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SDLP plan for hierarchy of victims disgraceful

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Sinn Féin spokesperson on Victims issues Francie Molloy has accused the SDLP of 'working hand in hand with those who are seeking to promote a hierarchy of victims'. Mr Molloy's comments come after the SDLP supported unionist plans to introduce a Chief Victims Commissioner and remove the need for consensus amongst the four commissioners on decision making.

Mr Molloy said:

"The bid to elevate one commissioner over the others and to remove the requirement for consensus to be reached on decision making is a ham fisted attempt by those who seek to promote a hierarchy of victimhood to introduce this failed approach into the Victims Commission.

"Sinn Féin and those groups representing victims of collusion and British State terror will not accept a hierarchy of victims and will therefore not accept a hierarchy within the Victims Commission. The decision by the SDLP to work hand in hand with those within unionism who have sought for years to promote this agenda is a disgrace.

"Sinn Féin and the DUP agreed a way forward on this issue. It requires the appointment of four commissioners with equal status. That is the direction in which we now need to proceed and that is what the legislation needs to reflect." Críoch

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