# Population Survey (Republic of Ireland)

**10 August 2026**

## Final Report

3 Wellington Park
Belfast
BT9 6DJ

T: 0044 2890 923362
F: 0044 2890 923334

info@socialmarketresearch.co.uk
www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk

## Contents


Executive Summary ..... 3

1. Introduction ..... 9

1.1 Survey Focus and Content ..... 9

1.2 Methodology ..... 9

1.2.1 Sample Profile ..... 9

2. Survey Findings ..... 10

2.1 Prevalence of being a victim and / or survivor of the Troubles / conflict in Northern Ireland ..... 10

2.2 Being affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident ..... 13

2.3 Receiving services or support ..... 14

2.3.1 Organisations victims and / or survivors are currently receiving services or support from ..... 15

2.3.2 Reasons why not currently receiving support but would like to ..... 15

2.4 Affected physically and mentally by the Troubles / conflict ..... 17

2.4.1 Reasons why health continues to be affected ..... 18

2.5 Victims and survivors of the Troubles / conflict in the Republic of Ireland accessing support and services ..... 19

2.5.1 Support for providing victims and survivors with access to specific support and services ..... 20

2.5.2 Tailored support and services that victims and survivors should be provided with ..... 22

2.6 Teaching the history of the Troubles in schools ..... 23

2.7 The Irish State addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the RoI ..... 24

2.8 The role of the Irish Government in supporting victims and /or survivors ..... 25

2.9 The importance of issuing 'Statements of Acknowledgement' ..... 26

2.10 Barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in N Ireland ..... 27

2.11 Expectations of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade ..... 29

2.12 Support for a new one-off payment scheme for the bereaved ..... 30

2.12.1 Reasons for being unsupportive of a new one-off payment scheme for the bereaved ..... 31

2.13 Final comments ..... 32

Appendix 1 (Questionnaire) ..... 34

Appendix 2 (Quote bank) ..... 44

## Executive Summary

The Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS) commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a survey of adults (aged 18+) in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) to assess issues relating to victims and / or survivors of the Troubles /Conflict in Northern Ireland. The survey is based on a sample of 2000 adults (aged 18+) using an online panel methodology. The survey was conducted in accordance with the ISO20252 Standard and fieldwork was carried out in March and April 2026.

## Quantitative data from the survey

### Meeting the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor of the Troubles / conflict

**12%** of respondents in the RoI said they meet the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland, while **74%** said they do not and **14%** were unsure {in the 2023 survey, 10% of respondents said they met the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict].

Younger adults were much more likely to say they meet the legal definition of a victim/survivor: **26% of those aged 18–34**, compared with **9% of those aged 35–59** and **5% of those aged 60+**. Respondents with disabilities were also more likely to identify as meeting the definition (**23%** versus **8%** among non-disabled respondents). Urban respondents were more likely than rural respondents to say they meet the definition (**14%** versus **9%**).

Geography also mattered. People living within **5 miles of the border** were especially likely to say they meet the legal definition (**51%**, though this difference was not statistically significant). There were also some provincial differences, with **Leinster and Ulster** tending to report somewhat higher levels than **Munster**.

### Being affected in some way by the Troubles/conflict

Beyond the legal definition, the survey also found broader forms of impact. Among all respondents (n=2000) the most common reported experience was having **a distant relative, neighbour, colleague, or friend affected** by a Troubles-related incident (**15%**) [19% in 2023]. In addition, **7%** said their **mental health** had been affected [7% in 2023], **6%** said they had **witnessed** an incident or its aftermath [7% in 2023], **4%** said they had been **bereaved** [4% in 2023], and **3%** said they had provided **medical or emergency assistance** [3% in 2023].

### Ongoing health consequences

Among respondents whose physical and/or mental health had been affected by the Troubles, the survey found that the impact often continues into the present. **45%** said that either their **mental or physical health continues to be affected**. More specifically, **36%** said their mental health continues to be affected and **19%** said their physical health continues to be affected. Among those whose health is still affected, the most common reasons given were:

- ✓ Bereavement (26%)
- ✓ Witnessing a conflict-related incident or its consequences (25%)
- ✓ Having a close relative or friend injured (23%)

Other ways that respondents have been impacted by the Troubles / conflict include caring responsibilities, providing emergency assistance, displacement from home, and ongoing involvement in investigations, information recovery, court cases, or inquests.

### Use of services and unmet need

The survey found that a substantial minority of affected respondents are receiving some support, but unmet need remains. Among those who either met the legal definition or had been affected in some way, **27%** said they currently receive services or support from at least one source. The most commonly cited supports were:

- ✓ Victims and Survivors Service (NI) – 7%
- ✓ Funded community-based service providers – 6%
- ✓ Independent/private sector services – 5%
- ✓ Charities linked to the Irish Defence Forces – 5%
- ✓ Charities linked to the NI Prison Service – 5%

At the same time, some affected respondents reported wanting support but not currently receiving it *(12% of those who said they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, or who said they have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident)*. This unmet demand was more likely among:

- ✓ those who identified as victims/survivors rather than those indirectly affected,
- ✓ younger respondents,
- ✓ those in lower social grades,
- ✓ and those living close to the border.

### Strong support for addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict

Public support for addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland is high. The survey found that **82%** believe it is important to address this legacy [in 2023 the level of support was also 82%]. There was also strong support for parity of access to support:

- ✓ 83% said victims and survivors living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland [79% in 2023].

- ✓ Only 5% disagreed, with 12% undecided.

Support was even stronger among those who themselves identified as victims or survivors.

### Support for specific services and tailored provision

When asked about what kinds of support should be available, majorities backed a range of service models. Support was highest for:

- ✓ Dedicated victims and survivors' organisations in the Republic of Ireland (64%)
- ✓ Victims and Survivors Service / NI-funded services reaching into the Republic (63%)
- ✓ Enhanced awareness of victims' issues within existing support services (55%)
- ✓ Mainstreaming into statutory services such as health services (53%)

When asked about tailored services specifically, respondents most strongly supported:

- ✓ Psychological therapy, including family therapy (65%)
- ✓ Health or wellbeing support, including access to the Medical Card (59%)
- ✓ Legal advocacy support for investigations and information recovery (53%)
- ✓ There was also support, though at somewhat lower levels, for:
- ✓ Social support (45%)
- ✓ An independent advocacy role keeping a public profile on victims' issues (44%)
- ✓ Financial support (32%)

Overall, the strongest theme is clear demand for **trauma-informed, mental health-focused, and practical cross-border support**.

### Teaching the history of the Troubles

There is broad support for the Troubles being taught in schools in the Republic of Ireland. The most common view was that it should be:

- ✓ Compulsory in all schools for all ages 5–18 (49%) [43% in 2023]
- ✓ Compulsory at secondary level only (25%) [22% in 2023]

Smaller proportions supported optional teaching models, and only **3%** said it should **not be taught at all**. This suggests a strong public appetite for education, awareness, and historical understanding of the Troubles/conflict, though there is some variation by age, educational attainment, and location.

### Views on the Irish State's performance in addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the RoI

Respondents were more critical than positive in judging how well the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles so far:

- ✓ 45% said the State has handled it not at all well or not very well
- ✓ 31% said it has handled it well or very well
- ✓ 24% were undecided

Those identifying as victims/survivors, people with disabilities, and rural respondents were more likely to view the State's response negatively. Younger respondents and those living close to the border were somewhat more positive.

### Support for Irish Government action

The public also expressed broad support for further government action. Majorities agreed that the Irish Government should:

- ✓ support an annual Day of Reflection (66%),
- ✓ support other memorials (64%),
- ✓ implement a multi-year plan coordinating departments and agencies (63%),
- ✓ and commit additional resources beyond current funding (57%).

### Statements of Acknowledgment

The strongest levels of support in the survey were for formal acknowledgment of harm:

- ✓ 96% said it is important for the Irish and UK Governments to issue statements acknowledging the harms for which they were responsible.

- ✓ 97% said it is important for loyalist and republican paramilitary groups to do the same.

### Reconciliation and barriers

Respondents see reconciliation in Northern Ireland as still facing major obstacles. The most commonly cited barriers were:

- ✓ Sectarianism (51%)
- ✓ Political instability in Northern Ireland (43%)
- ✓ Segregation (43%)
- ✓ Lack of political leadership in Northern Ireland (40%)
- ✓ Continuing paramilitary activity (38%)

Other cited barriers included lack of political leadership in the Republic (**31%**) and the constitutional question (**23%**). A smaller group also raised religion, unionist/loyalist cultural practices, the UK Government's role, intergenerational transmission of trauma, and economic concerns.

### Hope for the future

Despite these concerns, the outlook is still more hopeful than pessimistic. **78%** said they were **hopeful or very hopeful** about maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland over the next decade, while **15%** said they were **not hopeful** and **6%** were undecided.

### Support for a new bereavement payment scheme

There was also strong support for a **new one-off payment scheme** for people bereaved by Troubles-related incidents in the Republic of Ireland:

- ✓ 68% were supportive or very supportive
- ✓ 14% were unsupportive
- ✓ 18% were undecided

### Comparisons between 2023 survey and the current survey

Where questions from the 2023 survey were included in the 2026 survey, the findings are remarkably consistent. For example, the proportion of respondents identifying as victims/survivors, although up slightly from **10% in 2023** to **12% in 2026,** is consistent across the surveys. There is broad similarity in relation to impact measures (e.g. having distant relatives, neighbours, colleagues or friends affected by the Troubles/conflict), as well as strong support for addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict, which remains unchanged at **82%**. There is a slight increase in support for victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland being able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland (up from **79%** to **83%**), with continued strong support for teaching the history of the Troubles/conflict in schools, especially compulsory teaching across ages 5–18 (compulsory in all schools for all ages 5–18, **49% in 2026 and 43% in 2023**; compulsory at secondary level only, **25% in 2026 and 22% in 2023**). Note that **only 3%** in both the 2026 and 2023 surveys believe that the history of the Troubles/conflict **should not be taught** in schools.

## Qualitative data from the survey

The qualitative data provided by respondents paints a consistent and coherent picture of how victims and survivors in the Republic of Ireland experience support, alongside their views on how policy responses should evolve.

### Limited engagement with specialist services

The findings indicate that relatively few respondents are currently accessing dedicated victims and survivors' services. Where support is identified, it is most commonly through mainstream statutory services (e.g. HSE, GP, social welfare) or general voluntary and community organisations (e.g. Samaritans, St Vincent de Paul, Pieta). A smaller number rely on informal supports such as family and friends, or privately funded therapy. Only a small number of respondents referenced specialist services such as the Victims and Survivors Service.

### Awareness and navigation, rather than provision, as key barriers

Among those who are not currently receiving support but would like to, the dominant barrier is not the absence of services, but lack of awareness, information and clarity. The most frequently cited issues relate to:

- not knowing services exist;
- not understanding eligibility or entitlement;
- not knowing how or where to access support.

These awareness-related barriers are more prominent than practical constraints such as cost or availability. This points to a system navigation issue, where services may exist but are not visible, accessible or clearly understood by potential users. There is also evidence of:

- uncertainty around eligibility, particularly for those affected indirectly or through family members;
- emotional barriers, including reluctance to seek help or minimising need;
- a clear latent demand for counselling, validation and emotional support.

### Strong support for victims, but preference for service-based responses

The evidence from the data suggests a clear and consistent distinction between support for victims and survivors and views on how that support should be delivered. There is strong evidence of:

- support for recognition, acknowledgement and meaningful assistance;
- a clear preference for practical, sustained support, particularly psychological and social support;
- scepticism about the effectiveness of one-off financial payments as a standalone response.

Among those unsupportive of the proposed payment scheme, the most common concerns relate to:

- the view that money cannot compensate for bereavement or trauma;
- perceptions that one-off payments are inadequate or tokenistic;
- a preference for ongoing or service-based support;
- concerns regarding fairness, eligibility and potential misuse.

Respondents consistently emphasise the importance of:

- counselling and mental health support;
- long-term, practical assistance;
- support that addresses lived experience rather than providing symbolic compensation.

### Tensions around cost, responsibility and fairness

Alongside support for victims, there are clear and recurring concerns about:

- who should bear responsibility for funding support, particularly the role of the Irish Government versus the UK Government;
- the use of taxpayer resources and competing public priorities; and
- the need for fairness and consistency, including concerns about eligibility and inclusion.

These issues are prominent throughout the qualitative data, and reflect wider sensitivities around cross-jurisdictional responsibility and public expenditure.

### Recognition, justice and the wider legacy of the Troubles/conflict

Respondents' views extend beyond service provision to the broader legacy of the Troubles. Key themes include:

- the importance of recognition, acknowledgement and being listened to;
- calls for truth, accountability and justice, including access to information and resolution for families;
- the need for inclusive approaches that recognise all victims;
- the importance of education, remembrance and awareness for younger generations.

At the same time, responses reveal a tension between:

- the need to remember and address the past, and
- a desire in some quarters to move forward and avoid reopening divisions.

**A consistent picture emerges and the key issue is not whether support for victims and survivors should be provided, but how that support should be delivered.**

There is clear support for:

- recognition and acknowledgement;
- access to meaningful, practical support;
- approaches that contribute to healing and reconciliation.

However, there is less support for:

- one-off financial payments as a primary mechanism;
- approaches perceived as symbolic, insufficient or unfairly distributed.

## Overall conclusion

Taken collectively, the evidence from this research presents a consistent picture with the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland continuing to have a real and lasting impact on victims and/or survivors and those affected in the Republic of Ireland, both directly and indirectly. Public opinion strongly supports recognition of that impact, equal access to services, trauma-informed and practical supports, educational inclusion, official acknowledgment, memorialisation, and further government action. While many respondents are critical of how the Irish State has handled the issue so far, there is clear support for doing more. Overall, the findings suggest that improving outcomes for victims and survivors in the Republic of Ireland is likely to depend on: increasing awareness and visibility of existing supports; improving access, navigation and clarity around eligibility; prioritising psychological, social and practical supports over one-off financial measures; ensuring that any interventions are perceived as fair, transparent and appropriately

targeted; and, situating support within a broader framework that addresses recognition, accountability and reconciliation [please note that where questions from the 2023 survey were included in the 2026 survey, the findings are consistent].

# 1. Introduction

In December 2025, The Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS) appointed Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a survey among adults in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) on issues relating to the Troubles / conflict in Northern Ireland (NI).

