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- **Published Date:** 22 June 2007
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Denis Bradley to probe troubled past



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A FORMER Derry priest is to head up a new body aiming to find the best way to deal with the legacy of

the Troubles.

Denis Bradley, ex-deputy chair of the North's Policing Board, and former Archbishop of Armagh, Lord Eames, will co-chair the new independent consultative group.

Mr. Bradley says it is proper to consult relatives of victims.

"You cannot resolve somebody's death, they are dead and there is grief and there is hurt and that will be there for forever," he said. "But it's decent sometimes to ask: what do you think?"

Secretary of State Peter Hain - who has set up the group - says the government cannot tell the people of Northern Ireland how they should deal with the past.

"Only the people themselves can try to answer that question," he said. "This consultative group provides a platform for people to express their own views on how to address the violent legacy of the Troubles which impacted on so many across all sections of society."

The full membership of the Group is Jarlath Burns, former GAA captain of Armagh and GAA analyst, Rev Lesley Carroll, Presbyterian Minister, Willie John McBride, former captain of the British and Irish Lions rugby team, James Mackey, former lecturer in philosophy at Queen's University Belfast and visiting professor at Trinity College Dublin, Elaine Moore, alcohol and drugs counsellor at Northlands, based at Magilligan Prison, and David Porter, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland.

In addition, Martti Ahtisaari and Brian Currin have agreed to act as international advisers to the panel to offer impartial advice on any lessons that might be learned for Northern Ireland from their wide-ranging experience of addressing the aftermath of conflict in other countries.

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