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Monday, 16th February 2009

Plans for £12k for victims 'preposterous' - Campbell

Published Date: 27 January 2009

The DUP's Gregory Campbell has blasted plans to pay £12,000 to relatives of all victims of the Troubles, describing the proposal as "preposterous."

Mr. Campbell made the comment after it was revealed the Consultative Group on the Past - co-chaired by Denis Bradley and Robin Eames - will recommend that the relatives of everyone killed in the Troubles gets a one-off payment.

The leaked suggestion

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has sparked controversy with unionists claiming it would recognise paramilitary members who died in the same way as innocent victims.

The East Derry MP said; "This is a preposterous proposal which attempts to equate innocent victims with murderers. The crucial point here is all of the investigating of the past is being carried out by the UK into the activities of the UK's legitimate response to the murder carried out by terrorists, predominantly the Provisional IRA.

"This means that the violence which has been the primary responsibility of the IRA is being ignored while the response to it is being investigated and paid for by the UK. I and others have indicated in recent months that we may be fast approaching the time when we draw the curtain down on the past."

Paul O'Connor from the Derry-based Pat Finucane Centre said money is not the solution to the problems associated with the Troubles. "For us the important thing is the truth recovery, it isn't about a one-off payment. It is a horrible discussion, it is just about money," he said.

The Eames-Bradley report will be published tomorrow.

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- **Last Updated:** 27 January 2009 10:52 AM
- **Source:** n/a
- **Location:** Derry

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