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# **Commission for Victims and Survivors: Population Survey Northern Ireland**

16TH APRIL 2025

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## Executive Summary

The Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS) commissioned YouGov to undertake a survey of adults living in Northern Ireland aged 18+ to understand their perceptions and the scope of those affected by the Troubles/conflict. Key themes explored within the survey included identifying those affected by the Troubles/conflict, the legacy of the Troubles/conflict and the perceptions of the support/services available to those affected by the Troubles/conflict. This follows on from the 2024 survey of people living in Great Britain, the 2023 survey of people living in the Republic of Ireland and the 2021 survey of people living in Northern Ireland.

### *Methodology*

This survey is based on a sample of 1,011 adults living in Northern Ireland using an online panel methodology. Quotas were set during fieldwork, and data has been weighted to be representative of all adults (18+) living in Northern Ireland by age, gender, region, social grade and national identity. Differences between groups highlighted throughout this report are statistically significant to at least the 95% Confidence Level. All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number, including net figures.

There are margins of error associated with different sample sizes and distributions of answers. The larger the sample the smaller the risk of such error. Indicative random error on a sample of 1,000 is 3% which means that we can be sure that the true figure (if the entire population had been polled using the same methods) is within 3% either side of the published figure. The 95% confidence interval is the range of values (+/-3%) that we can be 95% confident contains the true value of the population. For example, in this report where we are reporting figures statistically significant to the 95% confidence level, we can be 95% confident that the difference between two values falls outside of the margin of error and cannot be attributed to random error.

### *Key Findings*

- 19% of adults in Northern Ireland report meeting the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict. This is over twice as many as reported meeting this definition in Great Britain (8%).<sup>1</sup> It is also higher than the proportion who reported this in the Republic of Ireland (10%), but lower than the proportion who reported this in Northern Ireland in 2021.<sup>2,3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CVS Population Survey (Great Britain) 20.02.24 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CVSNI-Population-Survey-GB-1.pdf> (page 4)

<sup>2</sup> CVS Population Survey (Republic of Ireland) 23.06.23 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SMR-CVS-Report-FINAL-1-1.pdf> (page 7)

<sup>3</sup> CVS Population Survey (Northern Ireland) 08.21 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CVSNI-August21-MainReport-V1.3F.pdf> (page 21)

- When widening this definition, close to three in five (58%) report they have been affected by the Troubles/conflict, again this is a larger proportion than reported this in Great Britain (18%). Those who report being affected are also more likely to be aged 45+.
- Approximately one in twenty (6%) report they were bereaved as a result of the Troubles/conflict. In comparison, a similar proportion in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland report being bereaved as a result of the Troubles/conflict (5% of those in Great Britain, 4% of those in the Republic of Ireland).
- Over one in 10 (13%) report their health was affected. Close to half (49%) say their health continues to be affected. Of those whose health continues to be affected a quarter (24%) say this is because of a bereavement or because someone close to them was injured.
- Among the 13% who reported their mental health has been affected nearly two in five (39%) report their mental health is still affected while 46% say it was but is not currently. Those who reported their mental health has been affected are more likely to be men (17%) and aged 45-59 (18%).
- A small minority (6%) currently receive support as a result of being affected by the Troubles/conflict, a further 11% would like this support but do not currently receive it. When asked why they do not receive support currently, there was suggestion of a lack of awareness, availability and desire to receive support.
- Adults in Northern Ireland are most likely to be aware of the ICRIR (35%), followed by the TPDPs (22%) and the RTN (14%), though those who report meeting the legal definition are more likely to be aware of these organisations there is still not majority awareness. Engagement with these organisations is also limited as just 6% of those aware of them have engaged with them.
- The majority are hopeful for a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland (65%), however nearly all acknowledge there are barriers to this (94%). The most common barriers are reported to be sectarianism (56%) and continued paramilitary activity (53%).
- There is a majority perception that the UK and Republic of Ireland Governments should work together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland (80%), and that the Republic of Ireland Government should produce a strategic action plan to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic and Northern Ireland (73%). Support is lower, but still a majority, (62%) for creating a new way of retrieving information about the Troubles/conflict from former paramilitaries and members of the security forces for victims and/or survivors.
- When asked about the influence on young people related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict, adults in Northern Ireland are most likely to think that segregated housing and communities (73%), unregulated flags (69%) and separate schooling (65%) have a negative influence. While they are most likely to think that paramilitary groups (82%), Brexit issues (60%) and the UK Government/Parliament (47%) have a negative impact on victims and/or survivors.

# Prevalence of being a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland

Respondents were shown the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland below and asked if they meet this definition<sup>4</sup>:

**Based in law, a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland is:**

(a) someone who is or has been physically or psychologically injured as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident;

(b) someone who provides a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for an individual mentioned in paragraph (a);

**or**

(c) someone who has been bereaved as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident.

An individual may be psychologically injured as a result of, or in consequence of:

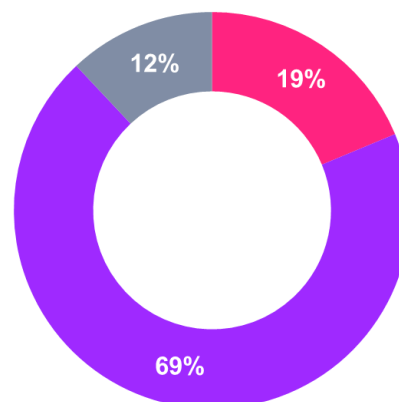
(a) witnessing a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident; or

(b) providing medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident.

Nearly one in five (19%) adults in Northern Ireland report that they meet the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland. The majority (69%) report they do not meet this definition, while over one in 10 (12%) are not sure.

**Figure 1. Do you meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict?**

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Not sure



Q1. Do you meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict? (Please select one only)

<sup>4</sup> The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 accessed at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2006/2953/contents>

When analysing this by gender, men (24%) are more likely than women (14%) to define themselves as meeting the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict. Differences were also noted when looking at age. Indeed, those aged 45-59 (26%) and 60+ (21%) are more likely to report meeting this definition than those in younger age groups (18-29 10%).

No specific pattern was noted when analysing the data by region. Those living within five miles of the border were not significantly more likely to meet this definition than those who do not (24% vs 19%). However, those in Causeway Coast and Glens (22%) more likely than average to say they don't know and those in Mid and East Antrim are more likely than average to say they do not (84%).

A similar survey was conducted in Great Britain in 2024, the Republic of Ireland in 2023 and Northern Ireland in 2021 where respondents were asked if they meet the definition of being a legal victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict.<sup>5</sup> In Great Britain we found 8% reported doing so, significantly lower than the proportion in Northern Ireland. While in the Republic of Ireland 10% reported doing so, again lower than the proportion in Northern Ireland.<sup>6</sup> The proportion who reported meeting the definition in this survey is also lower than the proportion who reported doing so in the 2021 Northern Ireland survey (24%).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> CVS Population Survey (Great Britain) 20.02.24 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CVSNI-Population-Survey-GB-1.pdf> (page 4)

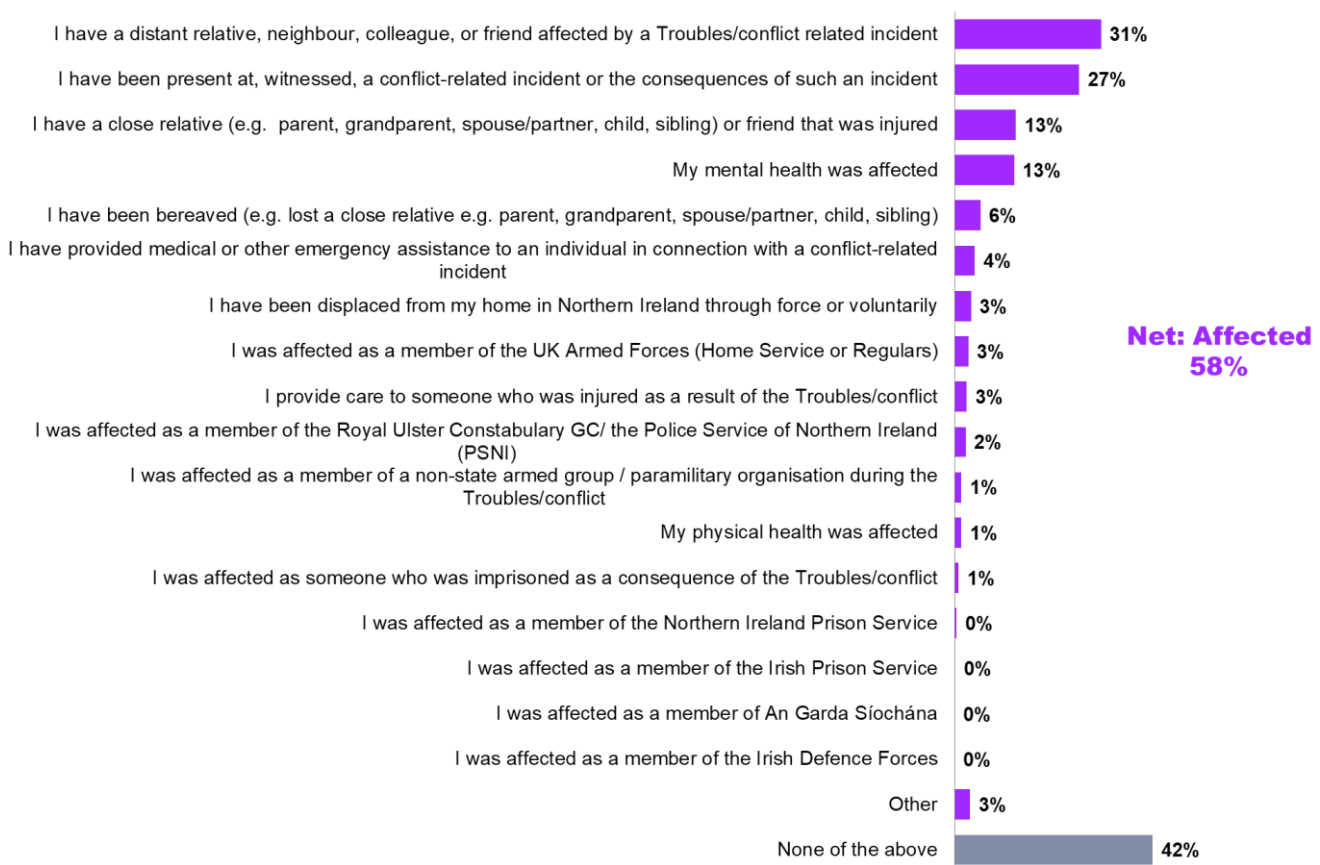
<sup>6</sup> CVS Population Survey (Republic of Ireland) 23.06.23 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SMR-CVS-Report-FINAL-1-1.pdf> (page 6)

