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Strong case for a truth commission

(Editorial, [Irish News](#))

There has been much discussion about dealing with the past but little agreement on the best way to go about it.

We have seen a number of different approaches to seeking the truth, ranging from official inquiries and historical investigations to intermittent encounters between victims and those who caused their suffering and ongoing campaigns by bereaved relatives desperate for information.

Sometimes these official and unofficial methods provide a degree of closure.

However, there is an overwhelming sense that the issue of truth and reconciliation thus far has been dealt with in a piecemeal fashion and while some victims may have had their concerns addressed, many more have not.

This unsatisfactory approach has already been highlighted by the former interim victims commissioner, Bertha McDougall, who has proposed a forum for victims and survivors.

Now Sir Desmond Rea, chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, has used the high-profile international policing conference at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast to urge the British government to take swifter action on setting up a truth commission.

This is not the first time Sir Desmond has called for what he terms a "broadly based and inclusive commission" to recommend how this society should deal with the past but the fact that he is pressing for the issue to be made a top priority is a clear indication that he feels it is not receiving the attention it deserves.

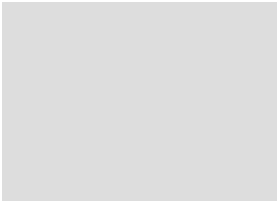
While there are those who do not wish to revisit the past, for many others there are matters waiting to be resolved.

Almost 10 years on from the Good Friday Agreement it is disappointing that we have not made more progress in addressing the issues which continue to cause so much pain to so many people.

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