

# Omagh Support & Self-Help Groups Advocacy Newsletter Autumn 2018



OMAGH  
SUPPORT &  
SELF HELP  
GROUP



## Legacy Consultation:

The UK Government launched the consultation, Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past, on 11 May to find the best way to meet the needs of victims and survivors and to help people address the impact of the Troubles.

The original deadline for responses was 10 September, this has now been extended to **Friday 5th October**.



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YOU'RE INVITED TO A PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

*Come along and have your say*

THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2018 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM | THE BRIDGE CENTRE 5A HOLMVIEW AVE, OMAGH  
BT79 0AQ

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:  
ADDRESSING THE LEGACY  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S PAST  
11 MAY - 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

HAVE YOUR SAY AT:  
[WWW.GOV.UK/NIO](http://WWW.GOV.UK/NIO)

## Consultation Drop in Session

Come along and meet with a member of our advocacy team.

**TIME:** 7-9pm

**LOCATION:** Bridge Centre  
Omagh- 5A Holmview Ave,  
Omagh BT79 0AQ

## OSSHG Open Day

Omagh Support & Self-Help Group held an Open Day from on Tuesday 2nd October from 11am -3pm.

Following comments made by the Victims Commissioner about a low response, we have found numerous agencies contacting us, asking what this might mean for some of their clients. Our Advocate Nichola will be available to talk through this process.

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**OPEN DAY**

Tuesday 2nd October 2018  
11-3pm

5A Holmview Ave, Omagh  
BT79 0AQ  
028 8225 9677

Come along to our open day to learn about the services we provide, chat with our staff and volunteers - refreshments will be provided throughout the day



## Judicial Review:



The Substantive hearing for the Judicial Review we took against the then Secretary of State, Theresa Villiers's decision not to hold a Public Inquiry into the Omagh bomb, was due to take place in the High Court in Belfast this week 2nd- 6th July.

Unfortunately this has not happened due to issues which arose in the Closed Proceedings element of this case, the case was postponed late on Monday evening.

It has been a stressful few weeks for the families involved, which was acknowledged by Justice Keegan who recognised this case is the first of its kind in NI and its important for all involved that the case is set up in an effective manner, she herself was disappointed that the case could not proceed this week but has set a new date for the Substantive Hearing which has been set for the week beginning 4th February 2019.

## Community Relations Week:



On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, Victims Campaigner Raymond McCord came to Omagh Support & Self-Help Group and gave a discussion to members of OSSHG and members of the general public.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coverage:**



OSSHG held their 20<sup>th</sup> annual anniversary Service in the Memorial Garden on 12<sup>th</sup> August. The event was attended by senior dignitaries of the British, Irish & Spanish governments

Staff and OSSHG members attended The public reflective event on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August, at 2.55pm which was held at the bottom of Market Street in Omagh to mark the precise moment 20 years on from the atrocity of the Omagh Bomb itself. For many people, the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1998 at 3.10pm changed their lives forever.



Our spokesperson Michael Gallagher and our Chairman Stanley McCombe traveled to Buncrana to stand in solidarity with the families and friends of the bereaved and injured, as they marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Omagh bombing with a cross-community open-air service in Buncrana's Knockalla Drive.

### **Statement from OSSHG Director Cat Wilkinson In Response to Nuala O'Loan Comments**

"I remember Aiden everyday but today is the day the world remembers. Thank you barrenness Nuala O" lone for telling the world what we have known for 18 years, Omagh could have been prevented. This is a gift for the families who have faced immeasurable challenges over the last 20 years. With dignity and respect let's get through this day and support each other"

## Up-Coming Events

### International Cross Community Victims Forum

Place in a victims hall and welcome round of events. It is also non-political and non-religious.

CHRISTIE NOEL THOMPSON, highly respected BBC commentator.  
The panelists are:

PHILIP SPOFFORD O'NEILL, professor of mental health services and a leading expert on trauma and suicides related to the troubles.

NEALA O'LEARY, former Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.  
Five victims have been treated by the state.

JULIE HAMBLETON, ENGLAND, sister murdered in IRA Birmingham bombings. One of 21 innocent victims.

RAYMOND MCCORD, victims campaigner and was murdered by the UVF in proven collusion with the Special Branch.

BELEN SALGUEIRO, SPAIN, father murdered by ETA terrorists in Madrid, Spain.

ANNE GOUBVCS, FRANCE, 12 year old daughter murdered by an ISIS terrorist attack in Nice, France. One of 89 innocent victims.  
TRUTH, JUSTICE AND RESPECT.

Organised by Raymond McCord with the assistance of Professor John Barry.

Tea, coffee, sandwiches and hot food provided.

## ALL WELCOME

Wed 7 November 2018 • 14:00 – 18:30

### LOCATION

Lecture Theatre, 0G/024, Peter Frogati Centre,  
Queen's University Belfast



## OMAGH SUPPORT AND SELF HELP GROUP

*"Remembering the past, looking to the future."*

### NEW Advocacy Service

Omagh Support & Self Help Group (OSSHG) recognises that for families and individuals bereaved and injured by the conflict that truth, justice and acknowledgement plays a vital part in the road to recovery. We understand that this can be a difficult process therefore OSSHG will play the role of a critical friend providing emotional and practical support to our members, working sensitively and at the pace of the family or individual.

### How Can We Help:

- ✓ We can promote victim and survivor issues within the public and media domains.
- ✓ We will assist families bereaved to tell/record their own story describing in their own words the impact it has had on their lives.
- ✓ We will assist those injured physically and psychologically to tell/record their story and the impact it has had on their lives.
- ✓ We will support families and individuals to identify questions and possible avenues to recover required information necessary for truth, justice and acknowledgement.
- ✓ We will Support a families and individuals engaging with current investigations with PONI (The Police Ombudsman's Office) and Historical Enquiries Team (HET), The Garda Ombudsman, The Attorney General North and South, The PSNI, An Garda Síochána; The PPS (Public Prosecution Service).
- ✓ We will support families and individuals who in the event that the Stormont House Agreement is achieved wish to engage with HIU (Historical Investigations Unit), ICIR (Independent Commission on Information Retrieval), OHA (Oral History Archive), IRG (Implementation & Reconciliation Group).
- ✓ We will support families and individuals who wish to engage with other relevant investigative bodies.
- ✓ We will produce individual reports on cases with families and individuals, and provide thematic reports on key areas of work.
- ✓ We will support families and individuals to access professional legal support if required.
- ✓ To promote positive health and wellbeing we will refer and sign post to other internal OSSHG services and external services which would support individuals.

### Contact Info:

If you are interested about this service and would like any information, contact our Advocacy.

Case Officer Nichola | Tel: 028 82259877 Ext. 205 | Email: [nmcgowan@omaghsupport.co.uk](mailto:nmcgowan@omaghsupport.co.uk)

OMAGH SUPPORT <mailto:nmcgowan@omaghsupport.co.uk> Inue Omagh Co. Tyrone,  
N.Ireland BT79 0AQ | tel: 028 82259877 | [www.omaghnoomb.co.uk](http://www.omaghnoomb.co.uk)

Charity Number: NIC100554



**Peace**  
Northern Ireland - Ireland

**VS**  
VICTIMS &  
SURVIVORS  
SERVICE