<sup>7</sup> CVS Population Survey (Northern Ireland) 08.21 accessed at: <https://www.cvsni.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CVSNI-August21-MainReport-V1.3F.pdf> (page 21)

## Affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident

Beyond the legal definition, respondents were asked if they feel they have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident. Close to three in five (58%) of adults in Northern Ireland report they have been affected by an incident. Mostly commonly they report that a distant relative or friend was affected by an incident (31%), followed by being present at an incident themselves (27%), knowing a close relative or friend who has been injured (13%), and their mental health being affected (13%).

**Figure 2. Do you feel you have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident?**



Q2. Whether or not you meet the legal definition of a victim, do you feel you have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident? (Please select all that apply)

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

A similar age pattern is noted when the definition of victim and/or survivor status is widened. Those aged 45-59 (68%) and 60+ (68%) are more likely than those in younger age categories to report that they have been affected by an incident (18-29: 37% and 30-44 51%). Those in older age categories (60+) are more likely than those in younger age categories (18-29) to have been affected in nearly every way. However older people are

not significantly more likely to say they have a close relative or friend that was injured (60+ 17% and 18-29 11%).

However, men are more likely to report they were present at an incident (32% vs. 22%), and that they have a close relative or friend who was injured (16% vs. 11%). This is perhaps a reason why men are more likely to say they meet the legal definition.

Analysis by local council shows that those in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon are more likely than average to say they were affected (68%), while those in Mid and East Antrim were less likely than average to say they were affected (43%).

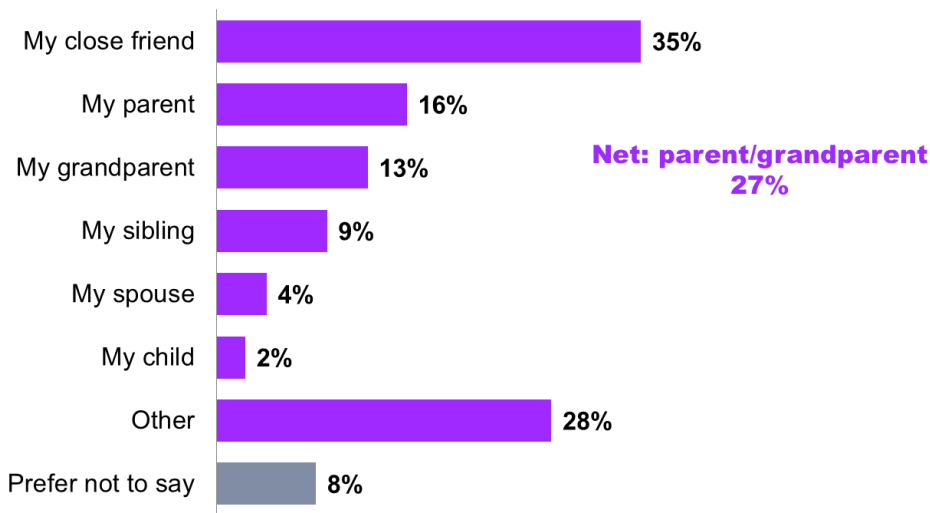
Looking at mental health specifically, men and those aged 45-59 are more likely to report their mental health has been affected. Close to one in five (18%) of those aged 45-59 report their mental health being affected, along with 17% of men.

Adults in Northern Ireland (58%) are more likely to report they were affected in comparison to those in Great Britain (18%). One of the most common ways to have been affected in Great Britain is conflict-related bereavement, while for those in Northern Ireland one of the most common ways is that they were present at an incident. This suggests that adults in Northern Ireland are more likely to have been affected directly at an incident, whereas those in Great Britain are more likely to have been affected indirectly (e.g. through a family member or friend).

Looking at bereavement specifically, approximately one in twenty (6%) report they were bereaved as a result of the Troubles/conflict. In comparison, a similar proportion in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland report being bereaved as a result of the Troubles/conflict (5% of those in Great Britain, 4% of those in the Republic of Ireland).

Those who reported they were bereaved or had a close relative or friend who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict (18%) were then asked about their relationship with that person(s). Most commonly they report this person was a close friend (35%), followed by a parent (16%) or a grandparent (13%). When combined, 27% of those who were bereaved or knew someone who was injured report this was their parent or grandparent.

**Figure 3. What was your relationship with the person you lost or who was injured?**

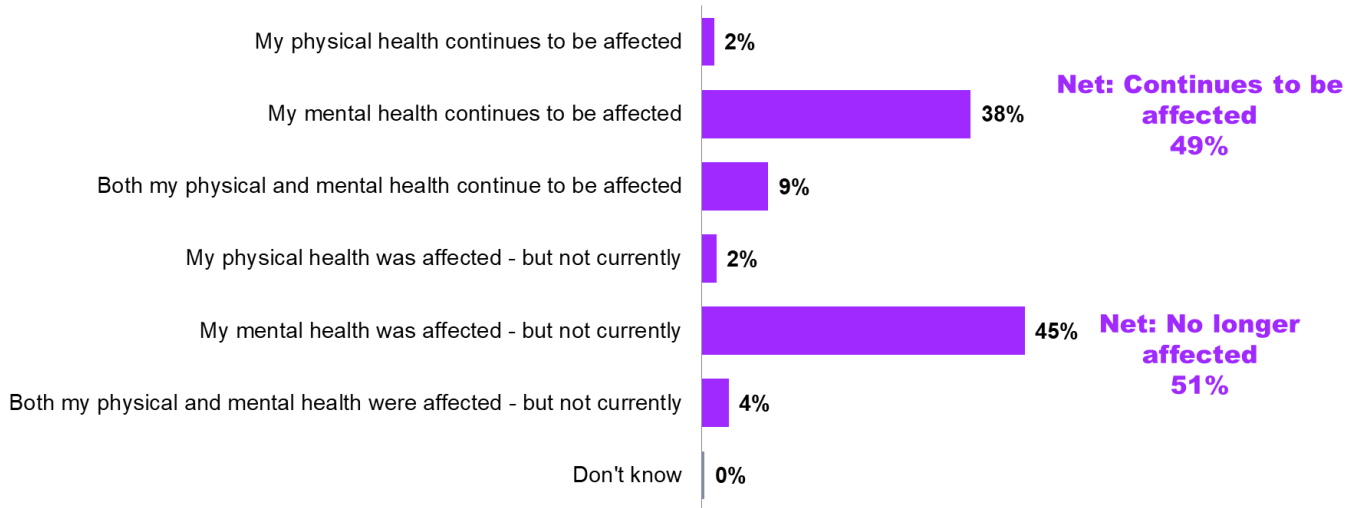


Q27. You said that you [were bereaved/had a close relative or friend that was injured] due to the Troubles/conflict. What was your relationship to that/those person(s)?

Base: All who were bereaved or had a close friend or relative who was injured (n=175)

Those who reported their health was affected (13%) were then asked about their experience in more detail. They are more likely to say their mental health was affected (13%) than their physical health (1%). Of these, nearly half (49%) report their health continues to be affected while a similar proportion (51%) report it is no longer affected. Those whose health is affected are equally likely to say their physical health continues to be affected or is no longer affected (both 2%), but they are more likely to report their mental health is no longer affected (45%) than continues to be (38%). Looking at those whose mental health specifically was affected, the picture is relatively similar, 39% mention their mental health continues to be affected, compared to 46% who say it was but is not currently.