## 1.1 Survey Focus and Content

The aim of the survey was to explore:

- The prevalence of being a victim and / or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in NI
- Being affected by the Troubles/conflict in NI
- Use of services or support by victims and / or survivors
- Health impacts as a result of being a victim and / or survivor
- The importance of addressing the legacy of the Troubles / conflict in NI
- Access to services and support for victims and survivors of Troubles/conflict living in RoI
- Support and services which should be available to victims and /or survivors of Troubles/conflict living in RoI
- Support for teaching the history of the Troubles / conflict in the formal education sector in RoI
- Perception of how well the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in RoI
- Support for specific actions by the Irish Government to address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in RoI
- Importance of the Irish and UK Governments issuing Statements of Acknowledgment
- Barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland
- Hope about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in NI in the next decade
- Support for a new one-off payments scheme for the bereaved and funded by the Irish and UK Government
- Further comments

## 1.2 Methodology

The survey is based on 2000 interviews with adults aged 18+ in the RoI. The survey was conducted using an online panel methodology with results representative of the RoI adult population aged 18+. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.2% (at most). Fieldwork was conducted between 5 and 28 April 2026. The research was conducted in line with ISO20252 and Market Research Society protocols. The survey questionnaire is included as Appendix 1. Note that due to rounding, row and column totals in tables and figures many not sum to 100.

### 1.2.1 Sample Profile

Table 1.1 presents an overview of the weighted sample profile compared with population estimates[1].

**Table 1.1 Sample Profile [n=2000]**

| | | Sample (%) | Population (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | Male | 50 | 50 |
| | Female | 50 | 50 |
| **Age** | 18-34 | 27 | 27 |
| | 35-59 | 46 | 46 |
| | 60+ | 27 | 27 |
| **Socio-economic groups[2]** | ABC1 | 55 | 55 |
| | C2DE | 45 | 45 |
| **Area[3]** | Dublin | 28 | 28 |
| | Rest of Leinster | 27 | 27 |
| | Munster | 27 | 27 |
| | Connacht / Ulster | 18 | 18 |

[1] Source: AIMRO (Association of Irish Market Research Organisations)

[2] ABC1 refers to people in higher or intermediate socio-economic groups, including professional, managerial, supervisory, clerical and some skilled non-manual occupations. C2DE refers to people in lower socio-economic groups, including skilled manual workers, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, and people not currently working or in state-supported circumstances.

[3] Area by county includes: Dublin (Dublin); Rest of Leinster (Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow); Munster (Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford); and Connacht (Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo) / Ulster (Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan).

## 2. Survey Findings

Please note that any differences between respondent groups alluded to in report commentary are statistically significant to at least the 95% Confidence Level. This means that if there are differences between groups such as men and women, or different age groups, these differences are very unlikely to be due to chance. In these instances we are at least 95% confident the differences reflect a real pattern in the wider population, rather than just being a random result from the people who happened to take part in the survey.

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.

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

Respondents were presented with the following definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland:

**Definition**

**Based in law[4], 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.

Respondents were then asked as someone living in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. the 26 counties and not Northern Ireland), if they meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict.

[4] The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006

Figure 1 shows that one in ten respondents (12%) said they meet the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland, 74% said they do not, and 14% were either undecided or had no opinion.

**Figure 1: As someone living in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. the 26 counties and not Northern Ireland), do you meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict? (base=2000)**



Table 2.1 presents a socio-demographic split in terms of meeting the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor. Younger respondents compared with those in other age groups were more likely to say they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor of the Troubles / conflict (18-34, 26%: 35-59, 9%: 60+, 5%), with those with a disability (16%), compared with non-disabled respondents (7%), also more likely to say they meet the legal definition.

Respondents in lower social grades was more likely to answer 'don't know' when asked if they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor (C2DE, 18% vs. ABC1, 11%). Those with a lower level of educational attainment[5] were also more likely to answer don't know, not sure or have no opinion (low, 19%: medium, 16%: high, 12%), with those with a disability more likely to say they meet the definition (disability, 23%: no disability, 8%).

Those living in urban areas were significantly more likely to say they meet the definition (urban, 14%: rural, 9%). Analysis by Province shows that similar numbers of respondents in Ulster, Connacht and Leinster said they meet the definition, with those in Munster least likely to say they meet the definition (Ulster, 13%: Connacht, 12%; Leinster, 14%: Munster, 9%).

Analysis by geographical proximity to the Border shows that those living within 5 miles of the Border were more likely to say they meet the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor, this difference is not statistically significant (within 5 miles, 51%: 5 miles or more, 9%).

**Table 2.1: Meeting the legal definition of a victim or survivor by demographics (n=2000)**

| | | Meet the legal definition of victim or survivor? | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Yes** | **No** | **Don't know / not sure / no opinion** |
| **All respondents** | | 12 | 74 | 14 |
| | | | | |
| **Gender** | Male | 13 | 74 | 12 |
| | Female | 12 | 73 | 16 |
| | | | | |
| **Age*** | 18-34 | 26 | 54 | 20 |
| | 35-59 | 9 | 80 | 11 |
| | 60+ | 5 | 83 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| **Socio-economic group*** | ABC1 | 13 | 76 | 11 |
| | C2DE | 12 | 70 | 18 |
| | | | | |
| **Education*** | Low | 17 | 64 | 19 |
| | Medium | 11 | 73 | 16 |
| | High | 12 | 76 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| **Disability*** | Disabled | 23 | 63 | 14 |
| | Non-disabled | 8 | 80 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| **Settlement*** | Urban | 14 | 72 | 14 |
| | Rural | 9 | 76 | 15 |
| | | | | |
| **Province *** | Ulster | 13 | 74 | 13 |
| | Connacht | 12 | 77 | 11 |
| | Leinster | 14 | 73 | 13 |
| | Munster | 9 | 73 | 17 |
| | | | | |
| **Border*** | Live within 5 miles | 51 | 34 | 15 |
| | Don't live within 5 miles | 9 | 77 | 14 |
| ***Statistically significant difference** | | | | |

[5] Education attainment level based on three categories: low (no formal education, primary education or lower Secondary [up to junior certificate or equivalent]); medium (upper secondary (up to leaving certificate or equivalent) or third Level diploma/ non-degree); and, high (third level).

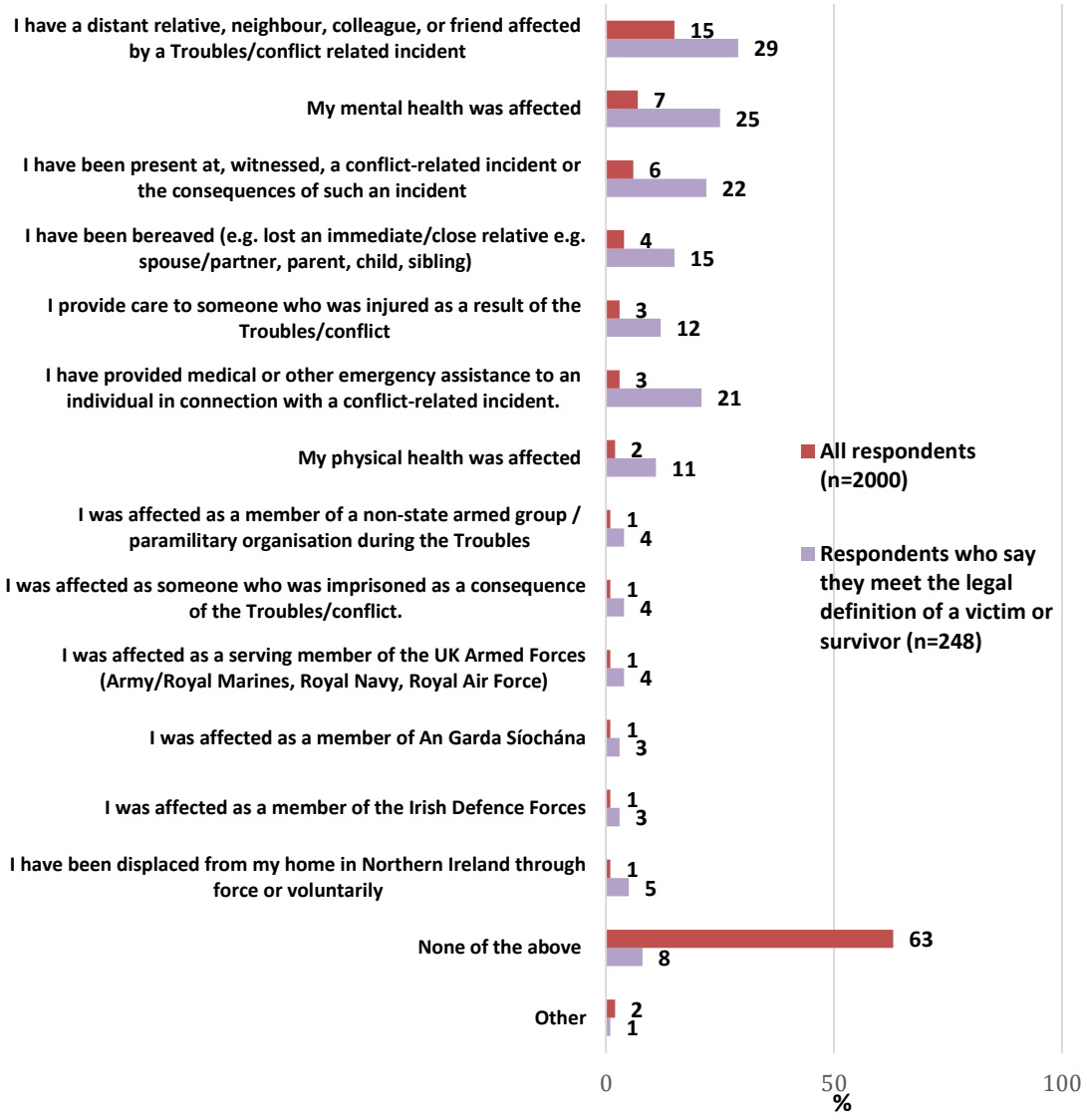
## 2.2 Being affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident

Regardless of whether respondents believe they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, they were asked if they have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident [note that respondents were presented with a list of affects and asked to say if each applied to them with respondents able to select all or none of the affects].

Figure 2 shows that among all respondents (n=2000), 15% said they have a distant relative, neighbour, colleague, or friend affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident. Seven percent (7%)[6] of all respondents said their mental health has been affected, with a similar number (6%) saying they were present at, or witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident.

Among those who believe they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor (n=248), 29% said they have a distant relative, neighbour, colleague, or friend affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident. Twenty-five percent (25%) said their mental health has been affected, 22% said they were present at, or witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident, and 15% said they have been bereaved.

**Figure 2: Whether or not you meet the legal definition of a victim and/or survivor, as someone who lives in the Republic of Ireland do you feel you have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident?**




[6] Note that this group (n=134) is split by: male, 56%: female, 44%; 18-34, 48%: 35-59, 42%: 60+, 9%; disability, 54%: no disability, 46%; Ulster, 7%: Connacht, 13%, Leinster, 59%: Munster, 21%; live within 5 miles of the border, 22%, don't live within 5 miles of the border, 78%: urban, 69%: rural, 31%)

## 2.3 Receiving services or support

Respondents (n=676) who said they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, or who said they have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related, were asked if they currently receive services or support from different sources.

Figure 3 shows that 7% of these respondents said they have received services or support from the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) in Northern Ireland, 6% have received services or support from a funded community-based service provider for victims and survivors. The same number (5%) have received services or support from: an independent / private sector service; a charity for the Irish Defence Forces; and a charity from the NI Prison Service.

Please note that 27% of those who say they meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor, or who have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident, said they currently receive services or support from at least one of the sources listed in Figure 3.

### Statistically significant differences by respondent groups

#### Don't currently access any support or services but would like to

Twelve percent (12%) of those who meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor, or who do not meet the definition but have been affected in some way by the Troubles/conflict, said they don't currently access any support or services but would like to. Those who say they meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor, compared to those who do not meet the definition but have been affected in some way by the Troubles/conflict, were significantly more likely to say they don't currently access any support or services but would like to (victims/survivors, 18%: affected by the Troubles/conflict, 8%).

In terms of age, younger respondents meeting the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, or have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident, were more likely to say they don't currently access any support or services but would like to (18-34, 17%: 35-59, 12%: 60+, 3%), with the same true for those from lower social grades (C2DE, 16%: ABC1, 8%) and those living within 5 miles of the border (within 5 miles, 18%: 5 miles or more, 10%).

#### Don't need to access any support or services

Most (61%) of those who meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor, or who do not meet the definition but have been affected in some way by the Troubles/conflict, said they don't need access to any support or services. However, only a minority (32%) of those who meet the definition said they don't need access to any support or services compared with most (78%) of those who don't meet the definition but have been affected in some way.

Analysis by age found that younger respondents meeting the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, or have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident, were significantly less likely to say they don't need to access any support or services (18-34, 36%: 35-59, 68%: 60+, 93%).

Those with a disability were significantly less likely to say they don't need to access any support or services (disability, 46%: no disability, 73%), with the same true for respondents with a lower level of educational attainment (low, 42%: medium, 65%: high, 63%), those living in urban areas (urban, 57%: rural, 71%) and those living within 5 miles of the border (within 5 miles, 25%: 5 miles or more, 70%).

#### Use of services or accessing support among those saying their physical health has been affected

Respondents who say they meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor compared with respondents who meet the definition and who said their physical health has been affected as a result of being a victim and / or survivor, or who have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident, were significantly more likely to say they have used the following services: the services of a statutory sector provider (12% vs. 4%); a charity for the Irish Prison service (7% vs. 2%); a charity for the Irish Defence Forces (12% vs. 4%); and an independent private sector service (12% vs. 5%). This group were also more likely to say they don't need to access any support or services but would like to (30% vs. 10%) and less likely to say they don't need to access support or services (23% vs. 64%).

**Use of services or accessing support among those saying their mental health has been affected**

Respondents who say they meet the definition of a victim and / or survivor compared with respondents who meet the definition and said their mental health has been affected as a result of being a victim and / or survivor, or who have been affected by a Troubles / conflict related incident, were more likely to say they have used the following services: the services of a statutory sector provider (8% vs. 3%); the UK armed forces as an ex-service person from NI deployment (10% vs. 3%); a charity for An Garda Síochána (e.g. Garda Síochána Retired Members Association) (7% vs. 3%); a charity for the Irish Defence Forces[7] (8% vs. 4%); and an independent private sector service[8] (11% vs. 4%); and an ex-prisoner group or charities supporting ex-prisoners (3% vs. 1%). This group were also more likely to say they don't currently access services but would like to (23% vs. 9%) and less likely to say they don't need to access support or services (46% vs. 64%).

