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## Press Releases

### HTR welcomes the call to deal with the past while urging caution

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) welcomes the attention drawn to the need to deal with the past relating to the conflict by the Chair of the Policing Board, Sir Desmond Rea. However, HTR urges caution about proposing a specific model before robust and inclusive public debate has taken place.

Kate Turner, Co-ordinator of the cross-community organisation Healing Through Remembering, said: "We welcome debate and discussion on the issue of truth recovery and processes of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. These are important issues that need addressed if we are to move towards a better future for all.

"We believe an open, honest and inclusive debate on the issue of truth recovery needs to happen, but for too long the debate has focussed on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We need to develop our own solution for the local situation.

"In order to help develop an informed debate on this important issue, Healing Through Remembering has published a report, Making Peace with the Past: Options for truth recovery regarding the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

"The report offers a comprehensive overview of the issues related to truth recovery and outlines five possible options - Internal Organisation Investigation; a Community-Based 'Bottom-Up' Approach; a Truth-Recovery Commission; a Commission of Historical Clarification; and Drawing A Line

Under the Past."

The report was written by a diverse range of individuals from loyalist, republican, British Army and police backgrounds, as well as from different faith backgrounds, victims and community groups and academic institutions, along with Kieran McEvoy, Professor of Law and Transitional Justice at Queen's University.

Kate Turner said, "The events of recent weeks and the comments today from the Chair of the Policing Board will hopefully focus more attention and debate on these important issues. Careful consideration is needed on how we ensure the debate can be inclusive and consider all avenues. We invite everyone to participate and engage with this important issue."

Healing Through Remembering is holding a series of open meetings to discuss Making Peace with the Past and to stimulate debate on the issue of truth recovery.

Meetings scheduled over the next few weeks are:

**Tues 27 Feb** - Dungannon, Community Relations Council @ 7pm

**Mon 5 Mar** - Seven Towers Leisure Centre, Ballymena @ 7:45pm

**Tues 13 Mar** - Tara Centre, Omagh @ 7pm

**Mon 19 Mar** - Friends House, Euston Road, London @ 1:30pm

**Tues 27 Mar** - Corcaghan Community Centre, Monaghan @ 7pm

**Tues 3 Apr** - St. Columbs Park House, Derry/Londonderry @ 7pm

**Tues 17 Apr** - Island Centre, Lisburn @ 7pm

**Tues 24 Apr** - Town Hall, Lurgan @ 7pm

**Mon 30 Apr** - Liberty Hall, Dublin @ 7pm

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