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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

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JUSTICE AND VICTIMS NEEDS TO BE TOP PRIORITY FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

DUP Member of Parliament for Lagan Valley, Jeffrey Donaldson has responded to speculation surrounding the Eames-Bradley Consultative Group on The Past. Jeffrey Donaldson has warned that the needs of victims and the securing of justice needs to be the over-riding priority for the Group when it presents its final recommendations. Speaking today Jeffrey Donaldson said:

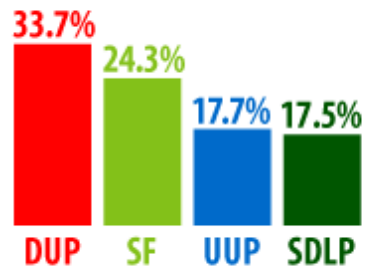


“Dealing with the legacy of the past is a monumental task and it needs to be handled with sensitivity and due care for the needs of innocent victims with the maintenance of justice at its core. We will not allow any whitewashing of the past in order to absolve those guilty of heinous acts carried out against innocent people. Too many people in Northern Ireland have suffered at the hands of terrorism for that to be simply swept under the carpet.

Furthermore, the DUP does not, nor will we ever accept any proposal that would make a scapegoat out of the legitimate forces of law and order. People on both sides of the community in Northern Ireland are deeply indebted to the police and army for the sterling work they did protecting property and human life from the criminal activity of

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those engaged in terrorism.

The Democratic Unionist Party will continue to vociferously oppose an amnesty for any persons involved in terrorism. Such people should be treated as the criminals they are and pursued relentlessly and made to pay for their crimes. Dealing with the past is a very important job, but it must be handled appropriately. The DUP places the needs of victims as a key and top priority. We support the work of the Historical Enquiries Team and are opposed to anything that would undermine that good work. Victims deserve to know that those responsible for their suffering will not be granted any amnesty. We will await the final recommendations of the report with interest."

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