### 2.3.1 Organisations victims and / or survivors are currently receiving services or support from

Respondents who indicated that they currently receive services or support from different sources were asked to list the names of these organisations.

Responses indicate that relatively few respondents are currently accessing dedicated victims and survivors' services. Where support is identified, it is most commonly through mainstream statutory services (e.g. HSE, GP, social welfare) or general voluntary and community organisations (e.g. Samaritans, St Vincent de Paul, Pieta). A notable proportion of respondents rely on informal supports such as family or friends, or private therapy. Below are the different types of support services presented under specific themes.

**Statutory health and social care services (most common identifiable category) (n=25).** This is the most consistent category in the data. Where support is mentioned it is mainstream statutory provision, not specialist Troubles-related services. Example organisations include: HSE / health services; GP / hospital / CAMHS; social welfare / allowances; and Tusla.

**Voluntary / charity sector support (n=25).** A secondary but important category lies in the voluntary/charity sector. Support is often generic crisis / mental health / poverty support, rather than conflict-specific. Examples include: St Vincent de Paul; Pieta; Samaritans; Focus Ireland; Red Cross; One in Four; Barnardo's; Spirasi; and the Irish Hospice Foundation.

**Informal / personal support networks (n=10).** A number of respondents said that they were relying on family rather than services. Suggests informal coping rather than engagement with formal services (e.g. "my family"; "parents"; "my friends"; "my parents").

**Private / self-funded support (n=10).** Some respondents are self-funding support (e.g. "Private Practicing Psychologist"; "I have my own psychiatrist"; and "Therapy").

**Generic (n=10).** Some respondents referred to generic "government services".

**Specialist victims/survivors services (n=8).** Only a small number of clear references were made to specialist services such as: Victims and Survivors Service; WAVE Trauma Centre; Commission for Victims and Survivors; and Glencree / Corrymeela.

**Political parties / non-service responses (n=8).** Included political parties (e.g. (e.g. Sinn Féin, Aontú, Fianna Fáil).

### 2.3.2 Reasons why not currently receiving support but would like to

Among those who did not currently receive support but indicated that they would like to, the most common explanation was lack of awareness: respondents often said they had not known services existed, did not know what they might be entitled to, or did not know who to contact. Other barriers included cost, delays, lack of time, uncertainty about whether indirect or family-related impacts counted, and emotional reluctance to ask for help. A smaller group described a need for counselling, information, validation or closure, while some suggested that they did not currently feel support was necessary. These responses are presented below under specific themes.

[7] * Statistically significant
[8] * Statistically significant

**Lack of awareness or information about services (n=35).** Comments included: "No never knew about them"; "I was not aware of services available"; "I didn't know there was services available"; and "Haven't received any information about services and don't know who to contact."

**Uncertainty about eligibility or entitlement (n=15).** Comments included: "I was unaware I may be considered as a victim"; "I do not know what I'm entitled to"; "Didn't really know what I was entitled to"; and "Don't have the right knowledge for the right services".

**Practical access barriers: cost, time and delays (n=10).** Comments included: "Can't afford to"; "It's expensive"; "I have been attempting to get such services; however there are so many delays that have had to get loans instead."; and "No available service unless you can pay"

**Not knowing where or how to seek support (n=10).** Comments included: "Don't know how really"; "Haven't been able to access more information on how to avail of these services."; "I didn't get any information where to find support"; and "I do not know how to".

**Unmet desire for counselling, emotional support or validation (n=10).** Comments included: "I would like to talk to someone about the effect this has had on my family"; "Any form of counselling"; "I feel I still suffer trauma from what I witnessed."; "Because I feel if I receive some sort of support I think I'll feel a bit of closure… people are making my feelings feel validated and that I'm not alone."

**Some do not currently feel they need support (n=10).** Comments included: "For now, no"; "So many years ago, I feel trauma no longer as strong"; "A family member was affected alongside my mental health but overall I do not need support"; and "Just not at this time".

**Emotional reluctance, fear or minimising their own need (n=8).** Comments included: "Too scared to reach out"; "It's hard to say I would need the help as it was directly affecting me. Could be belittling to seek out help"; "As I didn't feel the need, I carried on in life and forgot"; and "Just ignoring my issues".

**Indirect, family or generational impacts not clearly recognised (n=8).** Comments included: "I am an indirect victim generational trauma is not covered"; "Because I do not have access to support as someone who lost a distant relative and am based in the republic, rather than Northern Ireland"; "A family member was affected alongside my mental health but overall I do not need support"; and "As it didn't directly affect me, only some relatives."

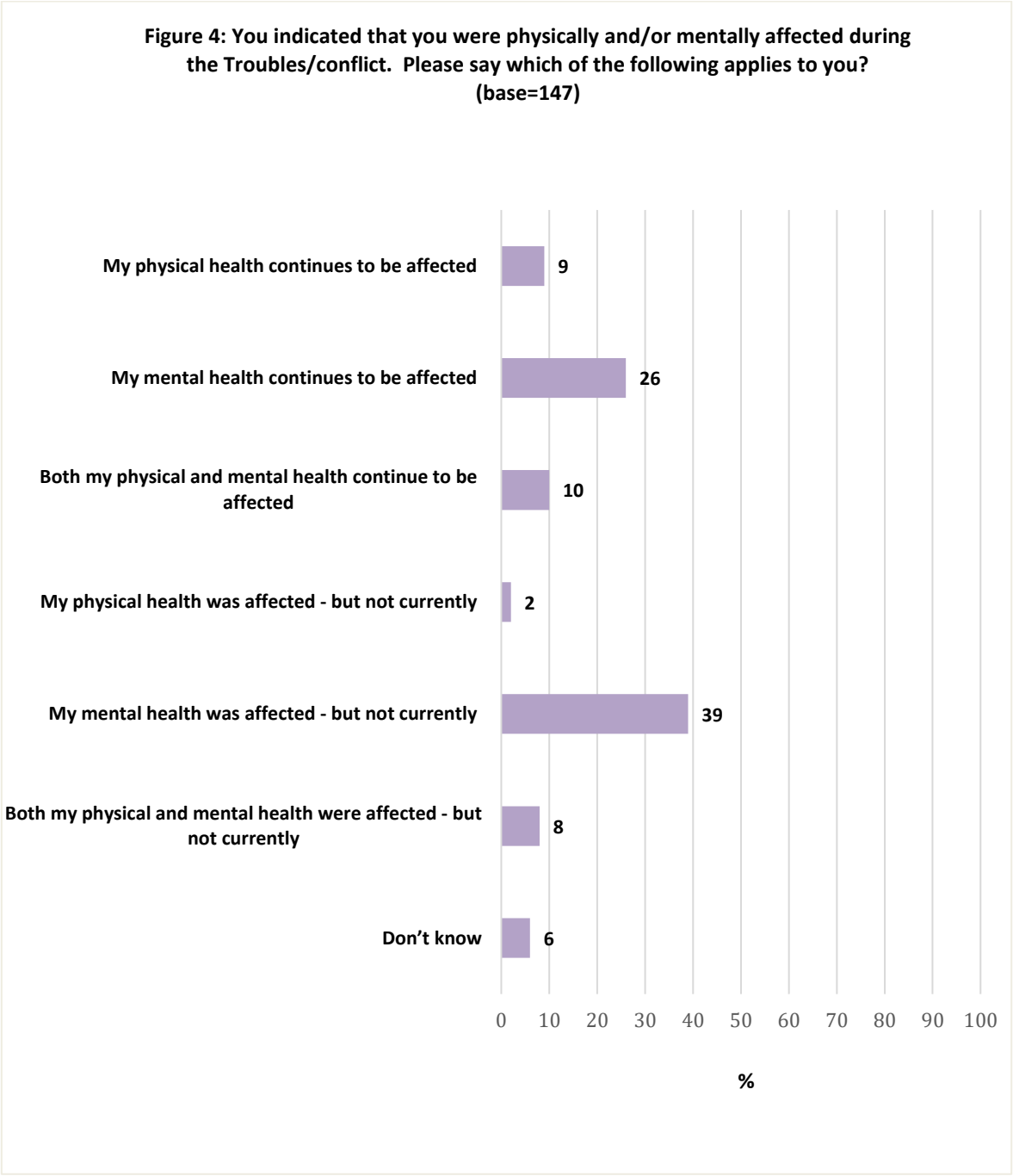
## 2.4 Affected physically and mentally by the Troubles / conflict

Respondents (n=147) who indicated that they were physically and/or mentally affected during the Troubles/conflict were asked about the impact of this.

Figure 4 shows that 36% of these respondents said that their mental health continues to be affected, and 47% said their mental health was affected but not currently.

Almost one in five (19%) said their physical health continues to be affected, and 10% said their physical health was affected but not currently *(note that 45% say that either their mental or physical health continues to be affected)*. Six percent were unsure.

**Figure 4: You indicated that you were physically and/or mentally affected during the Troubles/conflict. Please say which of the following applies to you? (base=147)**

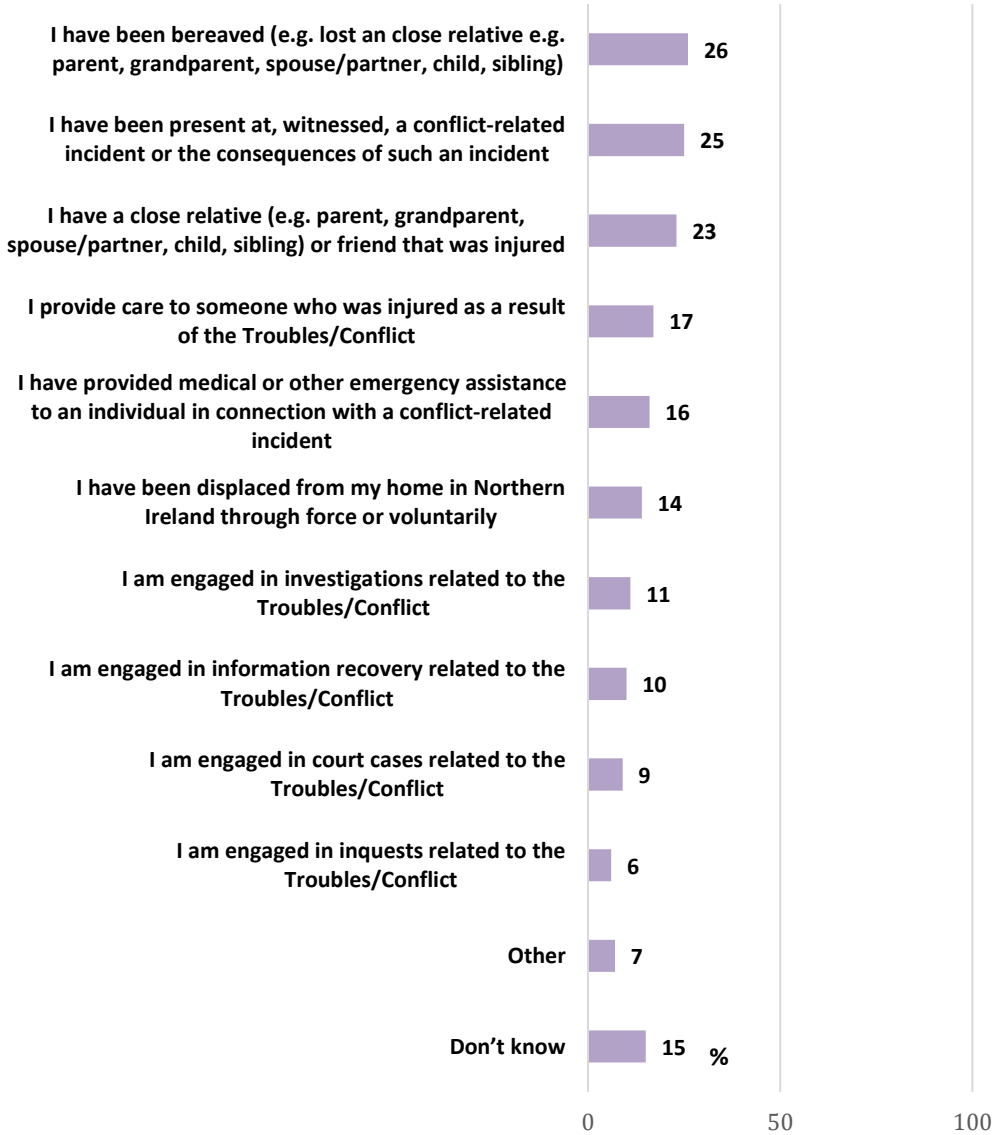


### 2.4.1 Reasons why health continues to be affected

Respondents (n=66) who indicated that their physical or mental health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict were asked why this is, with the most common reasons as: being bereaved (26%); having been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident (25%); and having a close relative or friend that was injured (23%).

Other reasons why respondents said their physical or mental health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict included: providing care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict (17%); having provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident (16%); being displaced from their home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily (14%); being engaged in investigations related to the Troubles/conflict (11%); being engaged in information recovery related to the Troubles/conflict (10%); being engaged in court cases related to the Troubles/conflict (9%); and being engaged in inquests related to the Troubles/conflict (6%). Seven percent said their physical or mental health continues to be affected for other reasons[9]. Fifteen percent answered, 'don't know'.

**Figure 5: You mentioned your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict. Please say if any of the following may explain why your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict. (base=66)**

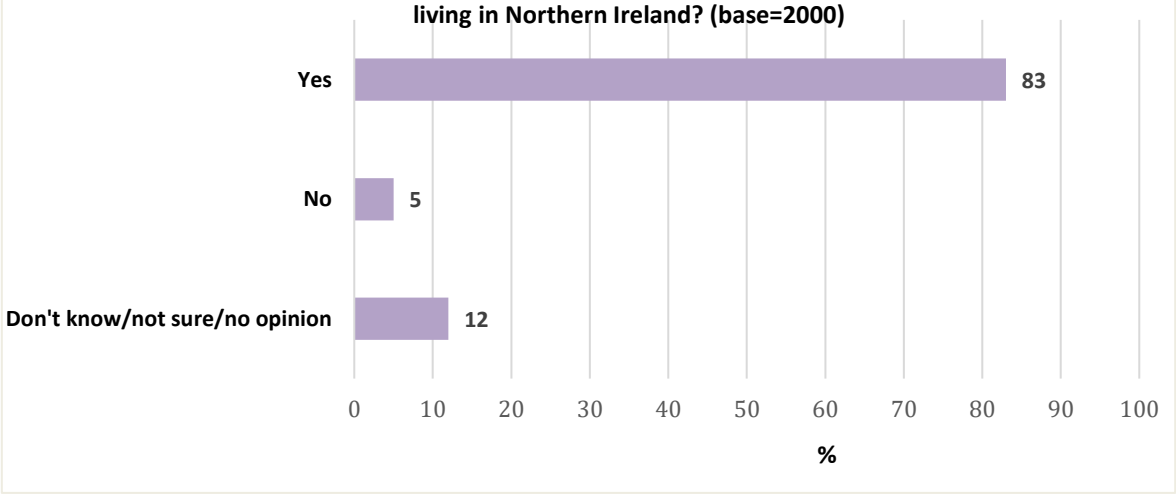



[9] I am troubled by what my countrymen and women were subjected to by a foreign government (n=1); I find it difficult to bring myself to visit relatives in the North due to ongoing fear of being Catholic (n=1); I was assaulted and shot at during the troubles (n=1); and I was in the vicinity of an explosion and my hearing has been affected by this (n=1).

