

Victims of Violence

The participants believe that it is essential that sufficient resources be devoted to necessary treatment and support programmes for victims of violence and that this will be an important element of building a true process of reconciliation. Against that background, it has been agreed that an independent public body, funded by both the British and Irish Governments, will be established to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate services and support programmes for victims of violence. While the remit of the body will primarily relate to Northern Ireland, it will also have a role in regard to victims of violence in the South and in Britain. Building on the work of the current Victims Commission, the body will also have responsibility for examining and recommending ways of commemorating those killed in the conflict and other means of ensuring that the lessons of conflict are not forgotten.

Reconciliation

The participants recognise and value the work being done by many organisations to develop reconciliation and mutual understanding and respect between communities and traditions, in Northern Ireland and between North and South, and they see such work as having a vital role in consolidating peace and political agreement. Accordingly they pledge their continuing support to such organisations, and shall positively examine the case for enhanced financial assistance for the work of reconciliation.