

Sdlp conference

Truth, Justice & Accountability are non-negotiable

Coláiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire - Monday April 4th 2016

{ Relatives for Justice presentation

How do we ensure that truth, justice & accountability are non-negotiable?

By limiting/closing the space to those who would seek to hide the truth

By creating inclusivity & openness through the processes designed & agreed to deliver truth, justice & accountability mechanisms – *talks/negotiations*

By FULL implementation of that agreement

By ensuring universal human rights compliance

“Narrowing the range of permissible lies”

Michael Ignatieff - 2000

Investigative
Independent
Impartial
Transparent
Prompt
Effective
Robust
Inclusive
Gender lens
Victim-centered
Deliver

*Key Principles/ HR's legal obligations
essential for any Process*

PSNI's HET operated illegally – (*Sept 2005/Sept 2014 disbanded*)

Eames/Bradley CGP –(*June 2007/Jan 2009 rejected*)

Police Ombudsman (PONI) interference in legacy cases (*2011/2013 suspended*)

Haass/O'Sullivan –(*Dec 2013 rejected*)

Ongoing UK Gov./MoD/PSNI Inquest delays

Overall a persistent failure to disclose information to families & deny truth via the above processes

Disappointment after disappointment for victims & survivors

Stormont House Agreement (SHA) Dec 2014
First agreement between both gov's & all parties to Executive
Agreement human rights compliant
Four key strands – HIU/ICIR/IRG/OHA
(Inquests remained outside of process – LCJ plan)
Requires proper legislation
British Gov. draft legislation 'national security veto'
Irish Gov. 'smothering blanket' not acceptable *(Flanagan)*
General consensus in opposition to veto from victims & political
parties
'Fresh Start' failed to address legacy of the past

Bad faith legislation - hopes dashed?

Too many bereaved relatives have passed away being denied truth, justice & accountability

Elderly relatives now deserve resolution in their lifetime

Families are tired and weary telling their stories

Newer generations (*society*) are being affected

Families want actions, not words, empty promises, or platitudes

Families have a **RIGHT** to **truth, justice, & reparations**

Families want both gov's & all parties to implement in full the legacy section of SHA

*Families deserve action - implementation of
SHA legacy sections*

A lot achieved in Dec 2104 SHA

That's because the process was inclusive politically & responsive to the needs of the bereaved & injured

British Gov. 'national security' veto needs removed

Issue of onward disclosure from HIU Director needs resolved

'...stretched ourselves...but open to consideration of alternatives.' (*Villiers*)

We are close to achieving agreement and need to get over the line

This requires a consensus approach

This requires *minimal* fresh talks for a real fresh start

Opportunity still exists – offering hope

*“History despite its wrenching pain
cannot be unlived but if faced with
courage need not be lived again”*

Maya Angelou - 1993