## 2.5 Victims and survivors of the Troubles / conflict in the Republic of Ireland accessing support and services

Approximately eight out of ten (83%) respondents think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland, 5% said they should not and 12% are undecided.

**Figure 6: Do you think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland? (base=2000)**




### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

- Those who say they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor were more likely to say that victims / survivors should be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland (victims/survivors, 90%: other, 82%)
- Older respondents were more likely to be undecided compared with other age groups (18-34, 9%: 35-59, 11%: 60+, 16%)
- Those with a lower level of educational attainment[10] were more likely to think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should not be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland (low, 8%: medium, 6%: high, 4%)

[10] Education attainment level based on three categories: low (no formal education, primary education or lower Secondary [up to junior certificate or equivalent]); medium (upper secondary (up to leaving certificate or equivalent) or third Level diploma/ non-degree); and, high (third level).

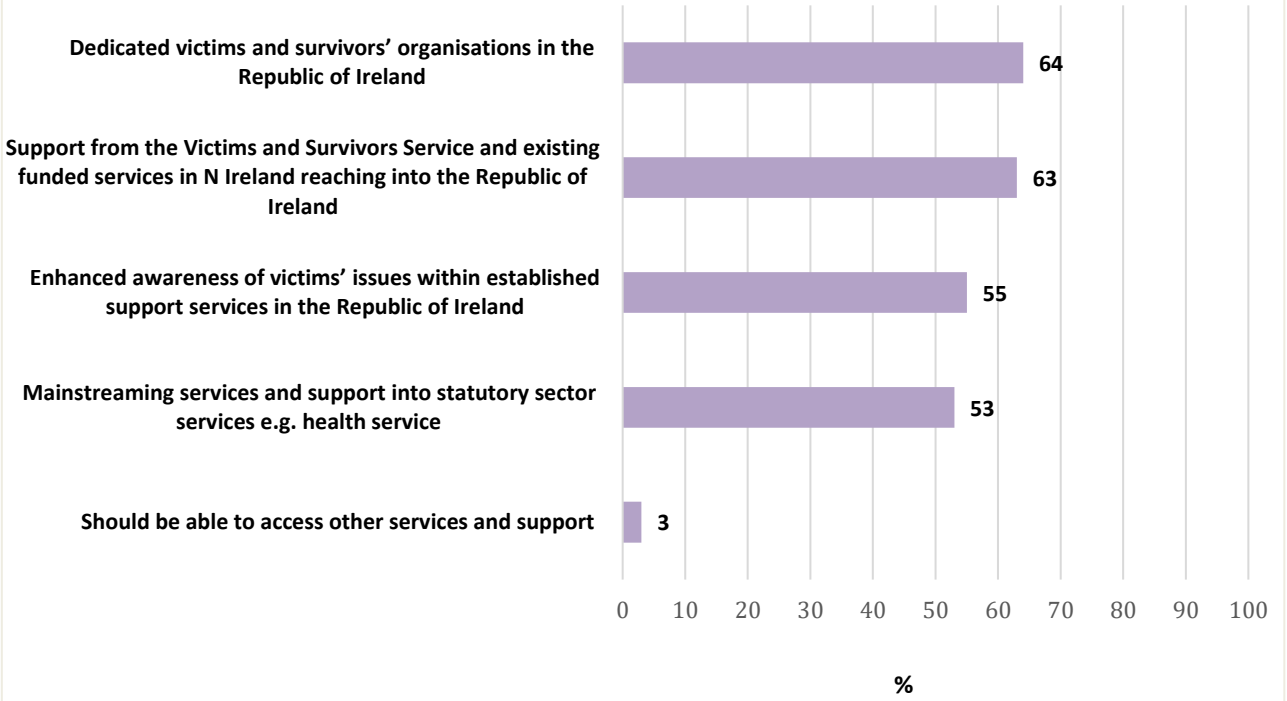
### 2.5.1 Support for providing victims and survivors with access to specific support and services

Respondents were presented with a range of support and services and asked if victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access each, with a majority supportive of victims and survivors being provided with each of the different types of support and services.

Figure 7 shows that relatively higher levels of support were recorded for the provision of dedicated victims and survivors' organisations in the Republic of Ireland (64%) and support from the Victims and Survivors Service and existing funded services in N Ireland reaching into the Republic of Ireland (63%).

Although still a majority, relatively lower levels of support were recorded for the provision of enhanced awareness of victims' issues within established support services in the Republic of Ireland (55%) and mainstreaming services and support into statutory sector services e.g. the health service (53%).

**Figure 7: Do you think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the following services and support? (base=2000)**




#### Other support and services that should be provided to victims and survivors

Three percent (3%) suggested that victims and survivors should be provided with access to other services and support and their responses are presented below under specific themes.

**General and non-specific support (n=10).** Some respondents suggested that victims/survivors should be able to access 'anything', 'whatever they need', or 'all supports', without naming a specific type of service.

**Mental health, counselling and trauma-focused care (n=8)**. Some made references to counselling, psychologists, mental health services and trauma-informed/trauma therapy as priority supports ('HSE service for mental health impact of living during the troubles of Northern Ireland').

**Parity / equal access with services in Northern Ireland (n=5).** Some respondents called for people living in the Republic of Ireland to have equal access to the same supports available to those living in Northern Ireland ('All services that are available to those living in the six countries should be provided to those living in the 26 counties.").

**Cross-border access, responsibility and practical supports (n=4).** Some cited cross-border issues (e.g., accessing NI services after moving, which state should provide redress) and practical supports such as subsidised visits ('Should be able to access them from Northern Ireland even if they have moved to the Republic).'

**Health/medical and physical wellbeing (n=3).** Some mentioned health and wellness needs, including medical support and physical wellbeing (sometimes alongside psychological needs) ('counselling, peer groups, medical support etc'.).

**Peer/voluntary support networks (n=3)**. Mentions of peer groups, support networks and voluntary organisations as sources of support 'Other support that may be available, such as voluntary organisations'.).

**Financial and government/state support (n=2).** Mentions of financial supports and broader government/state support ('Financial support').

**Affordability (free of charge) (n=1)**. One respondent explicitly said that supports should be free of charge for victims/survivors ('Any support they need and all the services should be free of charge'.).

**Summary.** When focusing on substantive suggestions (excluding non-specific answers), the most prominent themes were mental health and trauma-related supports (counselling, psychologists, trauma-informed care) and parity i.e. equal access for people living in the Republic of Ireland to the same supports available in Northern Ireland. Smaller clusters highlighted health/medical supports, peer and voluntary networks, and cross-border questions about access, responsibility and practical barriers.

### 2.5.2 Tailored support and services that victims and survivors should be provided with

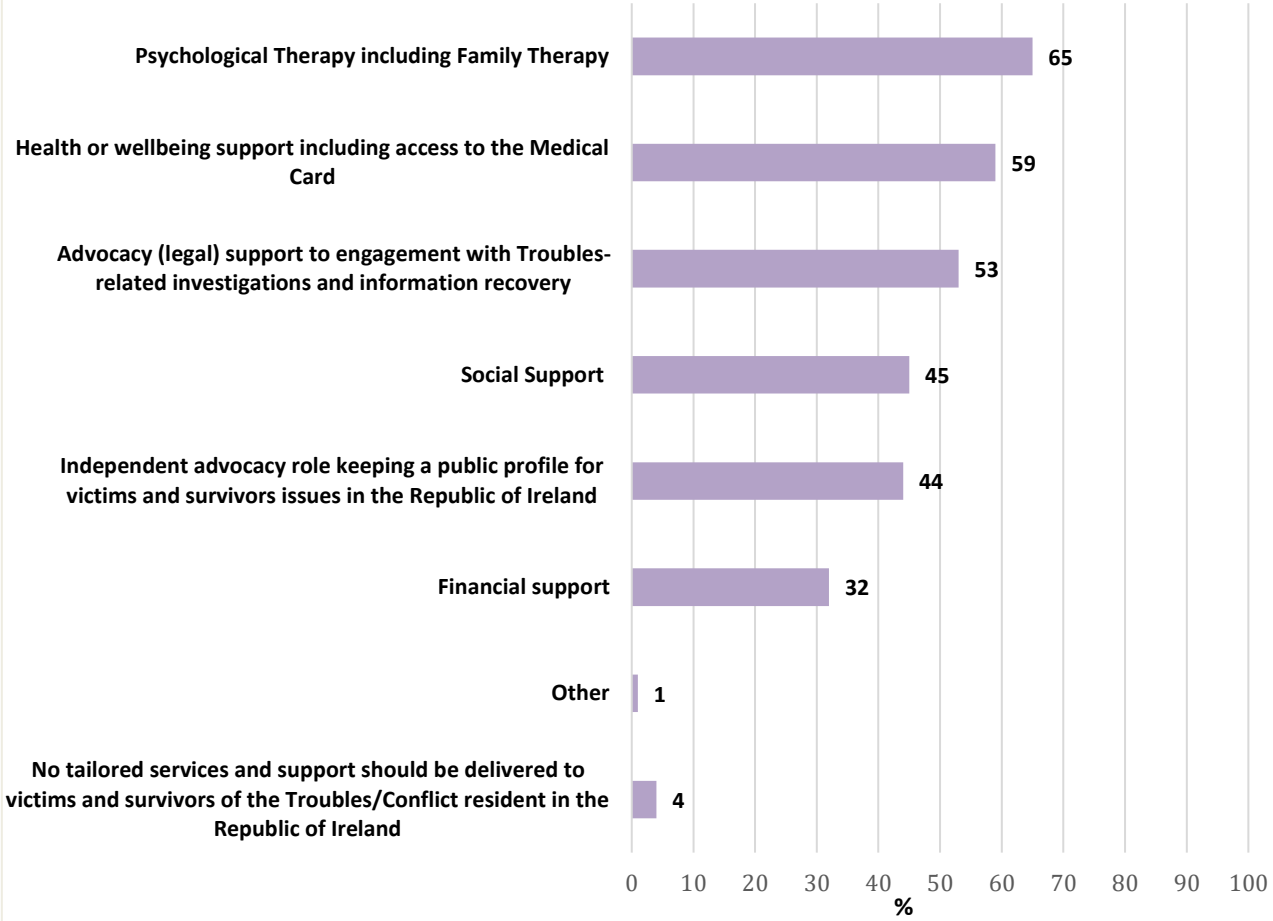
Respondents were asked what tailored services and support they think should be accessible to victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict resident in the Republic of Ireland.

Figure 8 shows that a majority of respondents believe that the following **services and support should be provided:** Psychological Therapy including Family Therapy (65%); health or wellbeing support including access to the Medical Card (59%); and advocacy (legal) support to engagement with Troubles-related investigations and information recovery (53%).

Slightly less than half of respondents are supportive of providing social support (45%) and independent advocacy role keeping a public profile for victims and survivors issues in the Republic of Ireland (44%), with around a third (32%) supportive of financial support.

One percent listed other forms of tailored services and support they think should be accessible to victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict resident in the Republic of Ireland[11].

**Figure 8: What tailored services and support do you think should be accessible to victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict resident in the Republic of Ireland? (base=2000)**




[11] Included: depends on level of need (n=1); education around the subject, psychology, peer support groups, other education, meet ups where appropriate and maybe a website or forum where they can post without identification. Somebody who will write their story and include in local and regional etc archives & museums. Story should not be forgotten (n=1); equality (n=1); health or wellbeing support without Medical Card (n=1); I imagine their needs will vary considerably and need more than a 'one size fits all approach' (n=1); spiritual guidance counsellors (n=1); subsidised short breaks in the north for groups of seniors (n=1); tailored psychological support through additional training for existing public psychological services teams (n=1); the taxpayer of (S) Ireland, should NOT have to fund any kind of redress for something that happened or was caused by or in N. Ireland . N Ireland is part of the UK since 1922. The British Govt. should be paying for this!! (n=1).

## 2.6 Teaching the history of the Troubles in schools

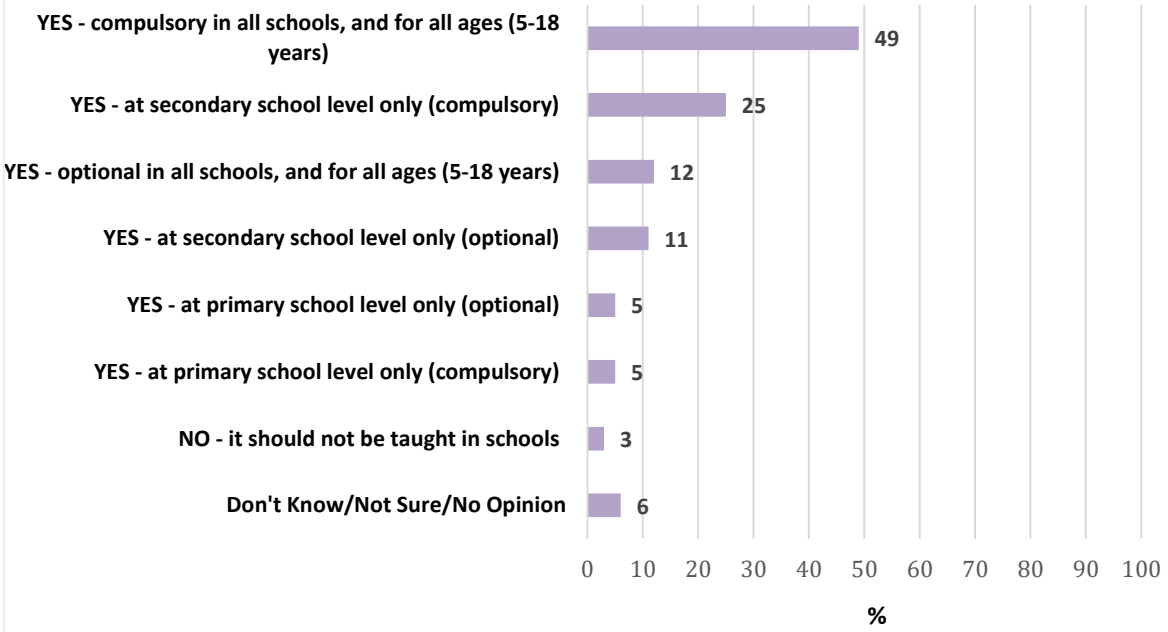
Respondents were asked if the history of the Troubles/conflict should be taught within the formal education sector in the Republic of Ireland.