**Figure 4. What was the impact of the Troubles/conflict on your health?**

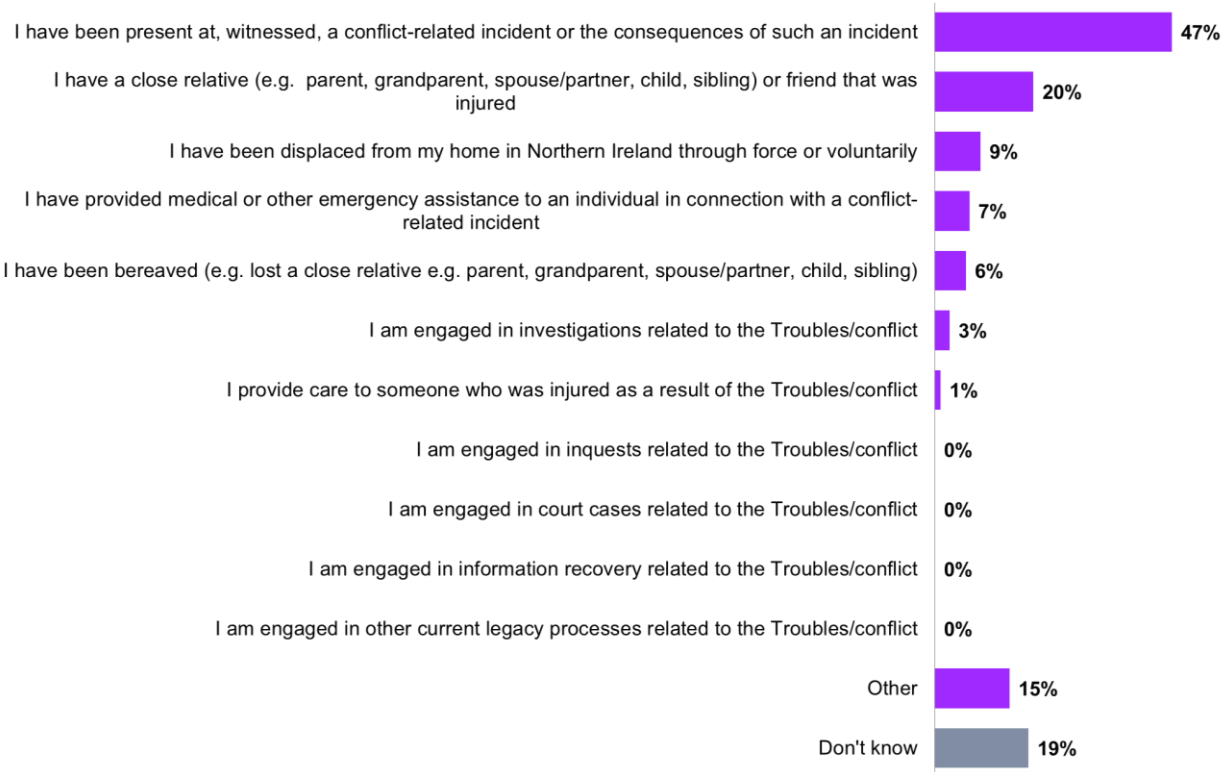


Q5a. You indicated that you were physically and/or mentally affected during the Troubles/conflict. Please say which of the following applies to you? (Please select one only)

Base: All whose health was affected (n=133)

When asked why their health continues to be affected, just under half (47%) mention this is because they were present at a conflict-related incident and a further quarter (24%) mention it is because they had a close relative that was injured or that they were bereaved. However, one in five (19%) also mention they don't know why their health continues to be affected. A small proportion (3%) mention their health is affected because they are engaged in investigations related to the Troubles/conflict while none mention they are engaged in inquests, court cases, information recovery or other legacy processes.

**Figure 5. Why do you think your health continues to be affected?**



Q28. You mentioned your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict. For which, if any, of the following reasons would you say this is the case?

Base: All whose health continues to be affected (n=64)

## Services and Support

### *Accessing support*

Those who meet the legal definition and those who reported being affected by the Troubles/conflict were then asked about their experiences accessing support. Specifically, they were asked where they receive support and given a range of providers (e.g. statutory sector provider, VSS, funded community-based service provider). Six percent of those who identified themselves as a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict reported they currently access support for this. A further one in 10 (11%) do not currently access support but would like to, while the majority (83%) do not access support and do not want to.

There does not appear to be one majority service provider, as 1% respectively report they use a statutory sector provider, an independent service, a community-based service, the VSS, the UK armed forces and a charity for ex-service persons. This suggests that demand for support services is spread across a wide range of organisations. This could be an indication of the need for range in the types of support provided.

When looking at gender it can be seen that while men are more likely to meet the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor, they are no more likely to currently receive support (5% vs. 7%) than women. However, men are significantly more likely to say they would like to access support but do not currently (15%) than women (7%), suggesting there could be some work to signpost male victims and/or survivors and encourage them to utilise this support.

Younger people (18-29 16%) are more likely than those in older age groups (60+ 4%) to report they currently receive support, despite those in older categories being more likely to report they were affected. It is often seen in sensitive research projects that younger people are more likely to openly report mental health issues and to receive support than those in older age groups.<sup>8</sup>

There are also no notable differences in demand for support by proximity to the border, similar to the proportion who report being affected. Looking by local council, those in Belfast (17%) are more likely than average to say they do not currently receive support but would like to.

Those who mentioned they would like to receive support but do not currently were asked to expand on why this is the case. Some mentioned that they have learned to get on with their life so do not currently access this support, perhaps suggesting that time for receiving support has passed for them.

*“I’ve just learned to get on with life.”*

*“I just want to carry on with life”*

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<sup>8</sup> Mind The Big Mental Health Report 2024 accessed at: <https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/our-policy-work/reports-and-guides/the-big-mental-health-report-2024>

Others mention they were not aware these services existed or that they were not offered to them. Indicating that more work could be done in the community to raise awareness of the type of services and support that is available to all affected.

*“None was offered or informed of existing”*

*“As I wasn't aware of these charities that can help and maybe provide some support”*

A few mentioned that while they were aware of these support mechanisms they feel there are others who are more deserving. They mention that they feel support is typically targeted to those who were present at an incident so for those affected in other ways it does not seem like there is support available. They also mention that they feel other people should be prioritised given the perceived limited availability of support and health and social care resources.

*“I don't feel like I qualify for such help because I wasn't injured directly or saw injury/violence, only the threat of violence and escalating tension. Support tends to focus on actual violence, witness to violence, or repeated intimidation.”*

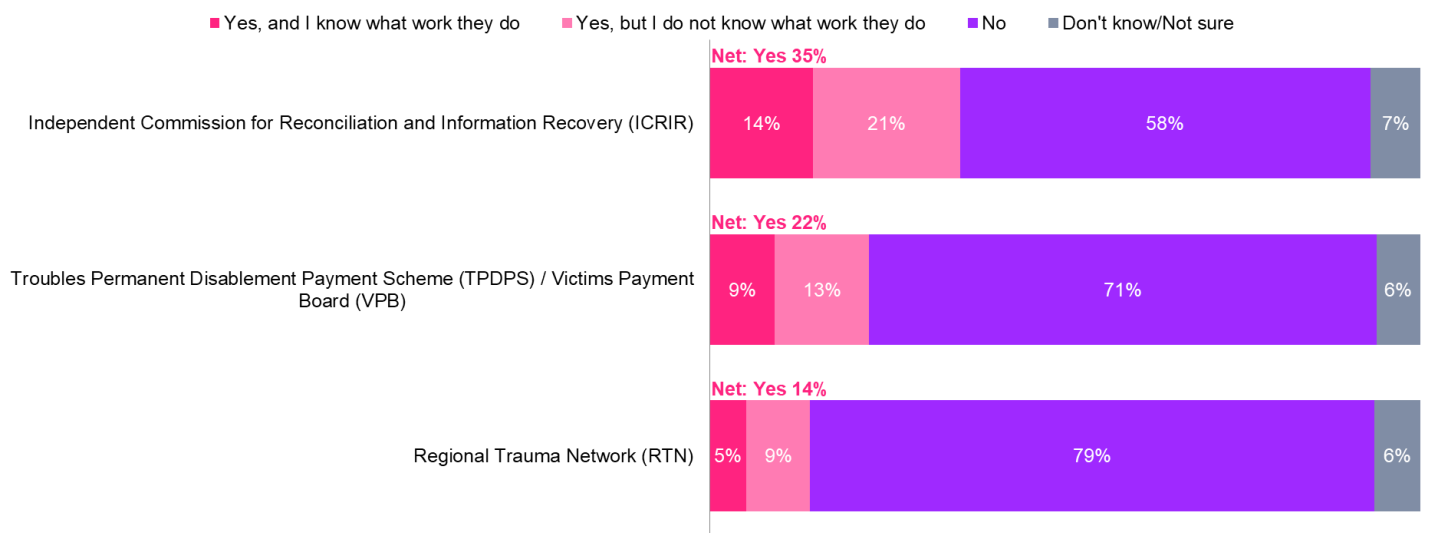
*“Never asked for it as far too many others have suffered and there is not the funding available for all.”*

*“There are others in more need than I. I was brought up to fix my own problems”*

## Awareness of services

Adults in Northern Ireland are most likely to be aware of the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) (35%), followed by the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (TPDPS) / Victims Payment Board (VPB) (22%) and the Regional Trauma Network (RTN) (14%). Across all organisations adults in Northern Ireland are more likely to say they are aware of these organisations but don't know what they do, than to say they know what they do. This indicates name recognition makes up a significant proportion of awareness and more work could be done to increase knowledge of their work.

