consultation Aid

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition

Now in its seventh year, the *Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition* curates 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 2019, HTR continued to work with a range of organisations and networks to bring the Exhibition to new venues and engage with new audiences. The Exhibition was hosted in the following venues:

- Holywell Trust, Derry-Londonderry (November 2018 – January 2019);
- Resurgam Trust, Lisburn (January 2019 – April 2019);
- Department of Justice, Castle Buildings, Stormont (June 2019 –).

The Exhibition continues to benefit from the generosity of the host venues and the feedback and support of the visitors.

The Exhibition remains organic, gaining new objects on long-term loans or shorter loans for particular venues. On the 21st anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the 20th anniversary of HTR, it was particularly poignant to display the Exhibition in the Good Friday Agreement Room in Castle Buildings, Stormont. In particular, we would like to thank the staff of the Department of Justice for locating a table from the negotiations and including it in the Exhibition during its stay in Stormont.

The impact of the Exhibition extends beyond the venues in which it is hosted. In December, Dominic Bryan - a member of the Living Memorial Museum Group that devised the original Exhibition - was pleased to report that the Exhibition was commended at a UN meeting in Geneva on commemoration and transitional justice (see below).

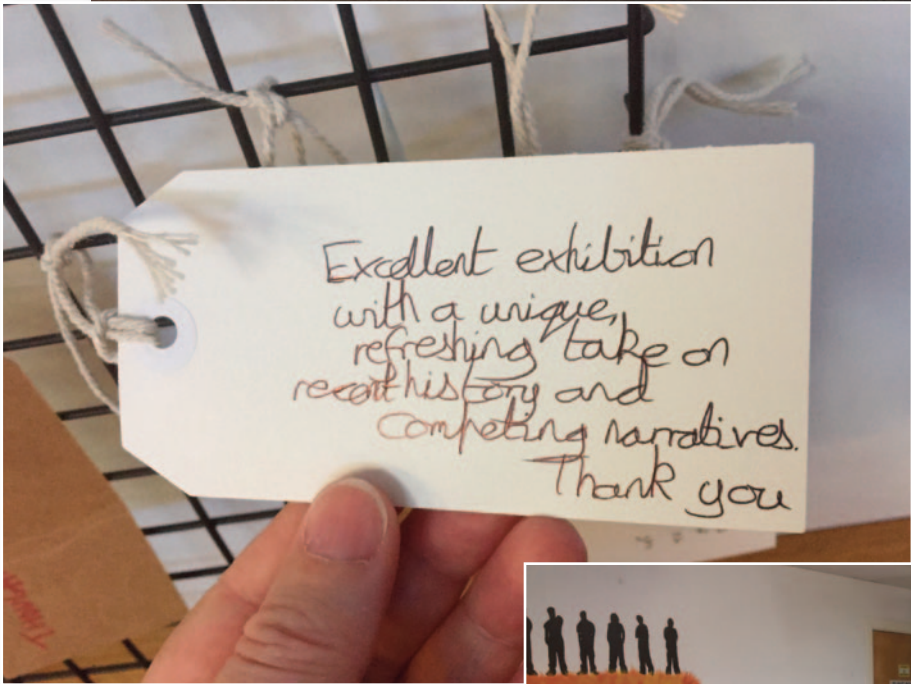
As in previous years, HTR worked in partnership with each venue to deliver workshops, seminars, and group visits to create opportunities for meaningful discussion and engagement around the issues the Exhibition raises.



Irwin Turbitt, Dawn Purvis and Kate Turner standing at the 'Agreement' table



Exhibition in Department of Justice, Stormont



Feedback tag left in Department of Justice, Stormont



Philip Dean and Oliver Wilkinson with Exhibition in Resurgam, Lisburn

Day of Reflection

HTR marked the thirteenth annual *Day of Reflection* on 21st June 2019 by hosting an event in the HTR offices at Bryson House. As always, the *Day of Reflection* was open to the public as a safe space to reflect and share experiences of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. There were a number of guest readings and video clips shown from HTR projects.

As in previous years, a range of organisations, groups and individuals marked the *Day of Reflection*. These included victims' groups, churches' forums and community groups. For many of these groups, HTR provided materials, online resources and advice on how to help people reflect.

Throughout the day HTR's twitter handle @DayOfReflection reposted some of the activities happening on the day.



The Stories Network

The Stories Network continued to meet throughout 2019, with HTR hosting and chairing the meetings.

HTR facilitated a series of workshops on oral history and personal narrative on the issue of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. This was funded by The Executive Office's (TEO) Good Relations scheme.

Themes addressed through these workshops included:

- Storytelling & Narrative Work as a vehicle for Dealing with the Past
- Core Values for Dealing with the Past
- Ethical Principles for Storytelling & Narrative Work
- The Stormont House Agreement & Northern Ireland Office Consultation (2018)

The workshops created the opportunity for open-ended engagement between participants about their respective programmes of work. The workshops included exchanges about ongoing learning and the various media for storytelling – arts, crafts and film.

The insights from the workshops led to a public one-day event organised at the MAC and entitled “Then and Now: Consultation on the Past”. It looked at the 2018 NIO consultation against the backdrop of the public consultation in 2001/2 from which Healing Through Remembering originated.



