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**Day to reflect on Troubles is proposed**

By Noel McAdam

19 October 2006

A day of private reflection across Northern Ireland, the Republic and Britain has been proposed as a mechanism for dealing with the legacy of the Troubles and moving forward.

The Healing Through Remembering (HTR) project suggested June 21 next year as the first initial Day of Reflection, which would be held in private.

Following a conference earlier this month in Armagh, a sub-group working on the proposal said inclusive and careful preparation would be required.

"We are mindful that the issues around the hurts of the past are difficult, complex and sensitive and that there is no single solution to addressing the suffering brought about by the conflict in and about Northern Ireland," their report, released today, said.

The sub-group said their work over the last two years had led them to conclude that a special day "could make a valuable contribution to enabling society to deal with the legacy of the conflict and to move forward to a better future".

And while the initial day would be held privately, the group said there is "at least the potential" to hold the day publicly in future and move towards public, shared events over time.

Sean Coll, chair of the sub-group, said the purpose of the day was to provide the opportunity for reflection on the conflict and assess the viability of holding future days.

He has asked for responses to the proposal, which will need the involvement of many, to be submitted by Friday, December 1.

HTR's initial report four years ago recommended an annual Day of Reflection as a "universal gesture of reconciliation, reflection, acknowledgement and recognition of the suffering of so many . . ."

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