**Figure 6. Are you familiar with the following organisations/services?**



Q31. Are you familiar with the following organisations/services?

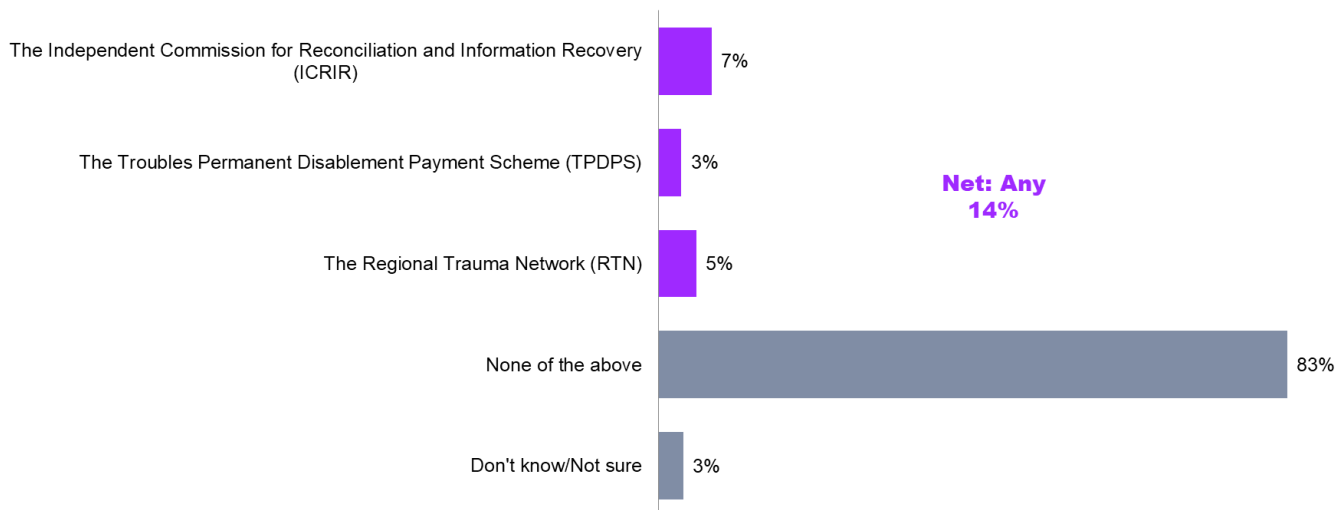
Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Those who identify as meeting the legal definition of being a victim and/or survivor were more likely to be aware of both the ICRIR (46%) and TPDPS (28%), but they are no more likely to be aware of the RTN (18%). Those who were affected by the Troubles/conflict are more likely to be aware of the ICRIR (39%) but not of the TPDPS (24%) or the RTN (15%). Younger people (18-29) are more likely to be aware of the TPDPS (31%) and the RTN (20%), whereas older people (60+) are more likely to be aware of ICRIR (45%).

## Engagement with services

Of those aware of at least one of these services, 6% have engaged with any of them. There is little differentiation in the proportion who have engaged with each service, as 3% have engaged with the ICRIR and 2% have engaged with TPDPDS and RTN respectively. The vast majority (92%) who are aware of these organisations have not engaged with any of these organisations or services. As well as being more likely to be aware of these organisations, those who meet the legal definition are also more likely to have engaged with any of these organisations (14%). They are more likely to have engaged with the ICRIR (7%) and the RTN (5%) but no more likely to have engaged with the TPDPDS (3%).

**Figure 7. Have you engaged with any of these organisations/services?**



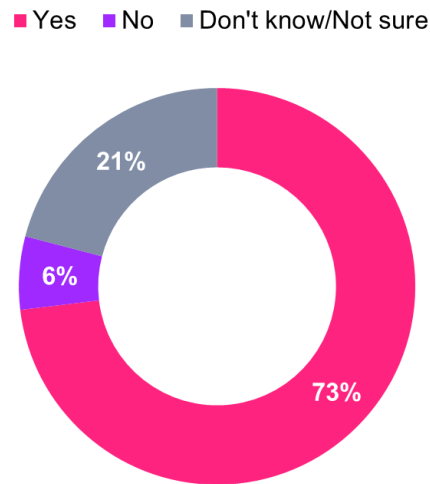
Q32. Which of the following have you engaged with? (Please select all that apply)

Base: All who are aware of at least one organisation/service and meet the legal definition (n=104)

Notably by age, young people (18-29) are also more likely to report they have engaged with these organisations (15%), while those who are in older age groups (60+) (2%) are less likely to have engaged.

The majority of adults in Northern Ireland (73%) think that governments in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland should ensure that victims and/or survivors living in their respective countries should have equal access to support as those living in Northern Ireland. There is little opposition to this among adults in Northern Ireland (6%), but one in five (21%) are unsure.

**Figure 8. Should their respective governments ensure that victims and/or survivors in the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain should have equal access to services and support as those living in Northern Ireland?**



Q30. Should their respective governments ensure that victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales have equal access to services and support as victims and survivors living in Northern Ireland?

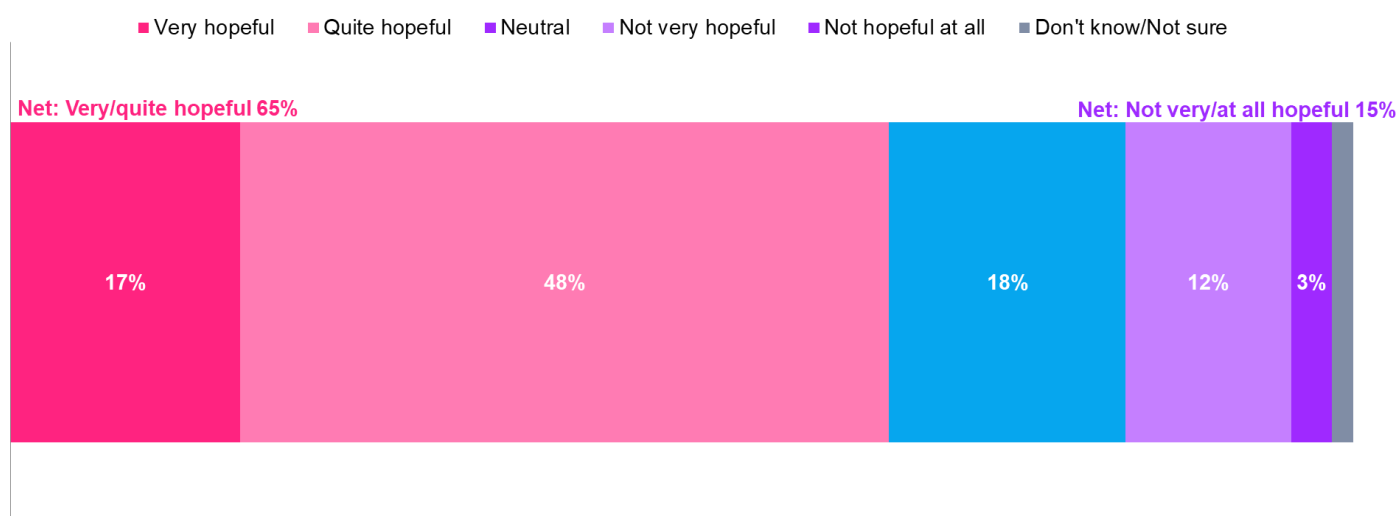
Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

While those who report meeting the legal definition are no more likely to say they believe there should be equal access to support, those who are affected are more likely to say this (75%). Those who live within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are less likely to say there should be equal access (65%), however this is driven by a great proportion who are not sure (31%) than by an increase in the proportion who do not think there should be equal access (5%).

## Work to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict

Respondents were asked how hopeful they are about maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade. Approximately two in three (65%) adults in Northern Ireland say they are very or quite hopeful, while 12% are not very hopeful, and a small proportion are not hopeful at all (3%). Just under two in five (18%) have a neutral opinion.

**Figure 9. How hopeful are you about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade?**



Q25. How hopeful, or not, are you about the future in terms of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade?