Then and Now event at the MAC

International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC)

While the HTR Director concluded her tenure on the Board of Trustees for the European branch of the International Coalition for Sites of Conscience (ICSOC) in 2018, HTR's association with this important network continues. The HTR Director delivered workshops – both in person and remotely – to ICSOC meetings in the Middle East and Asia. These opportunities are a valuable platform for HTR both to learn about how others promote constructive engagement and civic dialogue around contentious and evocative sites and events, and to share our own considerations and learning on dealing with the past.

Local and International Engagement: Seminars, Group Visits, Workshops

In 2019, HTR continued to consolidate and build upon its local and international networks, both formally and informally through a range of activities and engagements.

The HTR Director, Board members and HTR members represented HTR by contributing expert insight on research and project advisory groups, delivering seminars and workshops, and facilitating discussions around dealing with the past. Notable examples of this activity throughout 2019 include:

- Participating in an international workshop at the Monte Sole Peace School Foundation (Italy). The aim of Monte Sole is to promote training and peace education projects, non-violent conflict resolution, respect of human rights, for a peaceful living together among different people and cultures. The workshop brought together diverse international facilitators involved in creating and/or delivering workshops on past conflicts. They were able to experience the Monte Sole programme and then share their practices and experiences;
- Membership of reference groups and providing advice to external projects (Glencree *Legacy of Violence* PEACE IV-funded project; Irish School of Ecumenics *Burnt Out* project; Corrymeela *Belfast and the World* project; Cooperation Ireland *Open Doors* project);
- Working in partnership with universities, delivering workshops and seminars, and participating in panel discussions for Queen's University Belfast, the Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Liverpool;
- Working as a local coordination organisation for the annual conference of the Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament in September. This involved a number of guided tours, visits, talks and panel discussions; and
- Attending workshops, launches, and exhibitions convened by a range of academic, statutory and community partners.

Monte Sole international workshop



Panel at QUB Summer School



Martin Snoddon presenting on guided tour for CCAD visit

HTR Key Strands of Work

Further to the activity outlined above, over the course of 2019, 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

In 2019, the work to maintain the HTR website and social media accounts, and to monitor and report on their reach, was fulfilled by our volunteer Website and Social Media Officer, Sarah Jankowitz. Sarah has worked to ensure the information made available across these platforms is current, accurate, and responsive to developments in current affairs and the wider external environment.

The HTR website is maintained as a record of HTR's activities and key relevant news pieces. It remains a key channel for communication with people who have an interest in our work both locally and internationally.

HTR social media presence includes three Facebook pages (Healing Through Remembering, Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition, Day of Reflection) and three Twitter accounts: @HTRinfo, @DayOfReflection and @EOExhibition.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

HEALING THROUGH REMEMBERING (A company limited by guarantee)

(incorporating income and expenditure account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	Restricted funds 2019 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		-	2,200	2,200	1,051
Charitable activities	1	55,039	-	55,039	74,133
Total income		<u>55,039</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>57,239</u>	<u>75,184</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	2	66,351	-	66,351	68,105
Total expenditure		<u>66,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,251</u>	<u>68,105</u>
Net movement of funds		<u>(11,312)</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>(9,112)</u>	<u>7,079</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		22,481	25,389	47,870	40,791
Net movement in funds		(11,312)	2,200	(9,112)	7,079
Total funds carried forward		<u>11,169</u>	<u>27,589</u>	<u>38,758</u>	<u>47,870</u>

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

Note 1.
Income from charitable activities by funder

	2019 £	2018 £
Northern Ireland Community Relations Council	720	370
The Executive Office - Past Talking!	4,111	15,000
Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament	2,000	-
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	35,000	35,000
The Belfast Cathedral Sit-out	550	550
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Reconciliation Fund	10,580	23,213
Ulster University - Impact Seminar series	1,778	-
	<u>55,039</u>	<u>74,133</u>

Note 2.
Analysis of direct costs

	Project £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Depreciation	-	-	106
Transport and storage	1,996	1,996	2,799
Office administration	160	160	251
Bank fees and charges	249	249	217
Staff travel costs	699	699	267
Insurance	1,332	1,332	1,424
Rent	12,932	12,932	12,875
Printing, stationery and postage	2,722	2,722	2,030
Telephone and internet	1,089	1,089	962
Events and venue hire	1,245	1,245	468
Consultancy fees	4,546	4,546	13,668
Subscriptions	163	163	518
Website and software	1,278	1,278	1,876
Other travel costs	810	810	671
Social security	-	-	9
Staff wages and salaries	15,870	15,870	12,112
Staff pensions	1,198	1,198	905
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	1,263
	<u>46,289</u>	<u>46,289</u>	<u>52,421</u>

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Social security	-	9
Staff wages and salaries	15,869	12,112
Staff pensions	1,198	904
Governance costs	2,994	2,660
	<u>20,061</u>	<u>15,685</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
Sarah Jankowitz - Website and Social Media Officer (Volunteer)
Joe Blake - Delivery Partner
Suzi Swain - Delivery Partner
Martin Snoddon - Delivery Partner
Laurence McKeown - Delivery Partner
Shona MacKay - Intern
Chelsea Kaplan - Intern
Catherine Stewart - Intern
Madeleine Duchene - Intern
Emily Keizjer - Intern



Intern Shona MacKay setting up Exhibition



Oliver Wilkinson in Monte Sole



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