Figure 9 shows that 49% of respondents believe the teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict should be compulsory in all schools and for all ages (5-18), with 25% saying it should be compulsory at secondary school level only.

Twelve percent believe the teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict should be optional in all schools and for all ages (5-18), 11% believe that it should be optional at secondary level only, 5% believe that it should be optional at primary school level only, and 5% believe it should be compulsory at primary school level only.

Just 3% said that the history of the Troubles/conflict should not be taught in schools in the Republic of Ireland, with 6% undecided or having no opinion.

**Figure 9: Should the history of the Troubles/conflict be taught within the formal education sector in the Republic of Ireland? (base=2000)**




### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

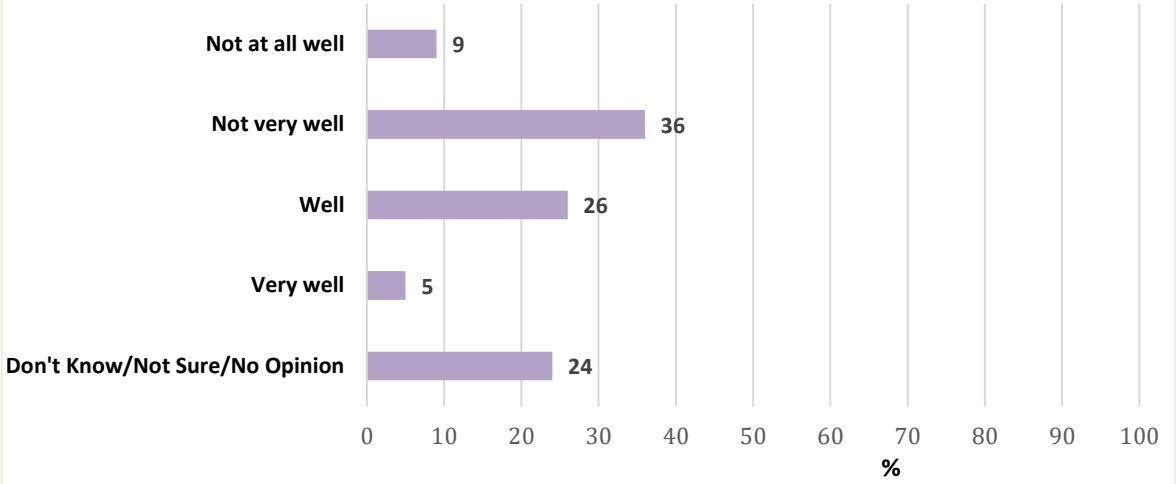
- Older respondents compared with those in other age groups were less likely to be supportive of the compulsory teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict in all schools and for all ages (5-18) [18-34, 53%: 35-59, 51%: 60+, 40%]
- Those with a lower level of educational attainment[12] were less likely to be supportive of the compulsory teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict in all schools and for all ages (low, 41%: medium, 46%: high, 52%)
- Those living in urban areas were more likely to be supportive of the compulsory teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict in all schools and for all ages (urban, 50%: rural, 45%)
- Those living in Ulster were less likely to be supportive of the compulsory teaching of the history of the Troubles/conflict in all schools and for all ages (Ulster, 39%: Connacht, 42%: Leinster, 50%: Munster, 51%)

[12] Education attainment level based on three categories: low (no formal education, primary education or lower Secondary [up to junior certificate or equivalent]); medium (upper secondary (up to leaving certificate or equivalent) or third Level diploma/ non-degree); and, high (third level).

## 2.7 The Irish State addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the RoI

When asked how well they believe the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date, just under half (45%) said not at all well (9%) or not very well (36%). Less than one in three (31%) respondents believe the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict well (26%) or very well (5%), with 24% undecided.

**Figure 10: How well do you believe the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date? (base=2000)**




### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

- Those who say they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor are more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date not at all well or not very well (victims/survivors, 51%: other, 44%), with others in the survey more likely to say, 'don't know' (victims/survivors, 6%: other, 27%)
- Males were more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date not well or very well (male, 34%: female, 28%) whereas females were more likely to be undecided (males, 21%: females, 27%)
- Younger respondents compared with those in other age groups were more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date well or very well (18-34, 39%: 35-59, 28%: 60+, 27%)
- Those with a disability were more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date not at all well or not very well (disability, 50%: no disability, 44%)
- Those with an intermediate level of educational attainment were more likely to be undecided when asked if the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date (low, 21%: medium, 28%: high, 23%)
- Those in rural areas were more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date not at all well or not very well (urban, 42%: rural, 51%)
- Those living within 5 miles of the border were more likely to say the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date well or very well (within 5 miles, 45%: 5 miles or more, 30%) whereas those living further from the border were more likely to be undecided (within 5 miles, 10%: 5 miles or more, 25%)

## 2.8 The role of the Irish Government in supporting victims and /or survivors

Respondents were provided with the following information and were then asked to what extent they agree or disagree with a number of statements relating to the role of Irish Government in addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland:

**To address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict the Irish and UK governments published a Joint Framework document in September 2025.**

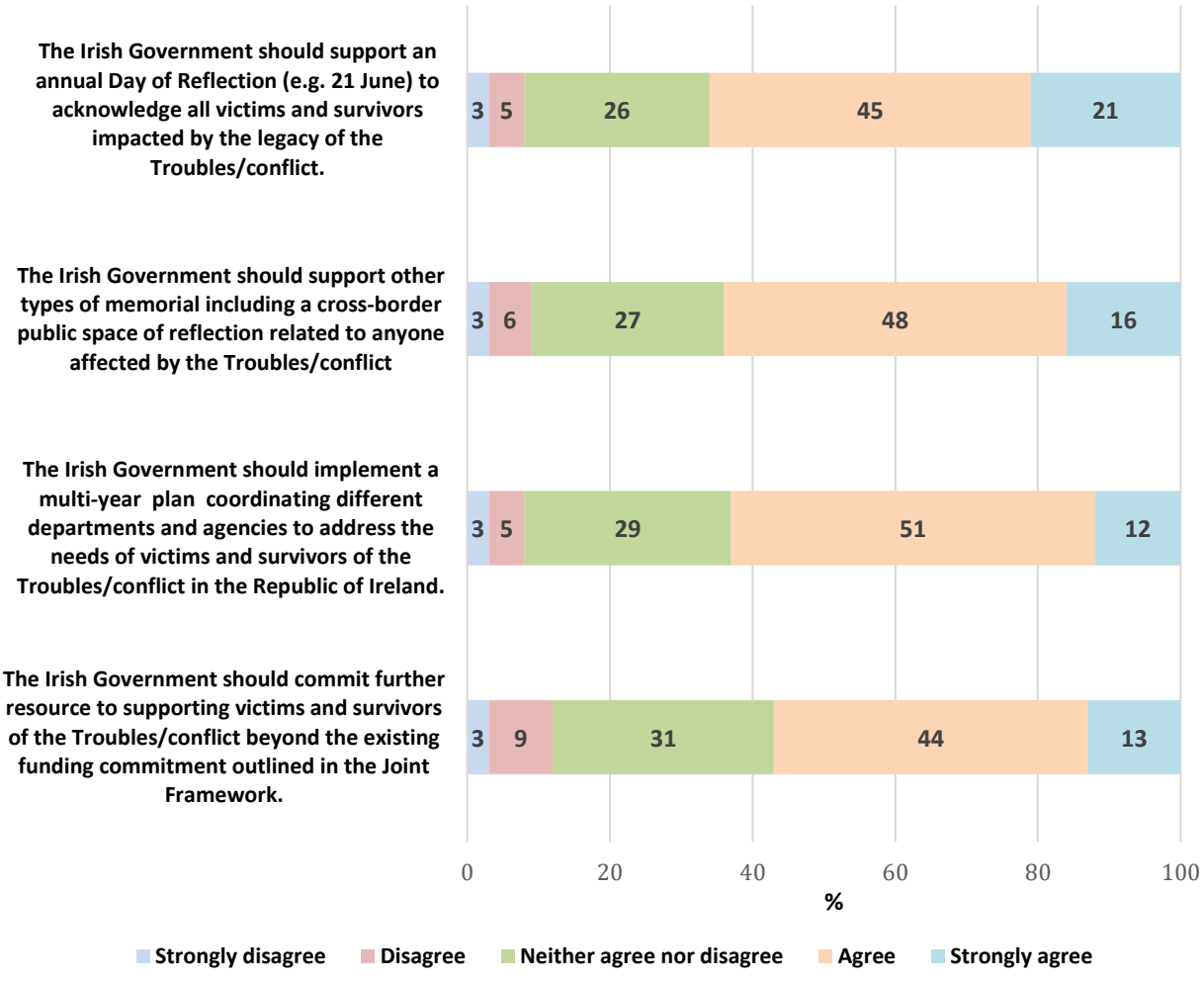
**Specific commitments of the Irish Government under this Framework include:**

- a dedicated unit within An Garda Siochana (AGS); and,
- a contribution of €25 million over 3 years to include the costs of participation and representation of victims and survivors and their next of kin in legacy processes.

**In addition, the Irish and UK governments will jointly fund a new cross jurisdiction body called the *'Independent Commission on Information Retrieval'* or *'ICIR'*, with the precise funding allocation during the pilot period to be determined.**

A majority of respondents agreed with each of the statements listed in Figure 11 (support for an annual Day of Reflection, 66%); support for other types of memorial (64%); support for implementing a multi-year plan to address needs, 63%; and committing further resource to supporting victims / survivors beyond existing funding commitments, 57%).

**Figure 11: Please say to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (n=2000)**



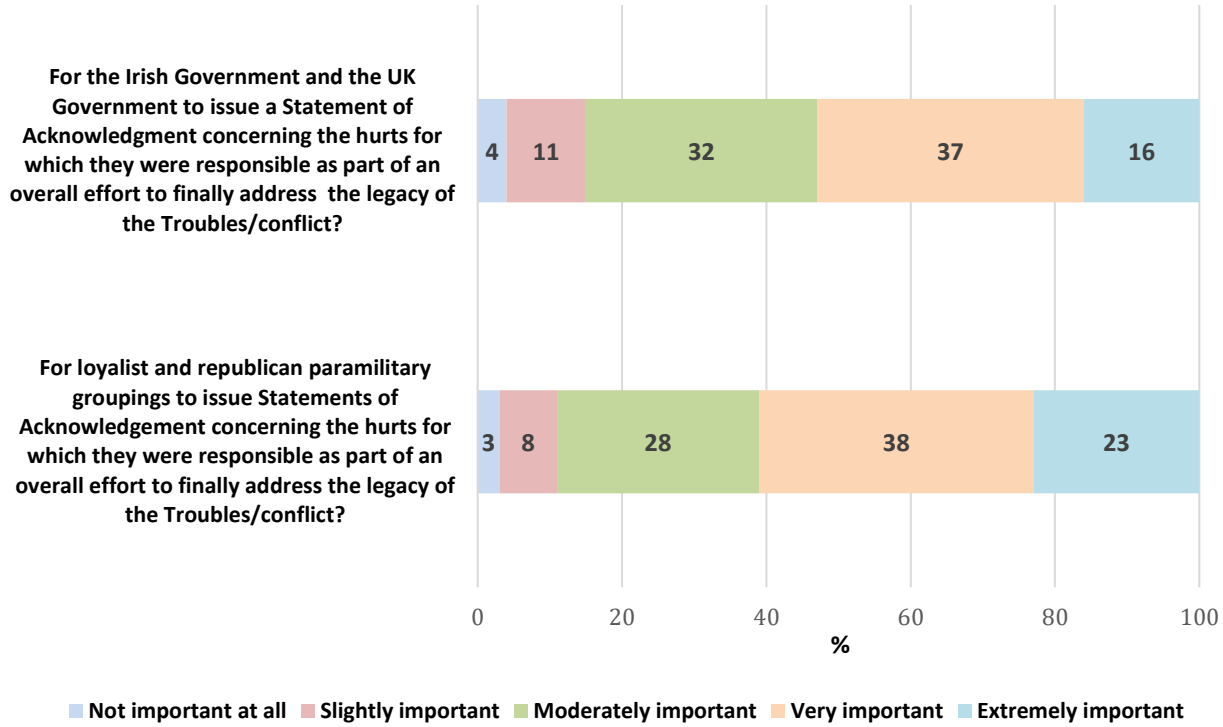
## 2.9 The importance of issuing 'Statements of Acknowledgement'

Respondents were asked about the importance of issuing 'Statements of Acknowledgment'.

Figure 12 shows that almost all (96%) respondents believe it is important for the Irish Government and the UK Government to issue a Statement of Acknowledgment concerning the hurts for which they were responsible as part of an overall effort to finally address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict (slightly important, 11%: moderately important, 32%: very important, 37%: extremely important, 16%), with just 4% saying that it is not at all important.

Figure 12 also shows that almost all (97%) respondents believe it is important for loyalist and republican paramilitary groupings to issue Statements of Acknowledgement concerning the hurts for which they were responsible as part of an overall effort to finally address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict (slightly important, 3%: moderately important, 8%: very important, 38%: extremely important, 23%), with just 3% saying that it is not at all important.