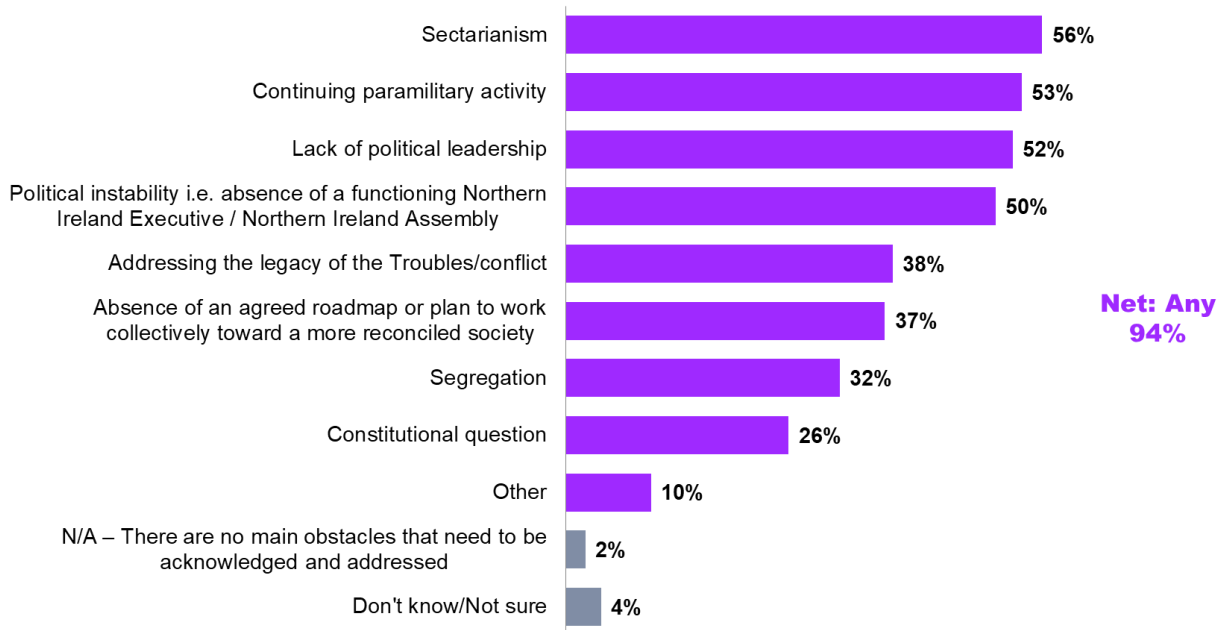
Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Those who live within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are most likely to be very hopeful about maintaining a peaceful, stable society, at 28% (compared with 15% who do not live within 5 miles of the border). When looking at individual council areas we see that no one area is more or less likely than average to feel hopeful, however those in Newry, Mourne and Down are less likely than average to feel not hopeful.

Looking at differences by national identity, those who identify as Irish (72%) are more likely to say they are hopeful (very or quite) than those who identify as British (61%). Men are also more likely than women to be very hopeful (21% vs. 13%). Turning to look at differences by age, those aged between 30-44 are the least likely age group to be hopeful (very or quite), at 59%, whilst no age group is more likely to be hopeful than average.

The survey then asked respondents what main obstacles exist which need to be acknowledged in Northern Ireland to make meaningful progress towards reconciliation. The vast majority (94%) recognise that there are barriers, with over half citing sectarianism (56%), continuing paramilitary activity (53%), and lack of political leadership (52%).

**Figure 10. What are the barriers to make meaningful progress towards reconciliation in society?**



Q26. What are the main obstacles, if any, that need to be acknowledged and addressed in Northern Ireland in making meaningful progress towards reconciliation across society? (Please select all that apply)

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Looking at differences by age, those aged over 60 are more likely to identify continuing paramilitary activity (72%), sectarianism (68%), and segregation (40%) as barriers which need to be acknowledged.

Comparatively, those aged between 18-29 (63%) and 30-44 (58%) are more likely to consider political instability as a barrier needing acknowledgement. Those aged 18-29 are also more likely to say there are no barriers which need acknowledging (6%) and that they are uncertain (9%).

Those who do not live within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are more likely than those who do to identify continuing paramilitary activity as a barrier which needs to be acknowledged (57% vs. 41%). They are also more likely than average to identify sectarianism (58%) as a barrier to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation.

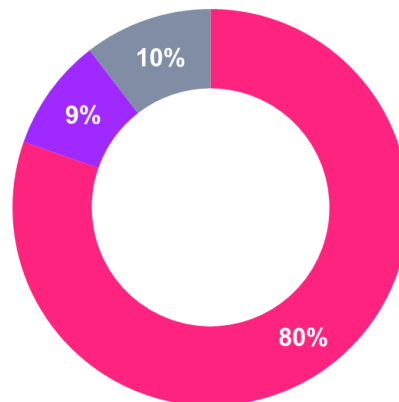
There are some differences amongst the local councils in Northern Ireland, though no one council area is more likely to think there are any barriers for reconciliation than the average. Those in Antrim and Newtownabbey most commonly perceive continuing paramilitary activity (73%) and sectarianism (67%) as main obstacles. Whereas those in Derry and Strabane are less likely than average to think of the former as a main barrier (39%) but are more likely than average to think of addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict as one (55%). Those in Mid and East Antrim also are more likely than average to perceive continuing paramilitary activity (66%) as a main obstacle whilst for North Down and Ards this is true of Sectarianism (69%). Those in Belfast are more likely to perceive no main obstacles to be acknowledged and addressed (5%).

There are also notable differences by gender. Men are more likely to identify paramilitary activity (58% vs. 49%), sectarianism (59% vs. 52%), and the constitutional question (32% vs. 21%) as barriers than women are. Conversely, women are more likely to identify political instability (54% vs. 46%) than men.

Turning to look at the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland, the vast majority (80%) think that both the UK Government and the Irish Government should work together to address the legacy.

**Figure 11. Should the UK and Irish Governments work together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland?**

■ They should ■ They should not ■ Don't know/Not sure



Q33. Do you think that both the UK Government and the Irish Government should or should not work together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland?

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

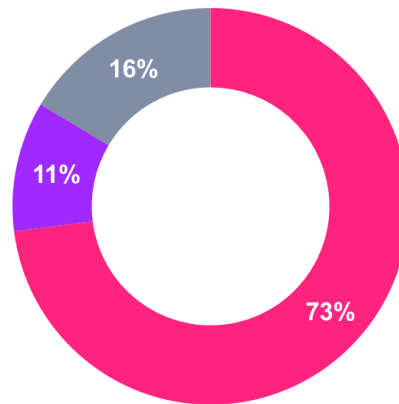
Those aged between 30-44 are the most likely age group to think that the UK and Irish Governments should work together (87%), whilst those aged over 60 are more likely to think that they should not (15%). Notably, those who live within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are more likely to think the

UK and Irish Governments should work together than those who do not (90% vs. 80%). We also see some differences by national identity, though still a majority across all groups. Those who identify as Irish are more likely to think the UK and Irish Governments should work together (89%) in comparison to those who identify as British (74%). Amongst local councils, those in Antrim and Newtownabbey and Derry and Strabane (both 90%) are more likely than average think the two governments should work together, whilst those in Belfast are more likely than average to think they should not (13%).

Respondents were also asked whether they think the Irish Government should or should not produce an accessible strategic action plan to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Just under three in four (73%) agree that the Irish Government should.

**Figure 12. Should the Irish Government produce an accessible strategic action plan to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?**

■ They should ■ They should not ■ Don't know/Not sure



Q34. Do you think the Irish Government should or should not produce an accessible strategic action plan to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Those aged over 60 are more likely to think that the Irish Government should not produce an accessible strategic action plan (16%), consistent with the previous finding that they are more likely to think the UK and Irish Governments should not work together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict.

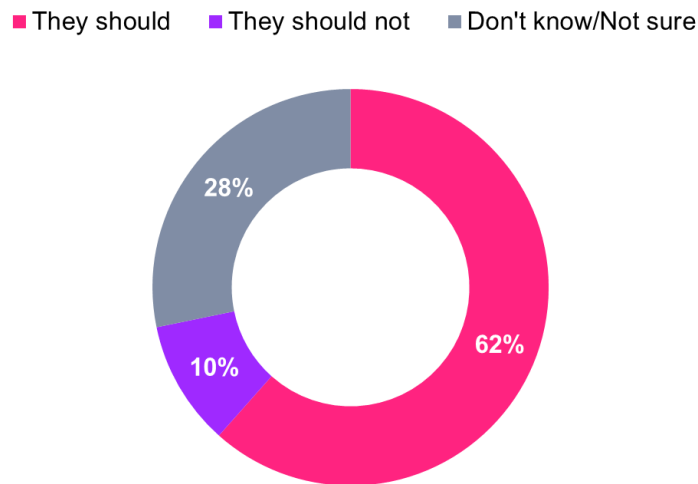
Men are more likely than women to think that the Irish Government should produce an accessible strategic action plan (76% vs. 70%), whilst women are more likely than men to be uncertain (20% vs. 13%).

