



June 2008

Immediate release

Healing Through Remembering Launch Day of Private Reflection 2008

Independent Evaluation indicates public support for a Day of Reflection

Healing Through Remembering – a cross community organisation focused on ways of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland – is organising a second Day of Private Reflection on Saturday 21st June 2008.

“People from Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland and internationally will be invited to reflect, individually and privately, on the past conflict, and the future that is before us,” explained Sean Coll, chair of Healing Through Remembering’s Day of Reflection sub-group.

“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 took place last year – on 21st June 2007. It was the outcome of a recommendation made in HTR’s 2002 report. The Day of Private Reflection sub-group was set up and tasked with taking forward the idea to establish a day that would serve as “a universal gesture of reconciliation, acknowledgement and recognition of the suffering of so many arising from the conflict in and about Northern Ireland”*.

An independent evaluation was carried out for HTR, which clearly indicated that there was public support for the initiative and recommended that a second Day of Private Reflection should take place on Saturday 21st June 2008.

“Extensive consultation with individuals and groups indicated that the day needed to be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible, to be able to respond to all those affected by the conflict,” explained HTR’s Co-ordinator Kate Turner.

“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. We have produced new materials for 2008 –

including postcards, leaflets and bookmarks. There is also a website – www.dayofreflection.com.”

Day of Private Reflection information packs and materials are now available from Healing Through Remembering – e-mail info@dayofreflection.com or telephone HTR on 028 9023 8844. Materials can also be ordered via the website.

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For further information contact Kate Turner/Julie McCaughan at Healing Through Remembering on 028 9023 8844

***Day of Private Reflection – Discussion Paper and Proposal, September 2006**

Notes to editors:

1. Why 21st June? Careful consideration was given to choosing a date for a Day of Private Reflection. There is no single date in the calendar year which is not the anniversary of the death of at least one person in relation to the conflict. 21st June – the summer solstice, the longest day of the year – was selected because it is symbolically important.

‘The ebbing relationship between the long hours of light and day act as a symbol of pain and hope. It is a day which is forward-looking and backward-looking at the same time, a moment to reflect’. *Day of Private Reflection – Discussion Paper and Proposal, September 2006*

2. HTR was established in 2001 – when a diverse Project Board was established to take forward the “All Truth is Bitter” report.
3. Healing Through Remembering’s original report in 2002 gave rise to five sub-groups, each focusing on different aspects of dealing with the past in relation to the conflict. The sub-groups include:
 - Storytelling
 - Day of Reflection
 - Living Memorial Museum
 - Commemoration
 - Truth Recovery & Acknowledgement