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Victims commissioner will draw on Bloody Sunday role



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By Staff reporter

One of the newly appointed victims commissioners has described her experience working with the Bloody Sunday Trust as a "huge leg-up" to her new position.

Patricia MacBride worked as the project manager for the Bloody Sunday Trust in Derry for six years and said the experience she gained there had proved to be "invaluable".

"Certainly the six years I spent working with the Bloody Sunday Trust was a huge leg up for this post. Not only was I working with a community based organisation addressing the needs of survivors and victims, but I also had the opportunity to work with people from right across the community and indeed right across the world and see how they try to deal with their experience. I will draw on that experience when I go out into the field with my fellow commissioners and I am sure they will also use their own experience," he said.

Ms MacBride said she expects her new post to be challenging but explained she is looking forward to the task. "We are under no illusions about the nature of this job. I am expecting huge challenges. The first thing the four of us want to do is put the difficulties surrounding the application process behind us and move forward and get on with our work.

"One of the greatest facing us is reaching out to everyone whose views we want to take into consideration. I want to reach out particularly to the people who do not already belong to victims groups and the people who are out there on their own, trying to manage their grief and suffering by themselves.

"The main consideration for me and for the other members of the commission will be the needs of victims. We will be meeting to work out our approach in terms of our remit and funding and a number of other issues but it will certainly be a bottom up approach. It will be victim centred and victim led."

she said.

Ms MacBride said she is confident all members of the new commission will work well together. "We have known each other for just a week now and in that short time we have already established a good working relationship. We all have a great deal of respect for each other and we are comfortable working together and all of us are looking forward to getting on with what we have been chosen to do," she said.

The full article contains 417 words and appears in Journal Friday newspaper.

Last Updated: 31 January 2008 4:09 PM

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