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News & Opinion

Latest news

Eames to address justice group meeting

North Belfast News

By Gemma Burns

The co-chair of the group set up to deal with the legacy of the past here will speak at a key meeting of bereaved families and victims of the conflict on the Falls Road next week.

Dr Robin Eames, co-chair of the Eames/Bradley Consultative Group on Dealing with the Past will speak at the Relatives for Justice AGM on Monday. The meeting is the first time the former Anglican archbishop minister will attend an event in the heart of the republican and nationalist community and organisers are urging bereaved families and victims to attend.

Dr Eames will be joined by North Belfast minister Rev Leslie Carroll, who also sits on the consultative group, to hear directly from audience members affected by the Troubles and discuss key aspects of the group's work.

The consultative group is expected to publish their highly anticipated report early next year and RFJ hope that Monday's meeting will allow local people to make a contribution to the final outcome.

RFJ have maintained an ongoing dialogue with the group in their bid to have an international, independent truth commission established and see Monday's meeting as another opportunity for victims to make their voices heard.

"We have made a number of key submissions on our firm belief that what is needed is a totally independent, international truth commission into the legacy of the past," said RFJ chair Clara Reilly.

"We have provided very detailed proposals on what can be achieved and although Dr Eames will not be able to discuss what may be in their final report, it is a chance for him to talk about the process and his journey

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through that process."

Previously the consultative group has referred to the 'shocking levels of collusion' between the British state and loyalist paramilitaries uncovered during their consultations.

"If that is the case then this meeting gives us the chance to ask where are we at and where do we now need to go," added Clara.

During the AGM Dr Eames and Rev Carroll will address key aspects of the work of the consultative group including challenges and hopes for the future, the need to deal with the past and the cost of not dealing with the past.

Relatives for Justice believe any commission should be based on truth and acknowledgment rather than prosecutions and all groups including British, republican and loyalist should cooperate in good faith.

The meeting will take place on Monday 15 December at 12 noon in the Falls Library. Anyone wishing to attend should register with Aine Burns either by email at adminrfj@relativesforjustice.com or phone 90220100.

Love and Marriage

The Wedding Planner

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue... well, it may not be all that, but it is the premier guide to getting married this year. Click on the front page (right) to read more.

