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# Sinn Féin

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## Kelly - Victims Rights Must Be Guaranteed

Published: 9 April, 2007

Speaking before today's Easter commemoration in the New Lodge area in North Belfast, Sinn Féin Assembly member Gerry Kelly said that the rights of victims and survivors of the conflict had to be guaranteed and delivered upon by the incoming executive.

Mr Kelly said:

"Many people suffered terrible loss and pain throughout the course of the conflict. The rights of victims and survivors to proper treatment must be guaranteed and delivered by the incoming Executive.

"However the vital first step for victims of British State violence in areas like the New Lodge is for the British system to end their policy of concealment. The British State needs to acknowledge its role as a protagonist in the conflict and deal with the reality of the more than one thousand victims of collusion and state violence when dealing with victims' issues. The British government were not peace keepers in Ireland and they should stop trying to pretend otherwise.

"There has to be equality of treatment for all victims and survivors and an end to discrimination against victims of state violence and collusion. Sinn Féin will continue to stand with the victims of state violence in their campaign for the truth. Other political parties and leaders must do likewise." ENDS

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