Looking at differences by location, those living in Derry and Strabane (85%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (83%) are more likely than average to think that the Irish Government should produce such plan. While those

living in Fermanagh and Omagh are more likely than average to think they should not (18%). Additionally, those living within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are more likely than those who do not to think that the Irish Government should produce an accessible strategic action plan (83% vs. 72%), whilst those who do not are more likely to be uncertain (17% vs. 9%). Similarly, those who identify as Irish are more likely to think the Irish Government should produce a strategic action plan (81%) than those who identify as British (66%).

Respondents were then asked whether, in addition to investigations, they think the UK and Irish Governments should establish another way of retrieving information for victims and survivors about the past from former paramilitaries or former members of the security forces. Just over six in 10 (62%) of adults in Northern Ireland think that they should, whilst 10% think they should not, and a sizeable minority (28%) say they don't know.

**Figure 13. Should the UK and Irish Governments establish another way of retrieving information for victims and survivors?**



Q35. In addition to investigations, should the UK and the Irish Governments establish another way of retrieving information for victims and survivors about the past from former paramilitaries or former members of the security forces?

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Analysis by age reveals that those who are aged over 60 are more likely to think that the UK and Irish Governments should not establish an alternative method (14%), which is consistent with previous findings and suggests that those who are older might be less open to the two Governments working together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict than those who are younger.

Differences by gender show that men are more likely than women to think that the UK and Irish Governments should establish an alternative method (70% vs. 54%), whilst women are more likely to be uncertain (36% vs.

20%). This also links to previous findings that women are more likely to be uncertain on how the UK and Irish Governments should or should not address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict.

Finally, those who live in Newry, Mourne and Down (71%) are more likely than average to think the Governments should set up such a mechanism, while those in Causeway Coast and Glens are less likely than average (41%) to think the same. Looking to the border, those who do not live within five miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border are more likely than those who do to think that they should not establish an alternative method to retrieve information (11% vs. 5%).

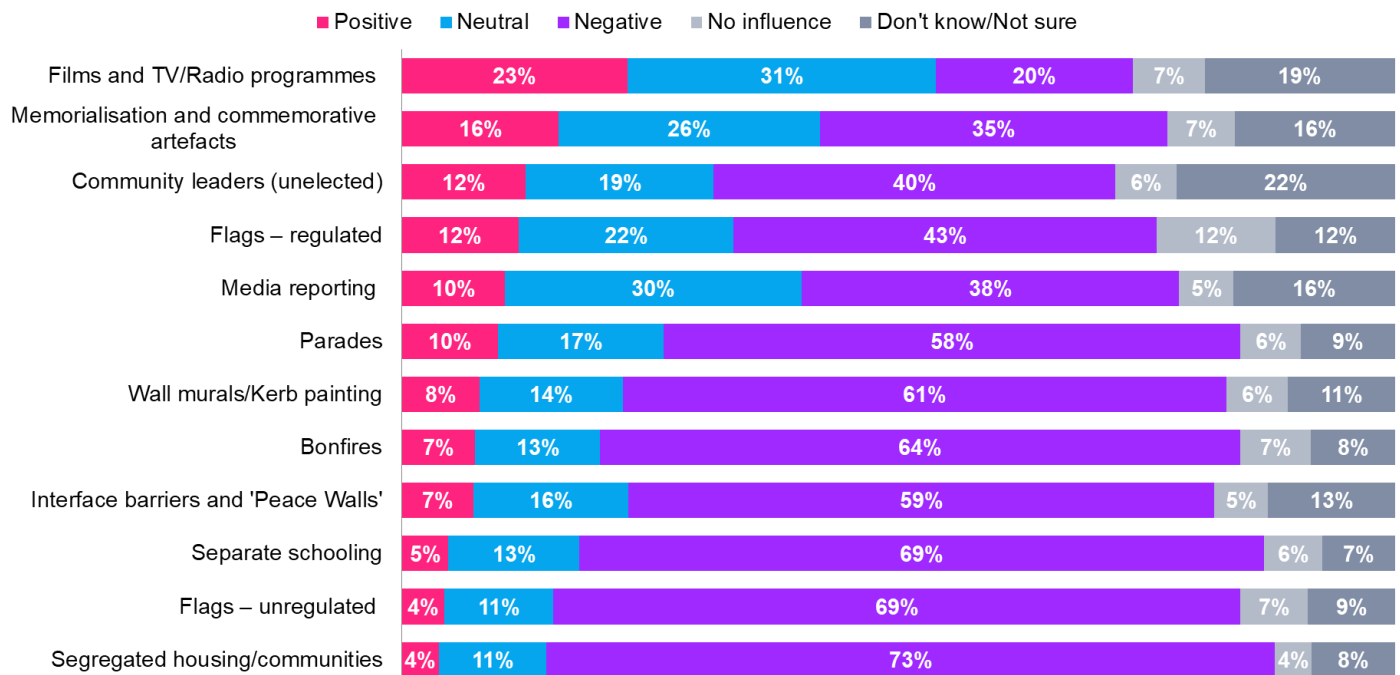
## Influence of media, events and institutions following the Troubles/conflict

The survey asked respondents what influence, if any, they think certain aspects in society have on children and young people who are related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict. Films and TV/Radio programmes about the Troubles/conflict are considered to have the most positive (23%) or neutral (31%) influence. It is worth noting that still one in five (20%) think these have a negative influence.

Following this, 16% think that memorialisation and commemorative artefacts have a positive influence on children and young people, whilst 26% think these have a neutral influence, and slightly more think they have a negative influence (35%).

Segregated housing/communities are thought to have a negative influence on children and young people who are related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict by 73% of adults in Northern Ireland. Following this, around seven in ten identify unregulated flags (69%), and separate schooling (69%), as having a negative influence.

**Figure 14. What aspects in society have an influence on children and young people who are related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?**



Q36. In your opinion, what influence do the following have, if any, on children and young people related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?

Analysis by age reveals that those aged 18-29 are more optimistic about certain aspects in society than those who are older. Indeed, they are more likely to think that films and TV/radio programmes (36% vs. 16%), memorialisation and commemorative artefacts (25% vs. 11%), media reporting (18% vs. 9%), wall murals/kerb painting (17% vs. 4%), and interface barriers and 'Peace Walls' (13% vs. 5%) have a positive influence than those who are aged 60 and over are.

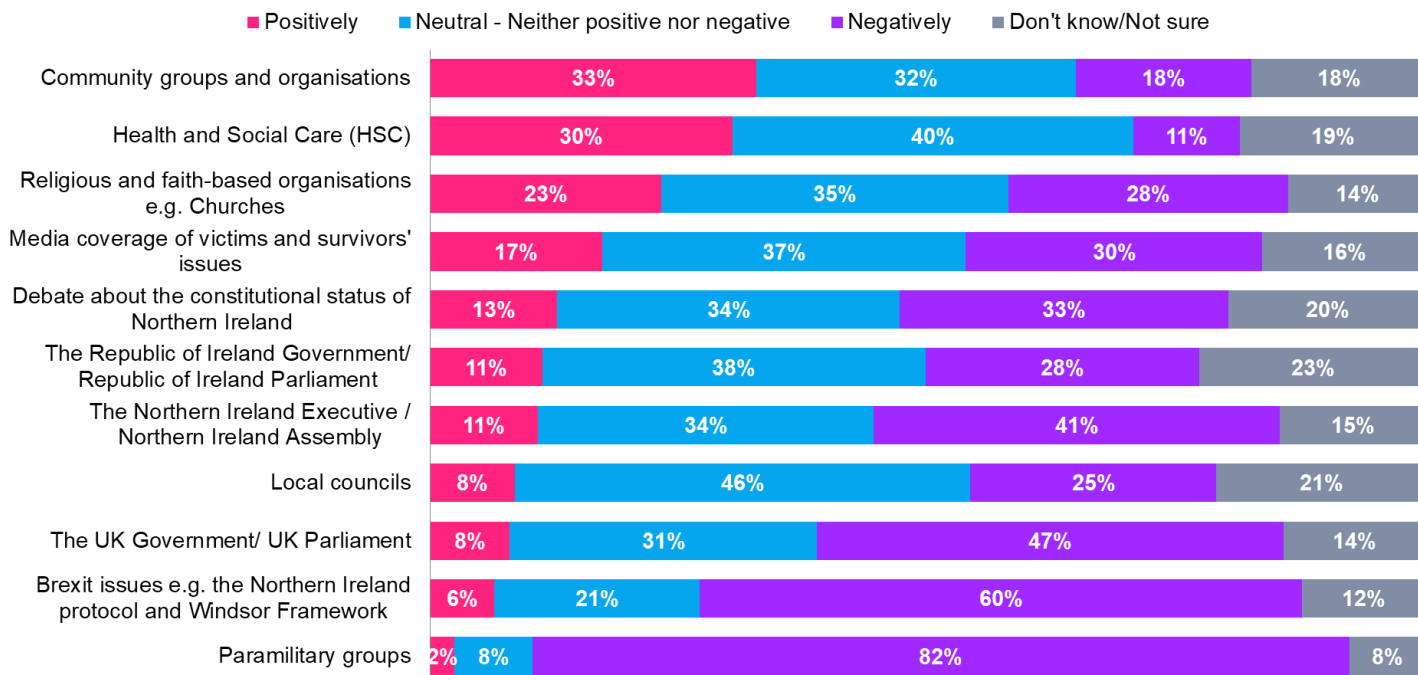
Conversely, those aged 60 and over are more likely than average to think that segregated housing/communities (79%), unregulated flags (77%), interface barriers and 'Peace Walls' (74%), wall murals/kerb painting (71%), media reporting (48%), memorialisation and commemorative artefacts (46%), and films and TV/Radio programmes (28%) have a negative influence on children and young people related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict.

