

## Our Work

We provide a caring, supportive and understanding environment to those who have been bereaved, or who may have been mentally/physically scarred by terrorist violence. You can also seek advice on a number of practical issues.

- **Welfare Rights**
- **Basic Counselling**
- **Group Support**
- **Befriending Service**
- **A Variety of Grants and Memorial Fund Support Schemes**
- **Training and Information Courses**

SDAHW tries to outreach to every innocent victim who has been traumatised by the affects of terrorist violence in a variety of ways.

At present we have 3 subgroups:-

- **Women's Group** • **Men's Group** • **Youth Group**

These Groups have proved a great success and we hope to build on that for the years to come.

We must not let those who have stood up against the evil of terrorism be forgotten.



## South Down Action for Healing Wounds

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South Down Action for Healing Wounds

Victims Support Group

The Voice of innocent  
victims in South Down

## Introduction

Northern Ireland is renowned for its heritage, myths, legends, but importantly its outstanding scenery. South Down is probably one of its best examples as it is an area of outstanding natural beauty, with beautiful rolling drumlins and the majestic Mountains of Mourne, which sweep down to the sea.

However, like many other counties in Northern Ireland, South Down has had more than its fair share of what was commonly known as the troubles. Some of the worst tragedies took place within the area, with the Narrow Water bomb of 1979 being one of the worst single atrocities to have taken place.

Many families throughout South Down have in some way been affected, with family members, relatives and friends having been maimed or murdered. The majority of their families having been injured or murdered whilst serving as members of Her Majesty's Forces. Other casualties having been targeted as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

## MISSION STATEMENT

SDAHW was established to provide HELP and SUPPORT to victims of terrorism in the South Down area.

These activities are varied and wide-ranging with the emphasis on self-help and mutual support, principally by and for immediate families of victims of terrorist violence. The Group's strategy is to provide a support centre and network for victims and their families providing self development through employment, education and training. It will assist with practical help in any way required to improve the quality of life of those who have suffered most through TERRORIST VIOLENCE.

## Who are SDAHW?

South Down Action for Healing Wounds was established in 1999, at a time when innocent victims of terrorist violence needed support and to have their voices heard. It was a time when they were being ignored while the perpetrators of violence were reaping many benefits, including early release from jail sentences.

We are a Self Help Support Group, made up of principally the families extended family circle and friends of people maimed or murdered in or from South Down.

The membership is drawn from both Security Force families and civilians. The Committee is representative of the membership and is made up of individuals who live in the South Down area and who in some way have been affected by terrorism.

The organisation presently has a membership of 80 plus their extended families which broadens the figure to approximately 550 people within the South Down area.

## Our Purpose

It is SDAHW's aim to help and support the innocent victims of Terrorist Violence in the South Down area and not to forget those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

### We are here to:-

- Represent the needs of terrorists victims to people of influence and decision makers
- To continue to actively seek justice for those loved ones who have been murdered or maimed and where no-one has been made amenable to the due process of law.
- To improve the quality of life for victims and their families. The major priority will be to provide help and advice regarding employment, education and training.
- To provide a research library concentrating on the conflict of the last 30 years for use by victims groups and individuals.
- To help in any way possible with the healing process necessary for victims and their families, and to build alliances with other similar groups and projects.
- To provide a multi-purpose drop-in centre, containing a wide range of facilities to help the self-development of families affected by terrorist violence.
- To carry out research to identify the actual needs of families affected by terrorist violence in the area and publish reports for the benefit of the Group and the community in general.