

Omagh Support & Self-Help Groups Advocacy Newsletter Winter 2018



OMAGH
SUPPORT &
SELF HELP
GROUP



Legacy Consultation:

The Legacy Consultation extended to 5pm on 5 October 2018. The NIO are considering the 18,000 responses which have been submitted. We are awaiting the outcome of their analysis.

In the last 5 months we as an Advocacy Service have:

✓ Facilitated presentations to political parties



✓ Engaged with relevant stakeholders.

✓ Engaged with a number of focus groups.

✓ Held 3 Public information Sessions in Omagh, Belfast & Buncrana.

✓ Had Drop in evening sessions.

✓ Had Open Day for Community Groups.

✓ Facilitated 1:1 appointment for both members and non-members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who engaged with us throughout the consultation and contributed towards our finalised response.

From all at OSSHG we would like to thank the many individuals and organisations, who in your responses, took into consideration our views, particularly OSSHG's expressed desire not to fall into the HIU's remit following the proposed change of remit dates, we are most grateful for your support.

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 will have our substantive hearing;

Monday 4th February- OPEN Court

Tuesday 5th February- OPEN Court

Wednesday 6th February- CLOSED Court

Thursday 7th February- CLOSED Court



Floating Support Dates:

Advocacy and Wellbeing will be in Buncrana on Tuesday 15th January. Please get in contact to if you would like to meet with Nichola our Health & Wellbeing Caseworker or Nichola our Advocacy Caseworker.

Cross-Community Victims Forum:



Raymond McCord hosted a highly successful International Victims Conference in QUB on Wednesday 7th Nov- Speakers included the Following;

- Professor Siobhan O’Neill
- Raymond McCord
- Julie Hambleton
- Baroness O’Loan
- Cat Wilkinson

Several members of our group attended the event which was the first of its kind in the UK! Victim Led & Victim Centred.

We would like to congratulate Raymond on his successful event which in his own words sought to *“achieve what politicians have failed to do, and that’s to bring ALL victims together”*.

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 was available to talk through this process.

This was a highly successful event with several new contacts made with other support organisations.

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. Look out for coverage in our next edition.

Student Presentations

Student Awareness from around the globe!

Every year Michael meets with groups of students from all over the world and gives a very informative presentation in our offices. They also visit the memorial garden and have a question & answer session. This has proven to be very popular and of great interest to the students visiting Omagh. Here are a list of our groups this year so far.

- 17th Feb - Seattle University
- 5th March - Uni of Virginia
- 9th March - American student Group
- 12th March - Uni of Valparaiso
- 13th March - Ohio University
- 7th May - University of Louisville
- 2nd June - University of Michigan
- 14th June - Maddison University
- 16th June - German Student Group
- 19th June - German Student Group
- 6th July - LA university



Merry
Christmas

Christmas Raffle

1ST PRIZE: LARGE HAMPER

OSSHG

2ND PRIZE: MEDIUM HAMPER

3RD PRIZE: SMALL HAMPER



Draw taking place
Thursday 20th December
@ 1pm



Tickets £1 per Strip
or 6 for £5

Available from OSSHG
Offices or Charity Shop

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

OMAGH SUPPORT & SELF-HELP GROUP

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

@ ASDA, OMAGH

Why
not Join Us For some Old

Fashioned Community

Carol Singing

& get into
the festive
spirits

Oh! Jingle Bells, Jingle
Bells, Jingle all the
way....

We wish you a
Merry Christmas,
we wish you ...

