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Press Releases

HTR Launch Storytelling Audit and Announce Conference 18th October 2005

HEALING THROUGH REMEMBERING LAUNCHED AUDIT ON STORYTELLING INITIATIVES AND ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF A FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE ON STORYTELLING.

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) launched the first in a series of reports on Tuesday 18th October and announced details of an upcoming conference on 'Storytelling'.

The report, "**Storytelling Audit: An audit of personal story, narrative and testimony initiatives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland**", was commissioned by Healing Through Remembering on behalf of the organisations storytelling sub group to document storytelling initiatives relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland in order to inform the groups ongoing work. The report was compiled by Gráinne Kelly.

"The HTR Board welcomes the publication of this report, the first since the launch of the original HTR Report in 2002. The audit is a comprehensive examination of this area of work dealing with the past and provides a range of concrete recommendations for the ongoing work of the storytelling sub group" stated Prof. Roy McClelland, Chairman of the HTR Board.

The audit contains details of approximately 30 storytelling initiatives and covers a wide range of projects located in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland. A number of issues relating to each of the projects are examined in detail. The report also contains a discussion chapter where the

process for identifying projects is outlined along with some comment on the motivations and objectives of storytelling initiatives related to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. A further chapter details some recommendations made by the researcher for HTR's storytelling sub group and for the group's on-going work.

The reports recommendations include, amongst others, further consideration to the appropriateness and applicability of the term "storytelling"; an exploration of why some communities and sectors more than others are engaged in storytelling work related to the conflict and an identification of how to inform and guide projects in the long-term archiving of materials safely, securely and lawfully. The full list of recommendations can be found in Chapter 6 of the report.

The report was presented at the launch by Gráinne Kelly who gave a brief presentation on the audit and its contents. The vice chair of the storytelling sub group, Claire Hackett, addressed how the report came from and will affect the work and discussions within the HTR storytelling sub group while Roy McClelland, Chairman of Healing Through Remembering, also made some comments and observations on the report and its recommendations.

The floor was opened for questions and answers and comments from those who had attended including members of the initiatives documented in the report. The questions raised highlighted the need for continued discussion and exploration of the value of storytelling in a society emerging from conflict and the development of good practice. Speaking on this issue the reports researcher, Gráinne Kelly, noted *"the audit highlights the range of expertise in this field and the need to continue to disseminate this learning as broadly and widely as possible."*

Concluding the launch Prof. McClelland added, *"The audit is a tremendous resource that will have great value to new initiatives beginning in this field and to existing organisations which may benefit from reading how other organisations choose to collect, record, disseminate and archive stories*

relating to the conflict”.

The launch of the report will now be followed with a one-day conference on Storytelling, looking at its value and practical applications and the use of story as a tool for societal transformation. The conference, to be held on the **29th November** and organised by Healing Through Remembering, will feature a host of international speakers, provide an opportunity for conference attendees to offer feedback on the question of “Should there be a collective storytelling process to deal with the conflict in and about Northern Ireland?” and conclude with a panel discussion featuring the keynote speakers, Storytelling researcher, HTR Board members, the chair and vice chair of the HTR storytelling sub group and a member of the HTR truth recovery and acknowledgement sub group.

Copies of audit will be available to [order](#) and [download](#) from the Healing Through Remembering website www.healingthroughremembering.org.

Alternatively, copies can be ordered by contacting the HTR offices on Tel: 028 9023 8844 or Fax: 028 9023 9944.

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