

Tuesday 3 March 2009

**NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY**

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- Home
- News Archive
- Your Representatives
- Manifesto 2007
- Downloads
- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
- Policy Documents
- DUP Advice Centres
- Give Us Your Views
- Contact Us
- Join the Party
- Links

**DUP NEWS****Latest News:****Dodds meets victims representatives**

Speaking to members of the victims group SAVER/NAVER in Markethill County Armagh, DUP European Candidate Diane Dodds has welcomed the decision of the Secretary of State not to proceed with the Eames-Bradley £12,000 pay-off proposal. Mrs. Dodds also praised the work of SAVER/NAVER and vowed to work closely with the group and the entire innocent victims sector if returned to represent Northern Ireland in the European Parliament. Diane Dodds said:

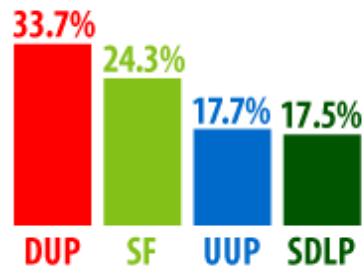
*“The proposals for a £12,000 pay off was morally obnoxious because it would have created a moral parity between terrorists and those whom they went out of their way to murder. Had this proposal been instituted it would have created equality between the people murdered at Enniskillen, La Mon House Hotel or Omagh, with the terrorists intercepted by the forces of law and order at Loughgall or Gibraltar. The people murdered by terrorists had no choice. Those who became terrorist criminals chose to do so. This proposal from the Eames-Bradley Group made no recognition of that reality.”*

Remarking on the work of SAVER/NAVER, Diane Dodds said:

*“It was great for me to come along and meet the people involved with SAVER/NAVER. The group is engaged in a very positive programme of activity designed to help innocent victims and their families cope with the suffering and hurt which they*

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*experienced during the violence of Northern Ireland's recent past. It was good for me to meet members of the group and see the positive work they are doing. SAVER/NAVER go about their work in a dignified way – ensuring that the voice of victims is heard.*

*The DUP has made caring for the needs of innocent victims a key priority. In government at Stormont we doubled the victims' sector budget to more than £36million. £1.5million has been made available in this financial year for schemes delivered to individuals via the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund and we have secured an additional £4million for victims next year.*

*In Europe, I will fight tooth and nail to support our victims groups like SAVER/NAVER who deserve all the support that the European Union has to offer."*

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