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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

Latest News:

A COMMISSION FOR VICTIMS WELCOMED BY DONALDSON

DUP Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson has commented following speculation about the setting up of a Commission for Victims and Survivors. Commenting Mr Donaldson said,

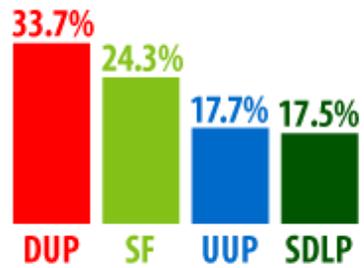


"I would warmly welcome the creation of a Commission for victims. Much of the alienation, which has been experienced by many innocent victims and the groups who represent them, would be addressed through a Commission.

Throughout the political process spearheaded by the Ulster Unionist Party and especially under the Belfast Agreement, the interests and concerns of the innocent victims of the Troubles were largely ignored.

When my Party took over the mantel for unionism we made the issue of innocent victims a priority and ensured that they were given a voice through the establishment of a Commission. We will not let the case of victims be forgotten.

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The Interim Commissioner, Bertha McDougal, has already carried out much good work and we would like to see that continued and built upon. The report, which was published by her Commission, highlighted the real need for long-term funding to be secured by the Victims sector. I am glad that in the Assembly last week the Finance Minister, Peter Robinson, was able to give a commitment that there would be a further £6 million for victims.

Too often, the innocent victims of terrorist violence received inadequate amounts of compensation from the Government. Over the years they have struggled to make ends meet and to raise families in the most difficult circumstances. It is long past time that the Government put right this particular injustice.

The Government and the Executive should work closely with the Victims' Commission to ensure that there is greater flexibility and generosity when assessing and meeting the needs of individual victims and their families."

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