Those who live within five miles of the border are more likely than average to say that flags regulated (52%) and unregulated (79%), bonfires (75%), parades (71%) and media reporting (47%) has a negative influence on children and young people related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict. While those who do not live within five miles of the border are more likely than average to say segregated housing (75%), separate schooling (71%), interface barriers (61%), unelected community leaders (42%) and memorialisation (37%) have a negative influence.

Turning to look at what has positively or negatively impacted victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict, respondents were asked about a series of events, institutions, and organisations. A third (33%) of adults in Northern Ireland think that community groups and organisations have had a positive impact on victims and/or survivors. A similar proportion (32%) think that these have had a neutral impact, compared with 18% who think they have had a negative impact. Following this, 30% think that Health and Social Care (HSC) has had a positive impact, 40% think this has had a neutral impact, and 11% a negative impact. Just under one in four (23%) think that religious and faith-based organisations have had a positive impact, compared with 35% who think they have had a neutral impact, and 28% a negative impact.

The vast majority (82%) think that paramilitary groups have negatively impacted victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict. Following this, 60% think that Brexit issues have had a negative impact, and just under half (47%) think that the UK Government / UK Parliament have had a negative impact.

**Figure 15. What aspects in society have a positive/negative impact on victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?**



Q18b. How have the following events, institutions, or organisations impacted victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?

Base: All adults in Northern Ireland (n=1,011)

Turning to look at differences by age, those aged 18-29 are more likely to think that community groups and organisations have had a positive impact (43%) compared with those aged 45-59 (25%) and those aged 60+ (30%). They are also more likely than those aged 45+ to think that media coverage of victims and survivors' issues (27% vs. 13%), and local councils (15% vs. 6%) have had a positive impact.

By comparison, those aged 60+ are more likely than those aged 18-29 to think that paramilitary groups (92% vs. 63%), the Republic of Ireland Government/Parliament (42% vs. 13%), media coverage (37% vs. 13%), and local councils (33% vs. 12%) have had a negative impact on victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict.

Looking at differences by gender, women are more likely than men to say they don't know or aren't sure about the impact of all events, institutions, or organisations asked about. Men are more likely to think that most have had a negative impact. For example, 34% of men think that the Republic of Ireland Government/Parliament have had a negative impact, compared with 21% of women.

Analysis by distance to the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border reveals that those who live within five miles of the border are more likely than those who do not to think that the debate about the constitutional status of Northern Ireland has had a positive impact on victims and/or survivors (21% vs. 12%).

A variety of differences can be found by local council. Some notable differences where councils are more likely than average to perceive the area of society as having a positive impact include paramilitary groups for those in Belfast (5%), debates about the constitutional status of Northern Ireland for those living in Mid Ulster (25%) and Brexit issues for those living in Newry, Mourne and Down (12%). There are also differences for negative impacts such as for The Republic of Ireland Government/ Republic of Ireland Parliament (Fermanagh and Omagh – 40%, Mid and East Antrim – 39% and North Down and Ards – 39%).

There are also notable differences by national identity; those who identify as Irish are more likely to think that Brexit issues have had a negative impact (73%) than those who identify as British (57%). Those who identify as British are more likely to think the Republic of Ireland Government or Republic of Ireland Parliament (i.e. Dáil Éireann) has had a negative impact (46%) than those who identify as Irish (11%), while conversely those who identify as Irish are more likely to think the UK Government/Parliament has had a negative impact (67%) than those who identify as British (34%). Those who identify as British are also more likely to say that debate about the constitutional status of Northern Ireland has had a negative impact (42%) than those who identify as Irish (25%).

Adults living in Northern Ireland are more likely to identify most events, institutions, or organisations as having a negative impact on victims and/or survivors than those who live in Great Britain. For example, 41% of adults in Northern Ireland think that the Northern Ireland Executive/Assembly have had a negative impact, compared with 18% of those in Great Britain. Similarly, 47% of those in Northern Ireland think that the UK Government/Parliament have had a negative impact, compared with 24% of those in Great Britain, and 28% of adults in Northern Ireland think that the Republic of Ireland Government/Parliament have had a negative impact, compared with 13% of those in Great Britain. Those living in Great Britain are consistently more likely to say that they don't know or are not sure of the impact of these events, institutions, or organisations.

## Appendix – Questionnaire

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[q25]** How hopeful, or not, are you about the future in terms of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade?

- |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| <1> | Very hopeful        |
| <2> | Quite hopeful       |
| <3> | Neutral             |
| <4> | Not very hopeful    |
| <5> | Not hopeful at all  |
| <6> | Don't know/Not sure |

*Question type: Multiple*

*#row order: randomize*

**[q26]** What are the main obstacles, if any, that need to be acknowledged and addressed in Northern Ireland in making meaningful progress towards reconciliation across society?(Please select all that apply)

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <1>            | Continuing paramilitary activity   |
| <2>            | Addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict   |
| <3>            | Sectarianism   |
| <4>            | Segregation  |
| <5>            | Political instability i.e. absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive / Northern Ireland Assembly |
| <6>            | Lack of political leadership   |
| <7>            | Constitutional question  |
| <8>            | Absence of an agreed roadmap or plan to work collectively toward a more reconciled society                 |
| <9 fixed>      | Other (open [q26_other]) [open] please specify   |
| <10 fixed xor> | N/A – There are no main obstacles that need to be acknowledged and addressed                               |

<11 fixed xor>

Don't know/Not sure

Question type: *Text*

**Based in law, a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland is:**

- (a) someone who is or has been physically or psychologically injured as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident;
- (b) someone who provides a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for an individual mentioned in paragraph (a); or
- (c) someone who has been bereaved as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident.

**An individual may be psychologically injured as a result of, or in consequence of:**

- (a) witnessing a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident; or
- (b) providing medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident.

Base: *All*

Question type: *Single*

**[q1]** Do you meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict? (Please select one only)

<1>

Yes

<2>

No

<98>

Don't know/Not sure

Base: *All*

Question type: *Multiple*

**[q2]** Whether or not you meet the legal definition of a victim (as referenced in Question 3), do you feel you have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident? (Please select all that apply)

<1>

I have been bereaved (e.g. lost an close relative e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling)

<11>

I was affected as a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC/ the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

<15>

I have a close relative (e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling) or friend that was injured

<12>

I was affected as a member of An Garda Síochána

<2>	I have provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident	<13>	I was affected as a member of the Irish Defence Forces
<3>	I have been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident	<16>	I was affected as a member of the Irish Prison Service
<4>	I provide care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict	<17>	I was affected as a member of the Northern Ireland Prison Service
<5>	My physical health was affected	<18>	I was affected as someone who was imprisoned as a consequence of the Troubles/conflict
<6>	My mental health was affected	<19>	I was affected as a member of a non-state armed group / paramilitary organisation during the Troubles/conflict
<7>	I have been displaced from my home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily	<97 fixed>	Other (open [q2_other]) [open] please specify
<8>	I have a distant relative, neighbour, colleague, or friend affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident	<99 fixed xor>	None of the above
<9>	I was affected as a member of the UK Armed Forces (Home Service or Regulars)		

**Base: All who are or may be a victim or survivor**

Question type: **Multiple**

#row order: *randomize*

#Question display logic:

**if q1=1 or not 99 in q2**

**[q3]** You have indicated from your answers to the previous questions, that you are (or may be) a victim or survivor of the Troubles/conflict.

As such, do you currently receive services or support from any of the following? (Please select all that apply)

<1>	The UK armed forces as an ex-service person from Northern Ireland deployment	<13>	A charity for the Northern Ireland Prison Service (e.g. NI Prison Service Trust)
<3>	A charity for RUC/PSNI (e.g. RUCGC Benevolent fund, RUCGC Foundation)	<14>	A charity for ex-service persons (e.g. Royal British Legion, SSAFA, Regimental Association)
<4>	A charity for Irish Defence Forces (e.g. Organisation of National Ex-Service personnel, Irish United Nations Veterans Association)	<15>	Ex-prisoner group or charities supporting ex-prisoners (e.g. Tar Anall, Charter NI)
<5>	Statutory sector provider e.g. health service	<97 fixed>	Other (open [q3_other]) [open] please specify
<7>	Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) - Individual Needs Programme (INP)	<10 fixed xor>	No, I don't currently access any support or services, but would like to
<8>	An Independent/ Private Sector service	<11 fixed xor>	No, I don't need to access any support or services
<12>	A funded community-based service provider for victims and survivors (e.g. WAVE Trauma Centre)		

Question type: **Open**

#any

#Question display logic:

**if q3.has\_any([1,3,4,5,7,8,12,13,14,15])**

**[q3a]** Please list the name of the organisation(s) you currently receive services or support from.

Question type: **Open**

#any

#Question display logic:

**If [q3] - No, I don't currently access any support or services, but would like to is selected [if 10 in q3]**

**[q4]** Even though you are (or may be) a victim or survivor of the Troubles/conflict, you say you don't currently receive any services or support, but would like to. Why is this? (e.g. have you received the correct information about services etc.)?

