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Press Releases

Community Support for 21 June ... A Day of Private Reflection

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) has received support from across the community for tomorrow's (21 June) initial Day of Private Reflection.

HTR, a cross-community organisation, focuses on ways of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful and stable future for all. And it says the Day of Private Reflection could help people make a commitment to that peaceful future, while also acknowledging the deep hurt and loss caused by the conflict.

Kate Turner, Healing Through Remembering Co-ordinator, says: "The Day of Reflection sub group has been discussing the plans and proposals for the event for over a year, but independent of this many individuals and organisations have come forward to offer their support and to make their own plans for participating.

Sean Coll, chair of the Day of Reflection sub group, says: "We are greatly encouraged by the positive responses we have had from a wide variety of voluntary and community groups, churches and businesses, as well as from individual people.

"A host of organisations are providing facilities where quiet and private reflection can take place on the Day, while other groups have decided to use the arts and creative expression to aid reflection.

"Some people may want to reflect on their own, others may decide to do so within a family, a group or organisation."

HTR has invited people across Northern Ireland, Britain, the Republic of Ireland and further afield to take part in the Day. While it is a society-wide initiative, no public or civic events have been planned... private is the key word and participation is entirely voluntary.

HTR has produced a range of information materials - leaflets, postcards, wallet-cards and posters - to help raise awareness of the Day and also to aid reflection on the Day itself. All items can still be obtained free from the HTR offices at Alexander House, 17A Ormeau Avenue, Belfast or online at www.dayofreflection.com

Ms Turner adds: "Local and international research suggests that an initiative like a Day of Private Reflection can benefit both individual people and wider society.

"The Day is only one piece of the jigsaw necessary to fully address the legacy of the past, but it can provide a way of enabling us to begin to both remember the past and go forward as a society."

Further details of the Day of Private Reflection initiative are on www.dayofreflection.com

20/06/2007

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