**Figure 12: How important or unimportant is it…? (n=2000)**



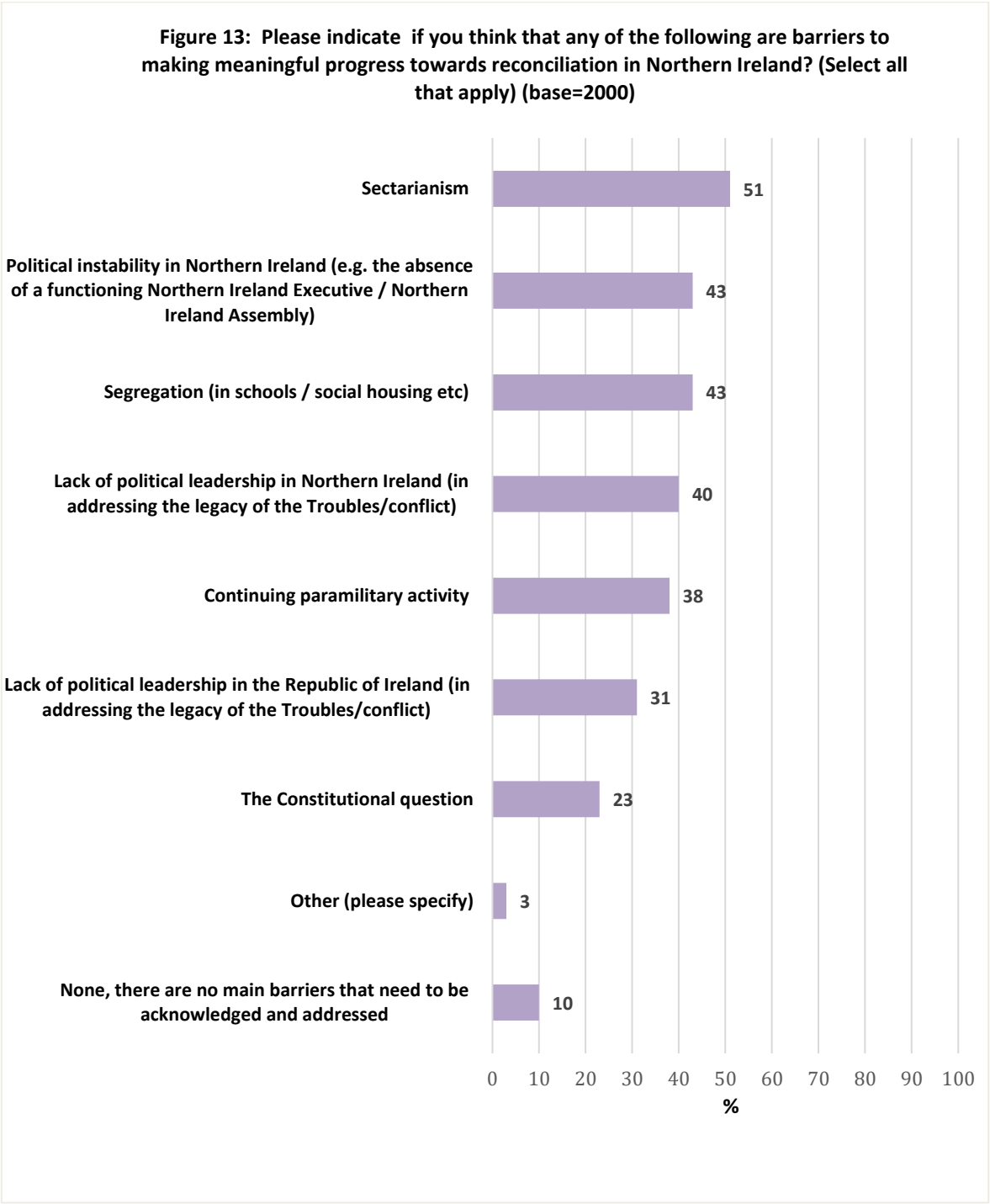
## 2.10 Barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in N Ireland

The survey also explored public perception of barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Figure 13 shows that sectarianism was seen as the most common barrier to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland (51%), with similar numbers citing political instability in Northern Ireland (43%), segregation (43%), lack of political leadership (40%) and continuing paramilitary activity (38%).

Barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland cited by relatively fewer respondents included: lack of political leadership in the Republic of Ireland (31%); and the Constitutional question (23%). One in ten (10%) are of the view that there are no barriers that need to be acknowledged or addressed.

**Figure 13: Please indicate if you think that any of the following are barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland? (Select all that apply) (base=2000)**



### Other barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland

Three percent (3%) of respondents cited other barriers which have been summarised below under specific themes.

**UK/British government role: accountability, apology, legacy/prosecutions (n=6).** Perceived lack of accountability or acknowledgement for historic actions; calls for apology, responsibility, and concerns about approaches to legacy cases (e.g., prosecutions vs truth/reconciliation) ('GB not taking responsibility for their actions in NI').

**Unionism/loyalism, Orange Order, parades/bonfires; political extremism/leadership (n=5).** Entrenched unionist/loyalist traditions and associated cultural displays are described as sustaining division; some respondents highlight extremism and weak leadership within unionist politics ('Stop the Orange marches and the bonfires').

**Legacy of the past: bitterness, unwillingness to move on, denial of the 'other' (n=3).** Ongoing trauma and entrenched attitudes—bitterness, refusal to acknowledge the other community's legitimacy, and difficulty "letting go" of past conflict—are seen as blocking reconciliation ('Legacy issues, and the people who still refuse to acknowledge the others right to exist').

**Education, understanding and intergenerational transmission; youth integration (n=3).** Insufficient education/understanding (including how history is taught) and the passing down of hatred across generations are cited; suggestions include better education and more cross-community/cross-border youth integration and cultural activities ('Education to halt passing down hatred to the next generation…').

**Constitutional uncertainty: border poll/unification/partition (n=5).** Some responses focus on constitutional questions (border poll criteria, holding a poll, opposition to change, or the continuing partition/UK involvement) as central obstacles that keep politics polarised ('A decision on what are the criteria for a border poll should be set out clearly…').

**Economics, cost and public services (incl. healthcare) (n=4).** Financial implications—costs, economic considerations, and practical cross-jurisdiction service issues (e.g., healthcare)—are framed as barriers to progress and agreement ('Economic considerations').

**Paramilitarism, violence and community control (incl. drugs) (n=3).** Continuing influence of paramilitaries and related criminality/community control is seen as undermining stability and trust, including references to drug dealing ('Paramilitary still has a hold on parts of Northern Ireland').

**Religion and churches (n=10).** Religious identity and the role of churches are described as sustaining division. ('The central role of religion and churches in maintaining division').

**Critiques of politics/parties (non-unionist specific) (n=3).** General dissatisfaction with political actors and incentives (including "not a vote winner") and criticism of parties on different sides (e.g., Sinn Féin) are noted as obstacles to constructive progress ('General calibre of politicians on both sides of the border').

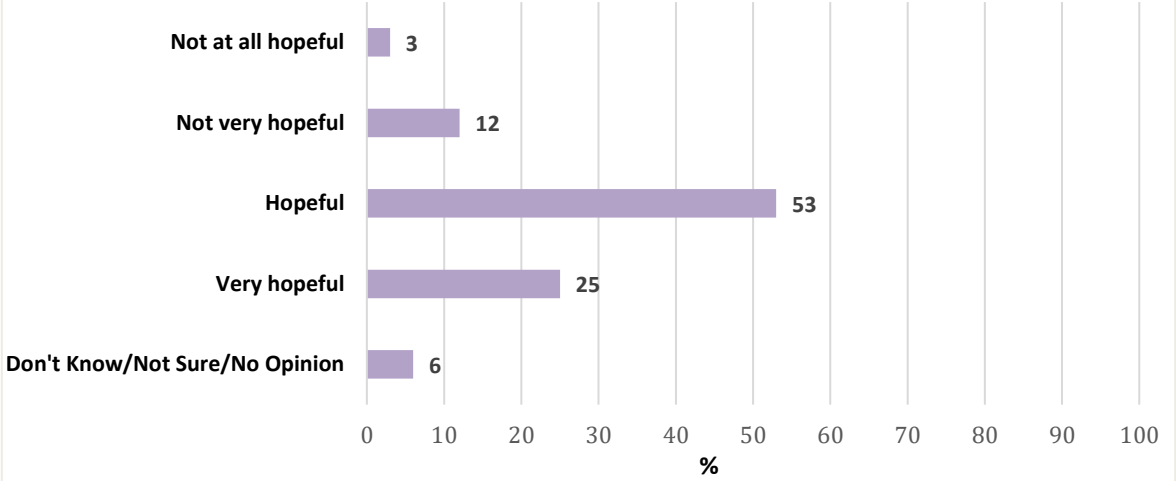
**Low information / no answer (n=10).** A substantial number of respondents indicate they do not know, are unsure, are not knowledgeable, or prefer not to answer ('I don't know enough about this topic to answer').

**Summary.** Across the 'other' responses, the most prominent barriers relate to (1) constitutional and identity questions (border poll/unification/partition) and (2) perceptions of the UK/British state's ongoing role and insufficient accountability for the past, alongside (3) the continuing influence of unionist/loyalist traditions and associated cultural/political dynamics (including parades/bonfires and criticism of unionist parties). A smaller but consistent set of respondents emphasise the legacy of trauma and entrenched attitudes, with education and intergenerational change framed as key to breaking cycles of hatred. Practical concerns (cost/economics and service alignment such as healthcare) and the continued influence of paramilitary/criminal activity also feature.

## 2.11 Expectations of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade

Respondents were asked how hopeful they are about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade, with 15% saying they are not at all hopeful (3%) or not very hopeful (12%) and 78% saying they are hopeful (53%) or very hopeful (25%). Six percent (6%) were undecided.

**Figure 14: How hopeful are you about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade? (base=2000)**




### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

- Those who say they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor are more likely to say they are not at all or not very hopeful about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade (victims/survivors, 19%: other, 15%)
- Males are more likely to say they are hopeful or very hopeful about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade (males, 82%: females, 75%)
- Younger respondents compared with those in other age groups are less likely to say they are hopeful or very hopeful about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade (18-34, 75%: 35-59, 79%: 60+, 81%)
- Those in a higher social grade are more likely to say they are hopeful or very hopeful about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade (ABC1, 81%: C2DE, 76%)
- Those with a disability are more likely to say they are not at all or not very hopeful about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade (disability, 18%: no disability, 14%)

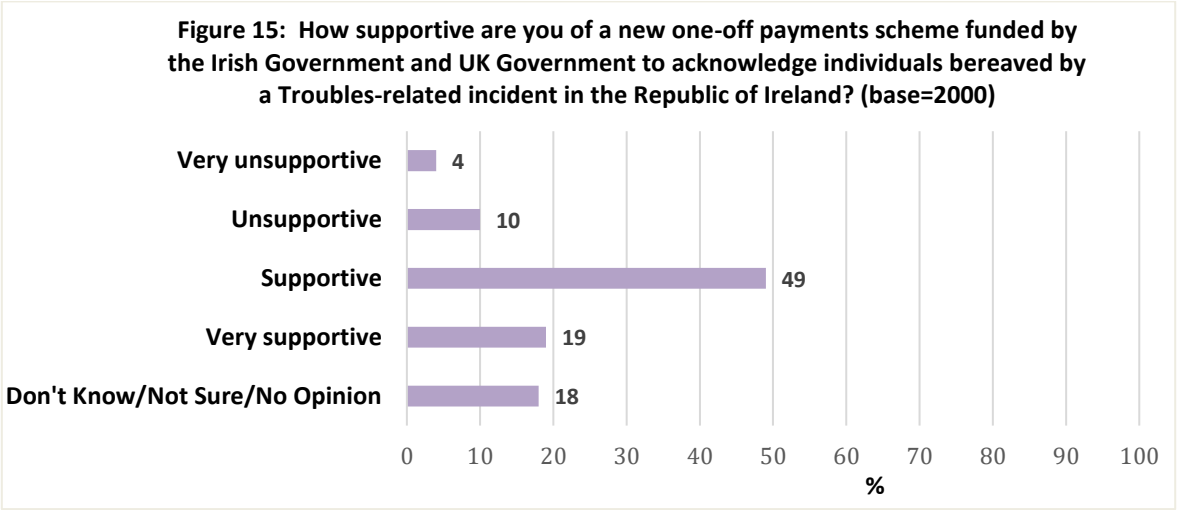
## 2.12 Support for a new one-off payment scheme for the bereaved

Respondents were provided with the following information and were then asked how supportive they are of a new one-off payment scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland.

> The ***'Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) Support for the Bereaved Scheme'*** in Northern Ireland provides an annual £500 payment to individuals bereaved of a parent, spouse/partner and/or a child due to a Troubles-related incident. An additional payment of £500 is available to individuals bereaved of a spouse/partner and both parents. A number of bereaved individuals living in the Republic of Ireland currently avail of this Scheme.
>
> A 2023 report by the Commission for Victims and Survivors recommended that government should establish a new bereavement payment scheme providing a meaningful one-off acknowledgement payment to all bereaved in recognition of their loss. The report highlighted that many bereaved individuals have received inadequate or inconsistent financial support since experiencing their loss, most cannot currently receive an award under a scheme for permanently disabled victims and survivors with many bereaved and their families still left feeling forgotten and unacknowledged.

More than two out of three (68%) respondents say they are supportive (49%) or very supportive (19%) of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland. Fourteen percent (14%) are very unsupportive (4%) or unsupportive (10%), and almost one in five (18%) are undecided.

**Figure 15: How supportive are you of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland? (base=2000)**




### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

- Those who say they meet the legal definition of a victim and / or survivor, or have been affected in some way by the Troubles/conflict, are more likely to say they are supportive of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government (victims/survivors, 77%: others, 66%), whereas others in the survey were more likely to be undecided (victims/survivors, 5%: others, 20%)
- Males are more likely to say they are unsupportive of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government (males, 17%: females, 12%)
- Younger respondents are more likely to say they are supportive of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government (18-34, 73%: 35-59, 66%: 60+, 65%), whereas those age 35+ are more likely to be undecided (18-34, 13%: 35-59, 19%: 60+, 21%)
- Those in a higher social grade are more likely to say they are unsupportive of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government (ABC1, 16%: C2DE, 12%)
- Those living more than 5 miles from the border are more likely to say they are undecided about a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government (within 5 miles of the border, 8%: 5 miles or more from the border, 19%)

### 2.12.1 Reasons for being unsupportive of a new one-off payment scheme for the bereaved

The reasons why some respondents said they are unsupportive of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland are listed below under specific themes.

Among those who were unsupportive, opposition was often less about rejecting victims and survivors, and more about questioning whether a one-off payment is the right response. Key concerns related to the perceived inadequacy of a single payment, the view that trauma and bereavement cannot be meaningfully compensated through money, preference for longer-term psychological and practical support, concerns about fairness and eligibility, and resistance to the Irish taxpayer funding legacy issues viewed by some as the responsibility of the UK Government.