Not Sure

*Base: All who were bereaved/ had a close friend or relative that was injured*

Question type: **Multiple**

#Question display logic:

*if q2.has\_any([1,15])*

**[q27]** You said that you \$Q27\_pipe due to the Troubles/conflict. What was your relationship to that/those person(s)?

- <1> My parent
- <2> My grandparent
- <3> My child
- <4> My sibling
- <5> My spouse
- <6> My close friend
- <7> Other (open [Q27\_other]) [open] please specify
- <96> Prefer not to say

*Base: All who were physically and/or mentally affected*

Question type: **Single**

#Question display logic:

*if q2.has\_any([5,6])*

**[q5a]** You indicated that you were physically and/or mentally affected during the Troubles/conflict. Please say which of the following applies to you? (Please select one only)

- <1> My physical health continues to be affected
- <2> My mental health continues to be affected
- <3> Both my physical and mental health continue to be affected
- <4> My physical health was affected - but not currently
- <5> My mental health was affected - but not currently
- <6> Both my physical and mental health were affected - but not currently
- <98 fixed xor> Don't know

*Base: All whose health continues to be affected*

Question type: **Multiple**

#row order: randomize

#Question display logic:

*If [q5a] - My physical health continues to be affected or My mental health continues to be affected or Both my physical and mental health continue to be affected, is selected [if q5a in [1,2,3]]*

**[q28]** You mentioned your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict. For which, if any, of the following reasons would you say this is the case?

- |      |   |                |   |
|------|---|----------------|---|
| <1>  | I have been bereaved (e.g. lost an close relative e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling)           | <9>            | I am engaged in investigations related to the Troubles/conflict                 |
| <15> | I have a close relative (e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling) or friend that was injured         | <10>           | I am engaged in court cases related to the Troubles/conflict                    |
| <2>  | I have provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident | <11>           | I am engaged in information recovery related to the Troubles/conflict           |
| <3>  | I have been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident                | <12>           | I am engaged in other current legacy processes related to the Troubles/conflict |
| <4>  | I provide care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict  | <97 fixed>     | Other (open [q28_other]) [open] please specify                                  |
| <7>  | I have been displaced from my home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily                                   | <98 fixed xor> | Don't know  |
| <8>  | I am engaged in inquests related to the Troubles/conflict   |                |   |

*#option display logic:*

*<1> - If [q2] - I have been bereaved (e.g. lost an close relative e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling) is selected*

*And <15> - If [q2] - I have a close relative (e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling) or friend that was injured is selected*

*And <2> - If [q2] - I have provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident is selected*

*And <3> - If [q2] - I have been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident is selected*

*And <4> - If [q2] - I provide care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict is selected*

*And <7> - If [q2] - I have been displaced from my home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily*

*is selected*

*[if 1 in q2 and 15 in q2 and 2 in q2 and 3 in q2 and 4 in q2 and 7 in q2]*

*Base: All whose parent/grandparent was injured/died whose mental health continues to be affected*

Question type: **Single**

#Question display logic:

*if q27.has\_any([1,2]) and q5a in [2,3]*

**[q29]** Is your mental health still affected by the \$Q29\_pipe1 of \$Q29\_pipe2 by a Troubles/conflict related incident?

- |      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| <1>  | Yes                 |
| <2>  | No                  |
| <3>  | Don't know/Not sure |
| <96> | Prefer not to say   |

*Base: All*

Question type: **Dyngrid**

#row order: randomize

**[q31]** Are you familiar with the following organisations/services?

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| -[q31_1] | Regional Trauma Network (RTN)   |
| -[q31_2] | Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR)          |
| -[q31_3] | Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (TPDPS) / Victims Payment Board (VPB) |
| <1>      | Yes, and I know what work they do   |
| <2>      | Yes, but I do not know what work they do  |
| <3>      | No  |
| <4>      | Don't know/Not sure   |

*Base: All those who are aware of at least one of the organisations/services*

Question type: **Multiple**

#row order: randomize

#Question display logic:

*if q31\_1 in [1,2] or q31\_2 in [1,2] or q31\_3 in [1,2]*

**[q32]** Which of the following have you engaged with? (Please select all that apply)

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <1 if q31_1 in [1,2]> | The Regional Trauma Network (RTN)  |
| <2 if q31_2 in [1,2]> | The Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) |
| <3 if q31_3 in [1,2]> | The Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (TPDPS)                      |
| <4 fixed xor>         | None of the above  |
| <5 fixed xor>         | Don't know/Not sure  |

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[q30]** Should their respective governments ensure that victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales have equal access to services and support as victims and survivors living in Northern Ireland?

- |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| <1> | Yes                 |
| <2> | No                  |
| <3> | Don't know/Not sure |

*Question type: Text*

We would now like to ask you some questions about the legacy of the Troubles/conflict more generally.

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[q33]** Do you think that both the UK Government and the Irish Government should or should not work together to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland?

- |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| <1> | They should         |
| <2> | They should not     |
| <3> | Don't know/Not sure |

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[q34]** Do you think the Irish Government should or should not produce a clear plan/approach to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?

- <1> They should
- <2> They should not
- <3> Don't know/Not sure

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[q35]** In addition to investigations, should the UK and the Irish Governments establish another way of retrieving information for victims and survivors about the past from former paramilitaries or former members of the security forces?

- <1> They should
- <2> They should not
- <3> Don't know/Not sure

*Base: All*

*Question type: Dyngrid*

*#row order: randomize*

**[q36]** In your opinion, what influence do the following have, if any, on children and young people related to victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?

- |          |  |           |   |
|----------|--|-----------|---|
| -[q36_1] | Wall murals/Kerb painting  | -[q36_7]  | Interface barriers and 'Peace Walls'                      |
| -[q36_2] | Flags – regulated e.g. on government, council and other officials buildings etc.   | -[q36_8]  | Community leaders (unelected)                             |
| -[q36_3] | Flags – unregulated e.g. on lampposts etc.   | -[q36_9]  | Films and TV/Radio programmes about the Troubles/conflict |
| -[q36_4] | Memorialisation and commemorative artefacts including plaques, statues and gardens | -[q36_10] | Media reporting about the Troubles/conflict               |
| -[q36_5] | Separate schooling   | -[q36_11] | Bonfires  |
| -[q36_6] | Segregated housing/communities   | -[q36_12] | Parades   |
| <1>      | Positive   |           |   |

<2>	Neutral
<3>	Negative
<4>	No influence
<5>	Don't know/Not sure

Question type: **Grid**  
#row order: randomize

**[q18b]** How have the following events, institutions, or organisations impacted victims and/or survivors of the Troubles/conflict?

-[q18b_1]	Brexit issues e.g. the Northern Ireland protocol and Windsor Framework
-[q18b_2]	Media coverage of victims and survivors' issues
-[q18b_3]	Religious and faith-based organisations e.g. Churches
-[q18b_4]	Community groups and organisations
-[q18b_5]	The Republic of Ireland Government/ Republic of Ireland Parliament
-[q18b_6]	The UK Government/ UK Parliament
-[q18b_7]	The Northern Ireland Executive / Northern Ireland Assembly
-[q18b_14]	Debate about the constitutional status of Northern Ireland
-[q18b_11]	Paramilitary groups
-[q18b_12]	Local councils
-[q18b_13]	Health and Social Care (HSC)
<1>	Positively
<2>	Neutral - Neither positive nor negative
<3>	Negatively
<98>	Don't know/Not sure

Question type: **Open**  
#any

**[q22]** Have you any additional views or comments about this poll-survey, and/or policies regarding victims, survivors, etc.?

If no comments- please leave blank

Question type: *Text*

And finally, some demographic questions for our records.

*Base: All*

Question type: *Multiple*

**[National\_Identity]** How would you describe your national identity?

- <1> British
- <2> Irish
- <3> Northern Irish
- <4> English
- <5> Scottish
- <6> Welsh
- <7> Other (open [National\_Identity\_other]) [open] please specify
- <96 xor> Prefer not to say

*Base: All*

Question type: *Single*

**[Religion]** What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?

- <1> Roman Catholic
- <2> Presbyterian Church in Ireland
- <3> Church of Ireland
- <4> Methodist Church in Ireland
- <5> Other (open [Religion\_other]) [open] please specify
- <99> None

<96> Prefer not to say

*Base: All*

*Question type: Single*

**[Border]** Do you live within 5 miles of the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border?

<1> Yes

<2> No

<97> Don't know/Not sure

<96> Prefer not to say