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## Establishment of Victims and Survivors Commission

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Sinn Féin deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has the establishment of the Commission for Victims and Survivors as a "major step" towards addressing the pain and suffering which still exists.

Announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the establishment of the Commission follows the coming into force of the Commission for Victims and Survivors Act 2008.

The Commissioners designate Brendan McAllister, Patricia McBride, Bertha McDougall and Michael Nesbitt have been appointed to the new Commission.

Mr McGuinness said:

"We are all very aware of the enormity of the challenges which face the new Commission as we emerge from conflict. Much work has still to be done. There are many sensitive issues to be addressed. There are no ready made solutions. I think we can all agree to that and in doing so I would urge all those involved in work with victims and survivors to extend to the new Commission the understanding and support which will be necessary over the months and years ahead." ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Commission for Victims and Survivors Act 2008 has received Royal Assent. It amends the Victims and Survivors (Order 2006).
2. The Victims and Survivors Order 2006 made provision for a Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for the North of Ireland, to be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly.
3. Following a public appointments process, the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 28 January 2008, announced to the Assembly the appointment of four Commissioners Designate for Victims and Survivors. However the establishment of the Commission required amendment of the Victims and Survivors Order 2006.
4. The Commission for Victims and Survivors Act provides for the Commission for Victims and Survivors in place of a Commissioner.

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