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## Truth process 'must include paramilitaries'

By Chris Thornton

01 November 2006

Proposals for paramilitaries to come clean about unsolved incidents were backed by Sinn Fein last night.

A report issued yesterday suggests paramilitary groups should play a direct role in recovering the truth behind the Troubles.

The report, drawn up by a group involving former paramilitaries and members of the security forces, explores a range of options, from a full-blown official truth commission to simply drawing a line under the past.

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) claimed the risk of not addressing unresolved issues may prevent the development of a sustainable peace.

Sinn Fein Assembly member Philip McGuigan said the report demands "the closest scrutiny and discussion".

"Sinn Féin are absolutely committed to seeing a process developed which can deliver closure for the families of those killed during the conflict," he said.

Last month former hunger striker Jackie McMullan urged the IRA to engage in a truth process "because it's the right thing to do".

Kate Turner, co-ordinator of the group Healing Through Remembering (HTR), said the report responded to the "need for a debate about how we should deal with the issue of truth recovery".

The report - called Making Peace With The Past - is described as the first of its kind.

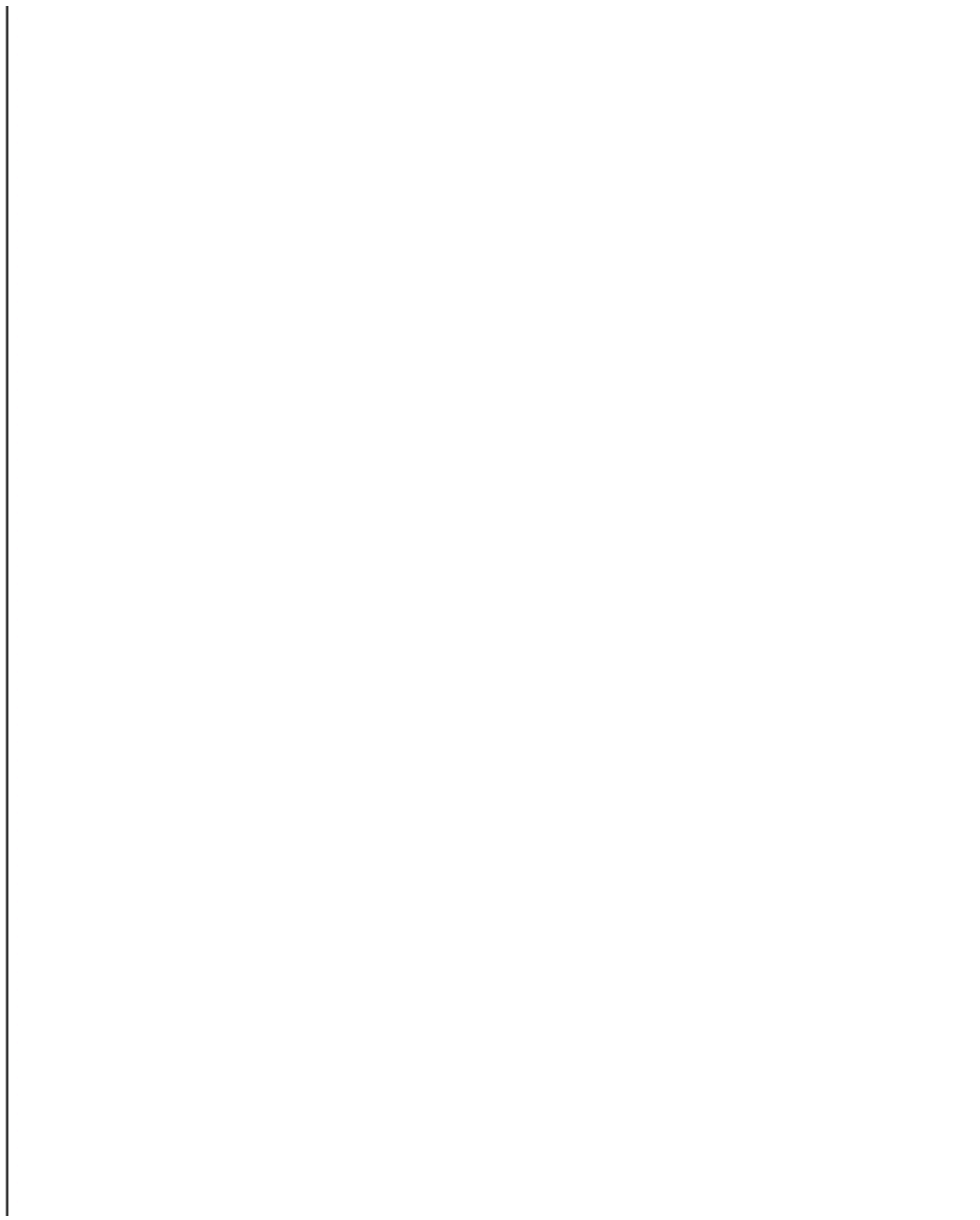
Warning against attempting to 'import' truth recovery by using a model used in another conflict, the report's author, Queen's University law professor Kieran McEvoy, said: "Any decision on the issue of truth recovery should be made following consideration of home-grown options such as those presented here."

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