

Belfast Telegraph | Sunday Life | Ireland's Saturday Night | Business Telegraph | Jobfinder | PropertyNews.com

Belfast Telegraph

News

- + Business
- + Business Telegraph
- + Features
- + Letters
- + Telegraph
- Columnists
- + Opinion
- + Northwest Edition
- + Northwest Weekly
- + Education
- + Interactive Letters
- + Weather
- + Dating
- + Media Pack

Sport

- + Football
- + World Cup 2006
- + Premiership
- + Rugby
- + Gaelic Games
- + General

Lifestyle

- + Arts
- + Film & TV
- + Food & Drink
- + Music
- + Health & Beauty
- + Motoring
- + Travel
- + Special Interest
- + Twentyfourseven

PropertyNews.com

Sunday Life

Ireland's

Saturday Night

Gaming

Top 100 Companies

Home Delivery

Online Archive

Calendar 2007

Ads For Free

At The Movies

Belfast Telegraph Home > **News**

Plans for Troubles victims' forum are unveiled

By Noel McAdam

26 October 2006

Proposals for a future forum for victims and survivors to deal with the legacy of the Troubles have been unveiled.

Interim Victims Commissioner Bertha McDougall said the idea for a forum was perhaps the most important issue she has to deal with.

But speaking at the annual conference of the Community Relations Council, she stressed the over-riding concern was that final recommendations must ultimately make a "real and tangible difference" to the lives of victims and survivors.

Four potential models for a forum are suggested:

- An Independent Round Table Forum, formally constituted to try to reach a consensus on priorities;
- A Round Table Forum building on existing structures made up of the Interdepartmental Working Group, the Trauma Advisory Panels and Victims & Survivors' Groups;
- A Forum co-ordinated and driven by the Commissioner which would consult with experts and stakeholders to identify solutions;
- The existing Trauma Advisory Panels feeding into Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister linked to the Commissioner.

"We know that whatever is decided upon will not be a perfect option but it must evolve," Mrs McDougall added.

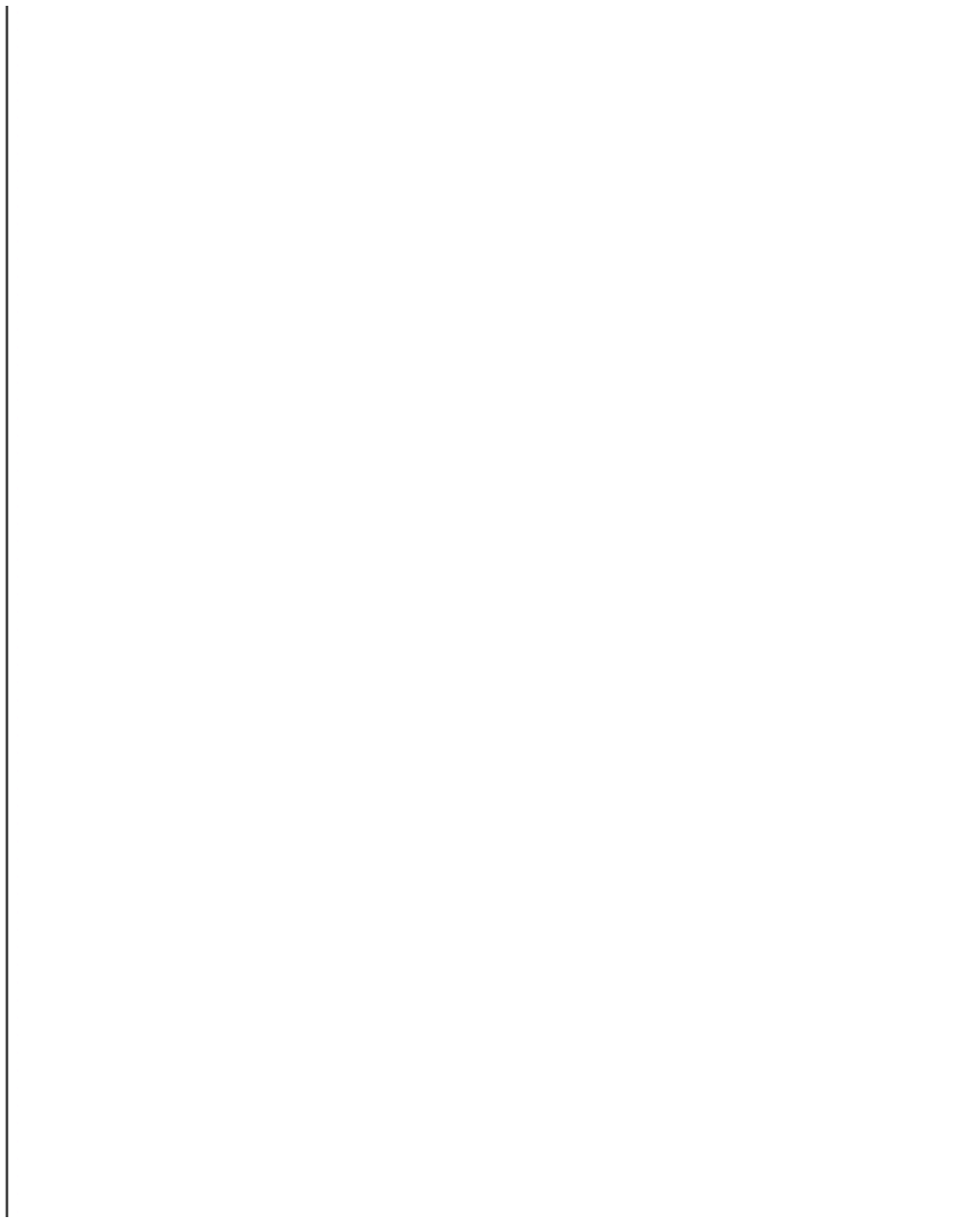
"We need to find ways to deal with the past by remembering, acknowledging, recording, exploring other perceptions, building an archive and learn from this for the future, learning from other post-conflict countries and leaving a positive legacy for future generations."

The issue was regarded as perhaps the most important within her remit. Funding was a critical area of concern but views on a model for a Forum have been wide and varied - including whether there should be one at all.

"This is not an easy process but it is an important one which will need to be carefully planned and structured and will take time to set up," the interim Commissioner added.

[Back](#) | [Return to top](#) | [Printable Story](#)

SiteSearch



[Terms & conditions](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Advertise online](#) | [Advertise in print](#) | [Contact us](#) |

© 2006 Independent News and Media (NI)
a division of Independent News & media (UK) Ltd