



### Denise Ann Dickson

5 year-old Denise Ann Dickson was playing in the street outside her north Belfast home when she was run over by an armored British army vehicle on February 8th 1971. She died instantly. Despite being aware of the incident the British army drove on. There was no investigation into the killing which was later officially reported as an 'accident'. No one was ever held accountable. Denise Ann Dickson is not officially classed as being a 'victim' of the conflict and therefore her story does not feature in any statistics or narratives about the conflict.

On the top right corner of Denise Ann's square we see her represented as being the happy, colourful, and beautiful loving child she was. In the opposite top left corner Denise Ann is shown as sad representing the awful loss.

Just below her picture Denise Ann is shown skipping happily with her rope which she was doing when run over. To the right are flowers in her memory. In the left corner are three teddy bear buttons taken from one of Denise's cardigans.

Denise Ann is pictured in the centre of her square with 2 angles signifying her being taken to heaven.



## RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE

Relatives for Justice (RFJ) was formed in April 1991 by a number of human rights activists and families affected by a common experience of the conflict in Ireland.

Initially the group operated in a voluntary capacity supporting the bereaved and injured with an emphasis on addressing the circumstances in which loved ones were killed. This work sought to examine human rights violations and the legacy of impunity, the failings of the criminal justice system, lobbying for international support & awareness, campaigning for the promotion of human rights, and transparent and accountable mechanisms of justice.

In 1994 following the ceasefires the organization also began to examine the relationships between the lack of truth and justice families had experienced, the impact of violence, and the effects of trauma in their lives. Offices delivering support opened in Belfast in 1998 and in 2002 in counties Tyrone and South Derry.

**RFJ Mission:** To provide appropriate therapeutic and developmental based support for the bereaved and injured of the conflict within a safe environment. To examine and develop transitional justice and truth recovery mechanisms assisting with individual healing, contributing to positive societal change, ensuring the effective promotion and protection of human rights, social justice, and reconciliation in the context of an emerging participative democracy post conflict.

**Relatives for Justice**  
235a Falls Road, Belfast BT12 4PE  
Ireland

**Tel:** 00 44 (0)28 9022 0100  
**Fax:** 00 44 (0)28 9022 0101  
**Email:** [info@relativesforjustice.com](mailto:info@relativesforjustice.com)  
[www.relativesforjustice.com](http://www.relativesforjustice.com)

DESIGNED BY: S DESIGN Tel: 028 9096 2804



## RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE

THE UNTOLD STORIES OF  
RELATIVES, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

THE REMEMBERING QUILT

# REMEMBERING QUILT

The Remembering Quilt is a project run by Relatives for Justice (RFJ) in which families bereaved as a result of the conflict in Ireland make a 9 inch square in memory of their loved one which is then completed into an 8ftx8ft quilted panel consisting of 49 squares. The project is ongoing and currently there are 9 completed quilts.

Families design and make squares often depicting values, hobbies and interests to professions and trades of those killed providing a sense of each individual, precious and unique life lived and of how they touched those closest to them rather than being a statistic and just another killing. Some squares use fabric of clothing and personal items belonging to the deceased.

It is an inspiration of self empowerment that transcends the medium of modern day media in which the loss of life was oftentimes merely a mention communicating more widely and poignantly so much more about human loss. It reflects a broader dimension of the person killed from those who knew them best.

The Remembering Quilt provides ownership of the process of remembrance to those bereaved, is creative and facilitates expression through the medium of art, ends isolation by bringing people together, opens doors and provides further opportunities for support and trauma recovery work. So the process is as equally important as the beautiful end product that is a lasting testimony.

The Remembering Quilt is inclusive and open to anyone bereaved by the conflict irrelevant of their religion, politics or circumstances surrounding their killing.



## Kathleen Thompson

46 year-old Mother of 6 Kathleen Thompson was shot dead by the British army in the back garden of her Derry home on November 6th 1971. Kathleen, along with neighbours, had come out to alert local people of the presence of British soldiers who were raiding homes. A single shot rang out. Kathleen was shot through the neck. There was no independent investigation into the killing and the soldier responsible was cleared of any wrongdoing by the British army's own Royal Military Police.

Kathleen loved Irish culture and this is reflected in the lithograph on the square remembering Kathleen which is a beautiful portrait by artist John Lavery of Lady Lavery who equally shared a passion of Irish art and culture. Kathleen's family felt that this truly represented her love and devotion to them and her culture - a mother Ireland representation.

The square also has Kathleen's Rosary Ring representing her Catholic faith, and a pair of Irish dancing shoes further illustrating her passion for cultural activities. The square is finished with embroidered Celtic design.



## Brian Stewart

13 year-old Brian Stewart was shot with a plastic bullet fired by a British soldier outside his West Belfast home on October 4th 1976. Brian's skull was fractured and he later died in hospital on October 10th. Brian was the fifth person to be killed by plastic and rubber bullets and the Stewart family campaigned tirelessly against both their use and the impunity provided to the soldier responsible. A further 12 people were killed by plastic bullets - five of them school children. Thousands more were maimed.

On Brian's square we see him holding the Irish flag with a cross on it. This represents that he was an Irish Catholic and the reason why he was shot. He is also holding a placard to raise awareness about plastic bullets.

On the square butterflies are scattered representing a prank when Brian collected and then released butterflies during a school lesson. Brian's mother always referred to him as the jester because of his joking personality hence him pictured smiling and wearing a jester's crown.

On the top left corner there is a birthday cake with 13 candles. A solitary candle lies beside the cake. This symbolizes the fact that Brian was buried on his 14th Birthday - a birthday he did not reach.