**Money cannot compensate for bereavement or trauma (n=40).** Comments included: "Money cannot compensate for loss."; "Money doesn't ease grief"; "I feel that no monies can possibly make up for the loss of a loved one so no point in putting a monetary value on their lives"; and "Money can't change what happened".

**Concern about taxpayer cost and competing public priorities (n=35).** Comments included: "There are more pressing issues"; "Money needs to be directed to more important areas at the moment."; "Money should be used to tackle our Irish homeless emergencies"; and "Cost of living crisis. I'm not sure this can be funded… without cutbacks being made in other areas…".

**Preference for counselling, mental health and practical support instead of cash (n=30).** Comments included: "One off payments rarely solve anything long term, making therapy free/ subsidised for those affected would have a greater effect"; "Financial support is not as important as psychological support services"; "I don't agree with cash being handed out… I'm in favour of supporting individuals with medical (mental and physical) supports…"; and "Money should go to support networks and services, to better offer professional support and give more long term help…".

**One-off payments are seen as inadequate, tokenistic or insulting (n=30).** Comments included: "It's not enough"; "It feels like a token gesture"; "£500 for a person's life seems misaligned"; and "One off payment… It's like spitting in someone's face when they are thirsty for a drink".

**The Irish Government / Irish taxpayer should not be responsible (n=30).** Comments included: "The Irish Government are not responsible for this"; "I don't believe that the Irish taxpayer should be funding this"; "Funds like this should be the responsibility of the UK Government as Northern Ireland is part of their responsibility"; and "The 'troubles' in Northern Ireland had nothing to do with the Irish Government therefore the Irish taxpayer should not be paying anything.".

**Time to move on / the Troubles are seen as too long ago (n=25).** Comments included: "It is time to move on and put these issues behind us."; "We cannot keep paying out for the past, look to the future"; "The troubles happened long ago. I don't see why there should be a payment now it's a waste of tax money"; and "What's in place is enough given the time passed".

**Eligibility, fairness and risk of abuse (n=25).** Comments included: "Would former and existing terrorists receive this payment?"; "Everyone has diff situations and cannot be measured the same, some deserve more and some possibly not at all!"; "Too open to fraud."; and "Many paramilitary members killed from both sides who should be differentiated from innocent victims.".

**Preference for ongoing or annual support rather than a one-off payment (n=20).** Comments included: "the current payments are ongoing and not one-off payments, receiving a payment annually is of greater benefit on an ongoing basis"; "I think that an annual 'index linked' payment would be more beneficial."; "The payments should be yearly or monthly as the people will have to deal with that event for the rest of their lives"; and "People didn't lose family members once; they deal with loss every minute of the day".

**Concerns about symbolism, "pay off" or political gesture (n=15).** Comments included: "Payments above could be considered a form of bribery or a pay off."; "The payment is just for the aesthetics it's not of any financial use. Politicians trying to show that they are doing something"; "Don't think a good idea to buy off"; and "A one off is saying 'I did something' but really, it is a means to an end.".

## 2.13 Final comments

At the end of the survey all respondents were given an opportunity to provide additional views or comments about the survey, and/or policies regarding victims, survivors, etc., with their responses summarised below under specific themes.

Responses provide a broad and unprompted insight into participants' views on the needs of victims and survivors, as well as wider policy considerations relating to the legacy of the Troubles. While a large number of respondents offered no additional comment, those who did highlighted a consistent set of themes reflecting both strong empathy for victims and survivors and a range of perspectives on how support should be delivered. Overall, responses point to a clear desire for recognition and meaningful support, alongside important concerns regarding fairness, responsibility, cost and the long-term approach to addressing the legacy of the conflict. The themes below summarise the key issues raised.

**Recognition, acknowledgement and being listened to (n=40).** Many respondents felt that victims and survivors need public recognition, acknowledgement and respect, not only practical assistance.

- "Victims should always be recognised and offered a genuine support structure to aid them."
- "survivors' and victims' families need all the support and acknowledgement they can get."
- "I believe it's very important psychologically for the people involved to have their problem acknowledged."
- "It was a terrible time in our history. people are still living with the physical and psychological scars. "They deserve recognition and acknowledgement."

**Reconciliation, integration and moving forward (n=40).** Many respondents supported remembrance and support, but also emphasised reconciliation, integrated education, cross-community contact and moving beyond division.

- "It's very idealistic but it would be great to see a proper meaningful reconciliation process take place."
- "We need to remember but also to move on."
- "It was a terrible time in our country but until the two sides interact change cannot happen. Segregation is not helping"
- "Fully integrated education is essential to moving forward"

**Concern about cost, duplication and taxpayer responsibility (n=35).** A contrasting theme was concern that the Republic of Ireland taxpayer should not be expected to fund supports, especially where respondents saw responsibility as lying with the UK Government.

- "The Troubles are part of our history and must be acknowledged. However, why is it being suggested that everyone now must pay?"
- "Please do not set up yet another state sponsored NGO. The taxpayers are exhausted already."
- "I don't think Northern Ireland problems should be costing the Rep of Ireland citizens…"
- "While I'm extremely sympathetic towards victims/ survivors. I fail to understand why I as a taxpayer should have to fund this fund."

**Support should be practical, sustained and not only financial (n=35).** A recurring view was that money alone is not enough; respondents emphasised counselling, mental health support, medical support, social support and help with day-to-day life.

- "Whatever much compensation given to the victim/survivors would not change what happened… however, availing some sort of mental health services could help in the long term."
- "They should not only be given money as money is useless without actual support services such as counselling, help with organising day to day life stuff and other types of day to day supports…"
- "I believe policies regarding victims and survivors… should be designed with long-term impact in mind, not only short-term financial recognition."
- "instead of financial provisions for those affected there should be more provision made for appropriate mental well-being supports"

**Financial support — support for payments, but concern about adequacy and fairness (n=30).** Some respondents supported financial assistance, particularly for bereaved families or those seriously harmed. Others felt payments were too low or should be ongoing.

- "Bereaved families should be looked after as a priority."
- "£500 is far too low of an amount for someone bereaving a loved one"
- "An annual payment of 500 in not enough"
- "Would be a constant payment and not just a once off"

**Responsibility, accountability, truth and justice (n=30).** Many comments focused on accountability, truth recovery, investigations, collusion, paramilitary responsibility and the need for information to be released.

- "Paramilitary groups need to be held accountable"
- "Too much has been brushed under the carpet. Both governments know lots more"
- "All data from all sources should be released"
- "The paramilitary groups involved should let the families of the missing people know where their family members are. They deserve to know and should have a decent burial."

**The legacy is still live and unresolved (n=30).** Some respondents resisted the idea that the Troubles are simply "over", highlighting continuing trauma, sectarianism, family impact and unresolved issues.

- "I am concerned that it is premature to consider the Troubles in the past - there are still a lot of unresolved issues."
- "Sectarianism is still very prevalent in Northern Ireland."
- "I was a child when the GFA was signed but the legacy of the troubles have had a lasting impact on my family."
- "There are lots of people living who I know along with myself who finds it hard to talk about the troubles."

**Inclusion and equal treatment of all victims (n=25).** Several respondents stressed that any policy or support scheme must be inclusive, fair and not limited to one community, tradition or category of victim.

- "They should be inclusive of all and not just some victims."
- "All victims should be treated equally"
- "Both sides should be equally represented"
- "There is a need for the Irish government to be ready to acknowledge the victims on both sides of the conflict… and that loyalists are not treated less favourably than nationalists."

**Education, remembrance and awareness among younger people (n=25).** A strong theme was the need to educate younger generations about the Troubles, including in schools, while also preserving memory and preventing repetition.

- "Shouldn't they learn about our past history just the same as we did."
- "Need to be talked about more and brought into schools it's going to be forgotten about"
- "good subject to address. The youth are unaware."
- "Educate future generations about the difficulties families faced during this time"

**Views on the survey itself (n=20).** A final theme related to the survey instrument. Some welcomed it as useful and informative; others found it difficult, wordy or beyond their knowledge.

- "Very good survey."
- "A good survey, opening my eyes to these issues"
- "I've never heard of any of the schemes mentioned so it was really interesting"
- "It was slightly wordy; a survey should be quick fire questions"

## Appendix 1 (Questionnaire)

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

# Survey (FINAL)

**2 April 2026**

3 Wellington Park
Belfast
BT9 6DJ

T: 02890 923362
F: 02890 923334

info@socialmarketresearch.co.uk
www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk

**The following questions relate to issues related to victims and /or survivors of the Troubles/conflict in Northern Ireland in or after 1966.**

**Q1. 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:**

(d) 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.

**As someone living in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. the 26 counties and not Northern Ireland), do you meet the above legal definition of a victim and/or survivor of the Troubles/conflict? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 3 |

**Q2. Whether or not you meet the legal definition of a victim (as referenced in Question 1), as someone who lives in the Republic of Ireland do you feel you have ever been affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident? (Select all that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| I have been bereaved *(e.g. lost an immediate/close relative e.g. spouse/partner, parent, child, sibling)* | 1 |
| I have provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident. | 2 |
| I have been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident | 3 |
| I provide care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict | 4 |
| My physical health was affected | 5 |
| My mental health was affected | 6 |
| I have been displaced from my home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily | 7 |
| I have a distant relative, neighbour, colleague, or friend affected by a Troubles/conflict related incident | 8 |
| I was affected as a member of the Irish Defence Forces | 9 |
| I was affected as a member of An Garda Síochána | 10 |
| I was affected as a serving member of the UK Armed Forces *(Army/Royal Marines, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force)* | 11 |
| I was affected as someone who was imprisoned as a consequence of the Troubles/conflict. | 12 |
| I was affected as a member of a non-state armed group / paramilitary organisation during the Troubles | 13 |
| None of the above | 14 |
| Other (please specify) | 15 |

**ASK IF Q1 EQ 1 OR Q2 NE 14**

**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? (Select all that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Funded community-based service provider for victims and survivors (e.g. Pat Finucane Centre, South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF)) | 1 |
| Statutory sector provider e.g. health service | 2 |
| Victims and Survivors Service (N Ireland) | 3 |
| The UK armed forces as an ex-service person from Northern Ireland deployment | 4 |
| A charity for the Northern Ireland Prison Service (e.g. NI Prison Service Trust) | 5 |
| A charity for the Irish Prison Service (e.g. Prison Officers Association) | 6 |
| A charity for RUC/PSNI (e.g. RUCGC, Benevolent fund, RUCGC Foundation) | 7 |
| A charity for An Garda Síochána (e.g. Garda Síochána Retired Members Association) | 8 |
| A charity for the Irish Defence Forces (e.g. Organisation of National Ex-Service personnel, Irish Defence Forces Veterans Association) | 9 |
| An Independent / Private Sector service | 10 |
| Ex-prisoner group or charities supporting ex-prisoners | 11 |
| No, I don't currently access any support or services, but would like to | 12 |
| No, I don't need to access any support or services | 13 |
| Other (please specify) | 14 |

**ASK IF Q3 NE 12 OR 13**

**Q3a. Please list the name of the organisation (s) you currently receive services or support from.**

**ASK IF Q3 EQ 12**

**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.)*?**

**ASK IF Q2 EQ 5 OR 6**

**Q5. You indicated that you were physically and/or mentally affected during the Troubles/conflict. Please say which of the following applies to you? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| My physical health continues to be affected | 1 |
| My mental health continues to be affected | 2 |
| Both my physical and mental health continue to be affected | 3 |
| My physical health was affected - but not currently | 4 |
| My mental health was affected - but not currently | 5 |
| Both my physical and mental health were affected - but not currently | 6 |
| Don't know | 7 |

**ASK IF Q5 = 1, 2 OR 3**

**Q6. You mentioned your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict. Please say if any of the following may explain why your health continues to be affected by the Troubles/conflict.**

| | |
|---|---|
| I have been bereaved *(e.g. lost an close relative e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling)* | 1 |
| I have a close relative *(e.g. parent, grandparent, spouse/partner, child, sibling)* or friend that was injured | 2 |
| I have provided medical or other emergency assistance to an individual in connection with a conflict-related incident | 3 |
| I have been present at, witnessed, a conflict-related incident or the consequences of such an incident | 4 |
| I provide care to someone who was injured as a result of the Troubles/conflict | 5 |
| I have been displaced from my home in Northern Ireland through force or voluntarily | 6 |
| I am engaged in inquests related to the Troubles/conflict | 7 |
| I am engaged in investigations related to the Troubles/conflict | 8 |
| I am engaged in court cases related to the Troubles/conflict | 9 |
| I am engaged in information recovery related to the Troubles/conflict | 10 |
| Other (open please specify) | 11 |
| Don't know | 12 |

**PLEASE NOTE THAT A LIST OF SUPPORT SERVICES IS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Q7. Do you think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the same services and support as those living in Northern Ireland? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 3 |

**ASK IF Q7=1**

**Q8. Do you think victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict living in the Republic of Ireland should be able to access the following services and support? (Select all that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dedicated victims and survivors' organisations in the Republic of Ireland | 1 |
| Enhanced awareness of victims' issues within established support services in the Republic of Ireland | 2 |
| Mainstreaming services and support into statutory sector services e.g. health service | 3 |
| Support from the Victims and Survivors Service and existing funded services in N Ireland reaching into the Republic of Ireland | 4 |
| Should be able to access other services and support (please specify) | 5 |

**Q9. What tailored services and support do you think should be accessible to victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict resident in the Republic of Ireland? Please tick all that apply.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Health or wellbeing support including access to the Medical Card | 1 |
| Advocacy (legal) support to engagement with Troubles-related investigations and information recovery | 2 |
| Independent advocacy role keeping a public profile for victims and survivors issues in the Republic of Ireland | 3 |
| Financial support | 4 |
| Social Support | |
| Psychological Therapy including Family Therapy | 5 |
| Other (please specify) | 6 |
| No tailored services and support should be delivered to victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict resident in the Republic of Ireland | 7 |

**Q10. Should the history of the Troubles/conflict be taught within the formal education sector in the Republic of Ireland? (Select all that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| YES - compulsory in all schools, and for all ages (5-18 years) | 1 |
| YES - optional in all schools, and for all ages (5-18 years) | 2 |
| YES - at primary school level only (compulsory) | 3 |
| YES - at primary school level only (optional) | 4 |
| YES - at secondary school level only (compulsory) | 5 |
| YES - at secondary school level only (optional) | 6 |
| NO - it should not be taught in schools | 7 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 8 |

**Q11. How well do you believe the Irish State has addressed the legacy of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland to date? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Not at all well | 1 |
| Not very well | 2 |
| Well | 3 |
| Very well | 4 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 5 |

**Q12. FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS**

**To address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict the Irish and UK governments published a Joint Framework document in September 2025.**

**Specific commitments of the Irish Government under this Framework include:**

- a dedicated unit within An Garda Siochana (AGS); and,
- a contribution of €25 million over 3 years to include the costs of participation and representation of victims and survivors and their next of kin in legacy processes.

