

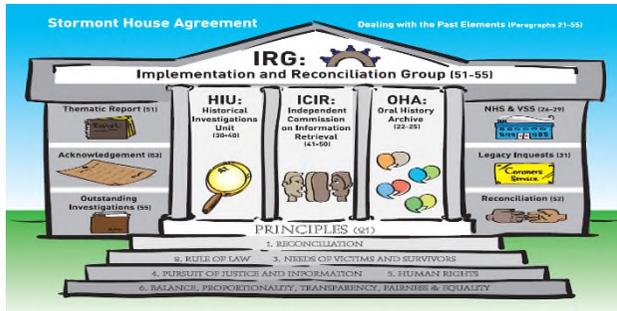
Omagh Support & Self-Help Groups Advocacy Newsletter Summer 2019



OMAGH
SUPPORT &
SELF HELP
GROUP

Hello
Summer

Legacy Consultation:



The Legacy Consultation extended to 5pm on 5 October 2018. We are awaiting the outcome of their analysis. The Advocacy Working Group which represents a number of Victims Groups will be making contact asking

for a timeframe for the publication of the analysis. Nichola will be in contact with members who submitted their response through our Advocacy Programme. For those members who submitted private responses, please get in contact if you want to be kept updated or require additional support.

Civil Action Update

A number of representatives from OSSHG attended the Four Courts in Dublin on Monday 18th February trying to have four of the men found liable in the Civil Action declared bankrupt after they failed to pay a £1.6m judgment award to some of the families who were involved in the Civil Action in Belfast in 2009.

Our Barrister John O'Donnell highlighted that "not one penny" has been paid to the victims since the men found responsible for the bomb were successfully sued. The case to recover the men's assets has moved to Dublin because their property and bank accounts are in the Republic.

On Friday 31st May Seamus Daly was declared bankrupt in the courts in Belfast. Our Spokesperson Michael Gallagher stated *"Today the last of the four Omagh bombers, Seamus Daly, was ordered bankrupt today and marks another milestone in our pursuit of justice for our loved ones. It's now for the Irish and Northern Ireland authorities to pursue all means to access those assets that we believe the bombers have tried to conceal. The importance of this should not be lost on those who continue to use and threaten violence to advance their own selfish and flawed agenda, including the killers of Lyra McKee and others. The message is that our society will continue to pursue them until justice is done and they will not be allowed to blight our future. That is why this is so important, and we will not rest."*

Judicial Review



In September 2013 the then Secretary of State Theresa Villers decided not to hold a Public Inquiry into the Omagh Bombing. We judicially reviewed her decision

through the courts. In 2015 The British Government won the right to apply Closed Material Procedures which effectively meant that intelligence relevant to this case would be assessed in Private. This has been the first case of its kind in Northern Ireland and has been extremely difficult for the families having been locked out of a significant part of the process. In February we had our substantive hearing which continued at the end of May;

Monday 4th February- OPEN Court

Tuesday 5th February- OPEN Court

Wednesday 6th February- CLOSED Court

Thursday 7th February- CLOSED Court

Tuesday 28th May-OPEN Court

Wednesday 29th May- OPEN Court

The publication of the Supreme Court decision into the Finucane Case & McQuillan Case has been positive in regard to the similarities of Article 2 Complaint Investigations which heavily feature in our case. We expect the decision of our Judicial Review to be around September/October.

Floating Support Dates:

Advocacy and Wellbeing will be in Buncrana on Wednesday 19th. Please get in contact to if you would like to meet with Nichola our Health & Wellbeing Caseworker or Nichola our Advocacy Caseworker.



Derry Girls Trip

A tweet by a UK broadcaster Julia Hartley-Brewer on the 20th Anniversary of the Omagh Bombing caused uproar and significant public criticism for her tweet which featured a picture taken in the aftermath of the attack.

One of the high-profile people who criticised Julia Hartley-Brewer was the writer of the hit Channel 4 programme Derry Girls Lisa McGee. Our Advocacy Case Officer Nichola made contact with Lisa to thank her for her support and we were able to arrange Backstage access to the Season 2 filming of Derry Girls. We wish Lisa and The Cast a very successful season2.



Victims of the Omagh bombing have reached to support campaigning terrorism survivors in Australia.



Those effected by the 2002 Bali bombing have been campaigning for a Memorial Peace Park to be built on the site of the attacks which killed 202 people including 88 Australians. Difficulties regarding the land cost and property at the site have frustrated plans for a permanent memorial for 17 years. It is understood negotiations are in a delicate and final phase.

Contacted by the Bali Peace Park Association in Perth, Omagh victim's spokesperson Michael Gallagher spoke of his long-standing support of the Australian families' quest to build a memorial on the site and his companionship with the group. Pressure from the UK survivors of Bali has also increased in recent weeks.

15th European Remembrance Day for Victims



For the fourth consecutive year, Cat Wilkinson Co-Chair of the Radicalisation Awareness Network Working Group “Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism” will collaborate in organising the European Remembrance Day for

Victims of Terrorism as a RAN Representative along with the European Commission in Brussels on 11th March 19. The event will be opened and chaired by Olivier Onidi DG Home Deputy Director General with keynote speeches from Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and Sir Julian King Commissioner for the Security Union. The European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism was established after the Madrid Bombings in 2004. Each year since 2005, the European Commission remembers on this date the victims of terrorist atrocities.

Cat recognises the importance of this event for Victims across Europe ‘each year this event brings together victims of terrorism, victim associations and first responders with European and Member States’ representatives, to share their stories and experiences, it is extremely important that they are not forgotten and are afforded opportunities like this to have their voices heard” This year will mark the 15th European Remembrance Day with the theme of ‘standing together’ and will include testimonies from victims of recent attacks and first responders.

Claire Byrne Show

Our Spokesperson Michael Gallagher featured as the guest speaker on the Claire Byrne Show on 11th February past. Discussing the implications Brexit & The boarder could have for victims.



Upcoming Events:

Thursday 13th June 2019, in Queen's University Belfast-Cross Community Victims Event



💬 😊 **'Could a citizens assembly deal with Northern Ireland's past?'**
Victims tell their stories. 😊 💬

The 6th Raymond McCord Jr Forum and QUB cross community victims event takes place on Thursday 13th June 2019, in Queen's University Belfast-Lanyon Building, room 01/052 from 14:00 – 16:30.

Panel Speakers:

- 🗣️ John Taggart
- 🗣️ Cathy McIlvenny
- 🗣️ Billy McManus
- 🗣️ Raymond McCord
- 🗣️ Plus 2 students from Oakgrove integrated school

📝 Chaired by Cat Wilkinson (Omagh Support Group)

This event is free and open to the public- Please get in touch with OSSHG on 028 82257722 if you are interested in attending- if there is enough interest OSSHG might run a bus to the event and back.



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

OMAGH SUPPORT <mailto:nmcgowan@omaghsupport.co.uk> 1st Floor Omagh Co. Tyrone,
N. Ireland BT79 0AT | tel: 028 82259877 | www.omaghnoomb.co.uk

Charity Number: NIC100554



Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

VS
VICTIMS &
SURVIVORS
SERVICE