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## KELLY - DISAPPEARED ISSUE REMAINS DESPITE DRAFT LEGISLATION

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Commenting on the launch of draft legislation to help the families of the disappeared and other missing persons today SDLP Equality Spokesperson Dolores Kelly MLA stated:

“This draft legislation will help many families deal with the number of outstanding legal issues which surround the disappearance of a loved one. Many find themselves the innocent victims of a legal loophole which only compounds their grief and loss. I hope that this draft legislation and the consultation around it will further clarify the issue. Indeed, whilst it is welcome, it is long overdue given the particular circumstances of the families of the disappeared.

No-one should think that this draft legislation closes the book on the disappeared or take the onus off those responsible to face up to their actions. They must now fully engage in the process of locating all the bodies of the disappeared. This remains a gaping wound, not just for the families, but for the wider society across the North. It is clear that the disappeared and their families should not be forgotten, overlooked, or brushed aside as has so often been the case in the past. Clearing up legal anomalies is one thing, but continual dodging of clear moral issues cannot be tolerated.”

ENDS

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