

Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill

Background

The UK Government introduced this Bill as their means of addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past.

It proposes two key mechanisms to do this:

- An Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery
- An Oral History and Memorialisation initiative

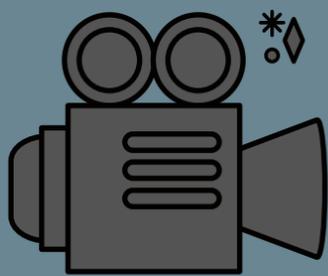
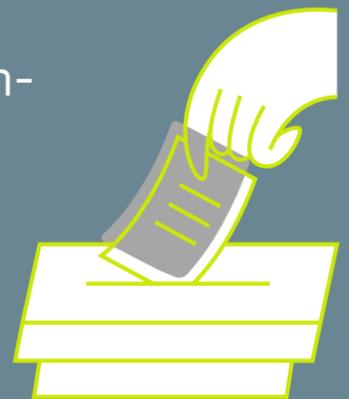


The Bill is progressing through Parliament at pace and will have a significant impact on victims and survivors.

What are we doing ?

We are deeply unhappy with this draft legislation.

We believe it is fundamentally flawed, is not victim-centred and raises concerns around compliance with Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights which could result in future legal challenges.



The Commissioner has raised these concerns with Parliament and in the media. These discussions were informed by our Forum, victims' groups and individuals we have met with.

It seems likely the Bill will still progress through Parliament.

Because the Commissioner has a duty to promote the interests of victims and survivors, registering protest alone is not enough.

There will be victims and survivors who do engage with the proposed legacy bodies and so we must seek to make this Bill in some way better.

Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill 2022 Recommendations

Provide a definition of the term 'Troubles-related offence' that is broad enough to include serious physical or mental harm.

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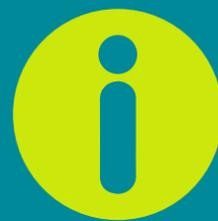
Clarify whether ICRR functions are 'investigations' or 'reviews' - these terms are both used in the Bill but have very different meanings. Also clearly state the extent of the ICRR's police powers.

3

Give victims and survivors the opportunity for their voices to be heard in ICRR reports by submitting a victim impact statement.

4

Remove any reference that suggests an individual can gain immunity without their information being verified or corroborated with other evidence or accounts.



5

Access to information or justice through criminal prosecutions, civil proceedings and inquests must be left open. All references to close or prohibit inquests, must be removed.

6

The Bill must better deter individuals from not complying with a request from the ICRR. The current penalty of £1000 for not cooperating will not be effective.

