

Omagh Support & Self-Help Groups Advocacy Newsletter Summer 2018



OMAGH
SUPPORT &
SELF HELP
GROUP

Hello
Summer

Legacy Consultation:



OMAGH SUPPORT & SELF HELP GROUP

YOU'RE INVITED TO A PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Come along and have your say

TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST 2018 | 7.30- 9.30 PM | SILVERBIRCHES HOTEL OMAGH
WED 8TH AUGUST 2018 | 7.30- 9.30 PM | INISHOWEN GATEWAY HOTEL BUNCRANA
MONDAY 13TH AUGUST 2018 | 12:00- 3.00 PM | CANADA ROOM QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:
ADDRESSING THE LEGACY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S PAST

11 MAY - 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

HAVE YOUR SAY AT:
WWW.GOV.UK/NIO

A public consultation opened on 11th May detailing the Northern Ireland's Office proposals on how to deal with the past. The public are invited to respond no later than 5pm on **10th September 18**. The new institutions are estimated to cost in the region of £150 Million of public money, it is therefore vitally important that you have your voices heard! OSSHG Advocacy team are proactive in meeting with the political parties and have met with a delegation from the SDLP including party Leader Colm Eastwood & Dolores Kelly MLA and UUP Robin Swann.

We have organised the following public events.

Tuesday 7th August from 7-9.30pm- Silver birches Hotel Omagh

Wednesday 8th August from 7-9.30pm -Inishowen Gateway Hotel Bunrana

Monday 13th August from 12pm-3pm - Canada Room Queens University Belfast

Omagh Support & Self-Help Group's Advocacy team will deliver a presentation outlining concerns around the implementation of the proposed mechanisms and what this will mean for the not only for the Omagh families, but for all victims & survivors throughout the history of the troubles. The audience will then be able to take part in a Question & Answer session.

Michael Gallagher Spokesperson for the Omagh Support & Self-Help Group advised that *"legacy issues of the past are poisoning the future and it is important that you have your say. This is a significant proposal, politicians have had their say now it's the publics opportunity to have their say"*

OSSHG Advocacy Team will have template response booklets for each participant in the audience, which will allow each individual to submit their own personalised responses in a simplified manner. A member of OSSHG's advocacy team will be on hand to assist in this process, as well as trained workers who can provide emotional support.

Civil Action Update



A number of representatives from OSSHG met with our legal representative Matthew Jury on 23rd March regarding the payment of the 1.6 in damages which was awarded to the Omagh families who took part in the Civil Action in Belfast in 2009.

There have been legal representatives in The Republic of Ireland appointed to initiate bankruptcy proceedings, so the process of recovering assets can begin.

Judicial Review



The Substantive hearing for the Judicial Review we took against the then Secretary of State, Theresa Villiirs'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.

Upcoming 20th Anniversary

Omagh Support & Self-Help group remembering the 31 innocent victims, those physically and psychologically injured, their families and friends on the 20th Anniversary of the Omagh Bomb.

For a full list of memorial events and activities please see our OSSHG Newsletter and Facebook page to be kept up to date.



In the run up to the 20th Anniversary, there is a significant media interest and anyone wishing to participate in sharing their experience with the media either radio, newspaper or TV can contact the office on 02882259877. Nichola will be able to support anyone who wishes to participate.



Other Anniversaries:



OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE CLAUDY FAMILIES TODAY ON THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAUDY BOMBINGS- WE SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR QUEST FOR JUSTICE



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TODAY ON THE 45RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIAMI SHOWBAND MASSACRE WE REMEMBER THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS AND SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR QUEST FOR JUSTICE



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GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2018

Then, Now... Next?

17-23 September

goodrelationsweek.com



Northern Ireland Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

T:buc
Changing for the better, together

Community Relations Council



'Talk by Victims' Rights Campaigner 'Raymond McCord'



Tuesday 18th September 2018

11am - 2pm

in Omagh Support & Self- Help Group Offices
Refreshments provided



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THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2018 | 7:00- 9:00 PM | THE BRIDGE CENTRE 5A HOLMVIEW AVE, OMAGH BT79 0AQ

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OMAGH
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OPEN DAY

Tuesday 2nd October 2018
11-3pm



5A Holmview Ave, Omagh
BT9 0AQ
028 8225 9877

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



Supporting, socialising and respite



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

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N. Ireland BT79 0AQ | tel: 028 82259877 | www.omaghnoomb.co.uk

Charity Number: NIC100554



Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

VS
VICTIMS &
SURVIVORS
SERVICE