**In addition, the Irish and UK governments will jointly fund a new cross jurisdiction body called the *'Independent Commission on Information Retrieval'* or *'ICIR'*, with the precise funding allocation during the pilot period to be determined.**

**Please say to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Strongly disagree | 1 |
| Disagree | 2 |
| Neither disagree nor agree | 3 |
| Agree | 4 |
| Strongly agree | 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | The Irish Government should implement a multi-year plan coordinating different departments and agencies to address the needs of victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict in the Republic of Ireland. |
| 2 | The Irish Government should commit further resource to supporting victims and survivors of the Troubles/conflict beyond the existing funding commitment outlined in the Joint Framework. |
| 3 | The Irish Government should support an annual Day of Reflection (e.g. 21 June) to acknowledge all victims and survivors impacted by the legacy of the Troubles/conflict. |
| 4 | The Irish Government should support other types of memorial including a cross-border public space of reflection related to anyone affected by the Troubles/conflict |

**Q13. How important or unimportant is it…?**

| | |
|---|---|
| Not important at all | 1 |
| Slightly important | 2 |
| Moderately important | 3 |
| Very important | 4 |
| Extremely important | 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | For the Irish Government and the UK Government to issue a Statement of Acknowledgment concerning the hurts for which they were responsible as part of an overall effort to finally address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict? |
| 2 | For loyalist and republican paramilitary groupings to issue Statements of Acknowledgement concerning the hurts for which they were responsible as part of an overall effort to finally address the legacy of the Troubles/conflict? |

**We now want to ask you about making progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland.**

**Q14. Please indicate if you think that any of the following are barriers to making meaningful progress towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland? (Select all that apply)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sectarianism | 1 |
| Segregation *(in schools / social housing etc)* | 2 |
| Continuing paramilitary activity | 3 |
| Lack of political leadership in Northern Ireland *(in addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict)* | 4 |
| Lack of political leadership in the Republic of Ireland *(in addressing the legacy of the Troubles/conflict)* | 5 |
| Political instability in Northern Ireland *(e.g. the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive / Northern Ireland Assembly)* | 6 |
| The Constitutional question | 7 |
| Other (please specify) | 8 |
| None, there are no main barriers that need to be acknowledged and addressed ***[EXCLUSIVE FROM OTHER OPTONS]*** | 9 |

**Q15. How hopeful are you about the future of maintaining a peaceful, stable society in Northern Ireland in the next decade? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Not at all hopeful | 1 |
| Not very hopeful | 2 |
| Hopeful | 3 |
| Very hopeful | 4 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 5 |

**Q16. FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS**

The *'Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) Support for the Bereaved Scheme'* in Northern Ireland provides an annual £500 payment to individuals bereaved of a parent, spouse/partner and/or a child due to a Troubles-related incident. An additional payment of £500 is available to individuals bereaved of a spouse/partner and both parents. A number of bereaved individuals living in the Republic of Ireland currently avail of this Scheme.

A 2023 report by the Commission for Victims and Survivors recommended that government should establish a new bereavement payment scheme providing a meaningful one-off acknowledgement payment to all bereaved in recognition of their loss. The report highlighted that many bereaved individuals have received inadequate or inconsistent financial support since experiencing their loss, most cannot currently receive an award under a scheme for permanently disabled victims and survivors with many bereaved and their families still left feeling forgotten and unacknowledged.

**How supportive are you of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Very unsupportive | 1 |
| Unsupportive | 2 |
| Supportive | 3 |
| Very supportive | 4 |
| Don't Know/Not Sure/No Opinion | 5 |

**ASK IF Q16=1 OR 2**

**Q17. Why are you *unsupportive* of a new one-off payments scheme funded by the Irish Government and UK Government to acknowledge individuals bereaved by a Troubles-related incident in the Republic of Ireland?**

**Q18. Have you any additional views or comments about this poll/survey, and/or policies regarding victims, survivors, etc.? [If no comments - please leave blank]**

## Section B: About You

**B1. Are you...? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Male | 1 |
| Female | 2 |
| Other (please specify) | 3 |

**B2. What age are you? INTERVIEWER RECORD AGE:**

| |
|---|
| |

**B3. Which of the following defines your employment position? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Higher managerial, administrative or professional | 1 |
| Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional | 2 |
| Supervisory or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional | 3 |
| Skilled manual worker | 4 |
| Semi-skilled and unskilled manual worker | 5 |
| State pensioner, casual worker, or unemployed with state benefits only | 6 |

**B4. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems which are due to ageing. (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes, limited a lot | 1 |
| Yes, limited a little | 2 |
| No | 3 |
| Prefer not to say | 9 |

**B5. Which of the following best describes your level of education? [IF STILL STUDYING: Which level best describes your level of education you obtained until now? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Primary | 1 |
| Secondary | 2 |
| Junior cert (inter cert) | 3 |
| Leaving cert | 4 |
| Degree (B.Sc., B.A., etc.) | 5 |
| Post- Graduate Education (M.A., Ph.D., etc.) | 6 |

**B6. Which county do you live in? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Carlow | 1 |
| Cavan | 2 |
| Clare | 3 |
| Cork | 4 |
| Donegal | 5 |
| Dublin | 6 |
| Galway | 7 |
| Kerry | 8 |
| Kildare | 9 |
| Kilkenny | 10 |
| Laois | 11 |
| Leitrim | 12 |
| Limerick | 13 |
| Longford | 14 |
| Louth | 15 |
| Mayo | 16 |
| Meath | 17 |
| Monaghan | 18 |
| Offaly | 19 |
| Roscommon | 20 |
| Sligo | 21 |
| Tipperary | 22 |
| Waterford | 23 |
| Westmeath | 24 |
| Wexford | 25 |
| Wicklow | 26 |

**B7. What type of area do you live in? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| City | 1 |
| A town | 2 |
| A village | 3 |
| Rural or countryside | 4 |

**B8. Finally, do you live within 5 miles of the Ireland and N Ireland border? (Select one only)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

**Should you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this survey you can access help and support from the Victims and Survivors Service in Northern Ireland (0044 2890 279100) and Samaritans Ireland: 116 123.**

**THANKS AND CLOSE**

## Appendix 2 (Quote bank)

Note: the quote bank draws themes from across the responses to open ended questions and is placed under overall themes.

### Theme 1: Recognition, acknowledgement and validation

Core idea: Victims and survivors want to be recognised, heard and acknowledged — psychologically and publicly.

"Victims should always be recognised and offered a genuine support structure to aid them."

"survivors' and victims' families need all the support and acknowledgement they can get."

"I believe it's very important psychologically for the people involved to have their problem acknowledged."

"It was a terrible time in our history… they deserve recognition and acknowledgement."

"Because I feel if I receive some sort of support I think I'll feel a bit of closure… that I'm not alone."

"We are not told half what they suffered they deserve recognition"

"I think everyone who was affected deserves to be acknowledged"

"My view on this is that about time it's been recognised that the families are victims too"

"I believe it's very important psychologically for the people involved to have their problem acknowledged."

### Theme 2: Need for practical, sustained and service-based support

Core idea: Strong preference for ongoing, real-world support, especially mental health, over symbolic responses.

"Whatever much compensation… would not change what happened… however, availing some sort of mental health services could help in the long term."

"They should not only be given money… but counselling, help with organising day to day life…"

"Financial support is not as important as psychological support services."

"Money should go to support networks and services… to offer professional support and give more long term help."

"Any form of counselling"

"I would like to talk to someone about the effect this has had on my family"

"They should not only be given money as money is useless without actual support services…"

"Instead of financial provisions… more provision made for appropriate mental well-being supports"

"Better community mental health services are needed"

"People need support."

### Theme 3: Awareness, information and access barriers

Core idea: Many are not accessing support because they don't know it exists or how to access it.

"No never knew about them"

"I was not aware of services available"

"Haven't received any information about services and don't know who to contact."

"I do not know what I'm entitled to"

"Didn't really know what I was entitled to"

"Don't know how really"

"I didn't get any information where to find support"

"I haven't received the information about this before today"

"Heard nothing"

"No information"

"I have not received any information about it but I would like to have a support from this system"

### Theme 4: Emotional and personal barriers to seeking help

Core idea: Even where services exist, psychological barriers prevent engagement.

"Too scared to reach out"

"It's hard to say I would need the help… could be belittling to seek out help"

"It's hard to say I would need the help… could be belittling to seek out help"

"Just ignoring my issues"

"As I didn't feel the need, I carried on in life and forgot"

### Theme 5: Gaps for indirect, family and generational victims

Core idea: Existing frameworks may not fully capture family, indirect or generational impacts.

"I am an indirect victim generational trauma is not covered"

"Because I do not have access… as someone who lost a distant relative…"

"A family member was affected alongside my mental health…"

"As it didn't directly affect me, only some relatives."

"Remember that there are many survivors who were indirectly made victims…"

"I was a child when the GFA was signed but the legacy… has had a lasting impact on my family"

"Some victims and survivors may have moved to the Republic to get away from the trauma…"

### Theme 6: Limits of financial compensation

Core idea: Strong view that money cannot address trauma or loss.

"Money cannot compensate for loss."

"Money doesn't ease grief"

"No monies can possibly make up for the loss of a loved one"

"Money can't change what happened"

"I don't think a monetary amount addresses the issue""

"Money will not bring back the victims that have died"

"Money is not what is needed"

"Why is money the answer for people?"

"Money cannot heal the suffering"

### Theme 7: One-off payments seen as inadequate or tokenistic

Core idea: One-off payments are often seen as symbolic, insufficient or even inappropriate.

"£500 a year is an insult!"

"Paltry amount"

"It seems like a half-hearted gesture"

"One off payment… is like spitting in someone's face"

"It's not enough"

"It feels like a token gesture"

"£500 for a person's life seems misaligned"

"It's like spitting in someone's face when they are thirsty for a drink"

"A one off is saying 'I did something' but really, it is a means to an end."

### Theme 8: Preference for ongoing or structured support

Core idea: If financial support is used, it should be ongoing and meaningful.

"Receiving a payment annually is of greater benefit"

"Would be a constant payment and not just a once off"

"An annual payment… is more beneficial"

"Smaller amounts over time would be better"

"An annual 'index linked' payment would be more beneficial"

"The payments should be yearly or monthly"

"People didn't lose family members once; they deal with loss every minute of the day"

### Theme 9: Cost, taxpayer burden and competing priorities

Core idea: Strong sensitivity around public spending and affordability.

"There are more pressing issues"

"Money needs to be directed to more important areas"

"Cost of living crisis… I'm not sure this can be funded"

"The taxpayers are exhausted already."

"Why is it being suggested that everyone now must pay?"

"We waste enough money"

"Country only has a finite amount of money"

"We have enough people here that need the money"

"There are too many other calls on government funds at this time"

### Theme 10: Responsibility (UK vs Irish Government)

Core idea: Debate over who should pay and who is responsible.

"The Irish Government are not responsible for this"

"I don't believe that the Irish taxpayer should be funding this"

"Funds… should be the responsibility of the UK Government"

"The Troubles… had nothing to do with the Irish Government"

"The British Government should address their behaviour during the Troubles"

"The UK government should be fully funding"

"It should be UK government that pay"

"Why should the Republic have to cover the costs…?"

### Theme 11: Fairness, eligibility and risk of misuse

Core idea: Concerns about who qualifies and whether schemes are fair.

"Would former and existing terrorists receive this payment?"

"Some deserve more and some possibly not at all!"

"Too open to fraud."

"Should be differentiated from innocent victims"

"How do you pick one over the other."

"Impossible to administer"

"Too much open to abuse"

"It's a gravy train which would be seriously abused"

### Theme 12: Justice, truth and accountability

Core idea: Strong demand for truth recovery, accountability and justice mechanisms.

"Paramilitary groups need to be held accountable"

"Too much has been brushed under the carpet"

"All data from all sources should be released"

"Families… deserve to know and should have a decent burial."

"All data from all sources should be released"

"The British Government should reveal where the people… are buried"

"There is no chance of justice… but it is possible that some truths would come out"

### Theme 13: Inclusion and equality of treatment

Core idea: Support must be inclusive and balanced across communities.

"They should be inclusive of all and not just some victims."

"All victims should be treated equally"

"Both sides should be equally represented"

"Loyalists should not be treated less favourably than nationalists."

"Everyone should be valued as an individual and equal treatment should be provided"

"Both sides should be equally represented"

"All victims should be treated equally"

### Theme 14: Education, awareness and intergenerational learning

Core idea: Strong support for education and awareness to prevent recurrence.

"Shouldn't they learn about our past history just the same as we did."

"Need to be talked about more… it's going to be forgotten about"

"The youth are unaware."

"Educate future generations about the difficulties families faced"

"Young people are unaware"

"It should be taught in both primary and secondary schools"

"More awareness should be spread about it"

"Need to be talked about more"

### Theme 15: Reconciliation, integration and moving forward

Core idea: Desire for healing, integration and future-focused solutions

"It would be great to see a proper meaningful reconciliation process"

"We need to remember but also to move on."

"Segregation is not helping"

"Fully integrated education is essential"

"If you want peace to last all parties have to be supportive"

"Differences should not have to mean divisions"

"It is time to move forward… and build a better NI and Ireland"

### Theme 16: Tension between remembering and moving on

Core idea: A clear divide between those wanting continued focus vs closure

"It is time to move on and put these issues behind us."

"We cannot keep paying out for the past"

"The troubles happened long ago"

"I am concerned that it is premature to consider the Troubles in the past"

"What happened, happened. Move on look to the future"

"Time to move on from these times"

"We need to remember but also to move on"

### Theme 17: Legacy still live and unresolved

Core idea: For many, the conflict is not "over" in lived experience

"There are still a lot of unresolved issues."

"Sectarianism is still very prevalent"

"There are lots of people living… who find it hard to talk about the troubles"

"Sectarianism is still very prevalent"

"I feel I still suffer trauma from what I witnessed"

"The legacy… has had a lasting impact on my family."

"There are lots of people… who find it hard to talk about the troubles."