

Welcome to the First Edition of the Trauma Recovery Network Newsletter..

Welcome to the very first edition of: *Trauma Recovery News* from the Trauma Recovery Network (TRN). In this our introductory edition contents focus mainly on our ethos, membership to date and planned work programmes. We also have general input from other organisations and individuals working in the field of trauma recovery.

The longer term aim of this newsletter is to facilitate information sharing at local and regional level, to promote policy debate and dialogue and encourage participation at an

organisational/community level on the common focus of recovery from trauma caused by political conflict.

We therefore invite and welcome input and feedback from all organisations working in this field to TRN newsletter and TRN ethos and work programmes.

Paula Beattie
Network Regional Manager

What is the Trauma Recovery Network?



Trauma Recovery Network (TRN) is a regional network offering cross sector advocacy, organisational development support and research facility to victims and survivors

groups and those working with the impact of trauma through a partnership and community development method of working.

Established in 1994, TRN Board has a founding membership of diverse organisations ranging from local community based projects to regional service providers and from both a community and public sector background.

Our current development direction and planned programme of work have been based on the outcome of our consultation meetings across NI in 2005. One main outcome of these has been the recognition that the common focus of recovery from trauma, however that may be identified, has the potential to assist integration and reconciliation.

Vision: A society where there is real understanding of what precipitates

political trauma and what is required for trauma recovery.

Mission: To develop the lead regional network that will energise, connect and influence the Trauma Recovery Sector.

Aims:

1. To build an independent forum that is safe enough to hold challenging dialogue.
2. To influence policy and funding in ways that are responsive to, and supportive of, the needs of the Trauma Recovery sector.
3. To encourage creative and ethical practice to aid trauma recovery and prevention, and break the cycle of transgenerational trauma.
4. To influence the Trauma Recovery agenda regionally, nationally and internationally.

RESEARCH/SCOPING STUDY ON NEEDS ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS.

TRN recognise that while analysis exists relating to the needs of individuals traumatised by NI political conflict little if any work has been developed that addresses the needs of the sector servicing victims. We therefore plan to carry out research on this area beginning with an initial scoping study in 2007. The Terms of Reference for the study are currently being finalised but broadly we hope to cover the following agenda:

A thorough investigation of the policy and working relationship between victims/survivors groups, groups and funding organisations, and between community, voluntary and statutory sector service providers.

Detailed analysis of funding relationships, practice, needs and relevant operational and policy issues/constraints

Audit of the exact nature to date of the development, practice, support and planning around service level agreements within the sector.

The outcome of the initial scoping study and emerging recommendations will then form the basis for a more extensive piece of research on



needs analysis. We hope that all those working within the victims/ survivors sector will be interested in being involved in this study which we will conduct initially through a combination of focus group , 1-1 meetings and questionnaire.

More information/communication to follow.....

At all times TRN advocates partnership between all concerned parties to address, acknowledge and deal with the past.

TRN Calls for larger-scale longer-term support for those organisations engaged in trauma recovery work in order that the cycle of re-traumatising through the practice of short term funding ceases to be the norm.

TRN Database and Reference Service

Also as part of our work programme and as part of our funding requirements we are in the process of compiling a Central Information Database and Reference Service on all groups and agencies working with victims/survivors and relevant service provision across NI and beyond. It is intended that this will be a live and operational reference service available on our website once live and through our Development Officer (membership), accessible to both individuals and groups.

We are at the early stages in the development of this work and will be working through a partnership and consultative approach with all concerned.

Policy/Strategy/Lobbying

Through the development of a cross sector regional network the TRN process should be able to facilitate the building of collaborative working relationships around the common area of recovery from trauma. No other organisation in NI is carrying out this function at present offering the opportunity for relatively neutral and independent dialogue forum addressing the isolation of many victims/survivors groups. TRN could help with strengthening inclusion

and reconciliation by facilitating a process where groups could lobby for robust organisational strategies, assistance in best practice, negotiation skills development and service level attainment.

We will therefore be continuing to develop and stimulate the debate on trauma recovery across the sector based on the need for an integrated approach to trauma recovery work and focusing attention on:

Encouraging creative and ethical practice

Breaking the cycle of transgenerational trauma

Influencing policy, funding and trauma recovery need at regional national and international level.

“Traumatised by Peace?” Have your say

*is conflict related counselling really necessary or worthwhile?
has conflict related trauma been properly diagnosed?
should we all agree to disagree about the past?
how does healing relate to the wider question of social justice?*

**ROUNDTABLE PANEL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON DR
CHRIS GILLIGAN’S CRITIQUE**

Wednesday 9th May 2007

10am – 1pm

Stormont Hotel, Belfast (Lunch Provided)

Panel Members

Dr Chris Gilligan, Lecturer, University of Ulster

Brid Keenan, Psychotherapist

Cathy Nelis, Cúnamh

Belfast Trust, Trauma Resource Centre in North and West Belfast

TRN 
trauma recovery network

RSVP 27th April 2007

Email: info@traumanetwork.org

Tel: 028 9087 5012/6

Fax: 028 9087 5017

Post: 61 Duncairn Gardens

Belfast BT15 2GB



Healing Through Remembering – Day of Private Reflection



Day of Private Reflection - Thursday, 21 June 2007

This initial Day of Private Reflection on Thursday, 21 June 2007 is an initiative proposed by Healing Through Remembering, a cross-community organisation focussed on ways of dealing with the past relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

The Day of Private Reflection is offered as an inclusive and positive experience that emphasises a commitment to a peaceful new society. It provides a voluntary opportunity for everyone in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain to begin to both remember the past and to look to a better future.

It will provide an opportunity for people to reflect individually, for example, at home or at work, within a family, group or organization. Public events will not be a feature of the Day.

The Day of Private Reflection offers an opportunity for us all to find our own way to think about the origins and consequences of the conflict, to begin to recognize and acknowledge the suffering caused, to reflect on our own attitudes, and to make a personal commitment that, as we begin to move forward as a society, such loss should never be allowed to happen again.

A formal evaluation of the impact of this initial Day of Private Reflection will be conducted. This evaluation will inform the decision on whether to proceed with this initiative in future years - and if so in what format.

A website and other resources specifically for the Day of Private Reflection are currently being developed. For more details please visit www.healingthroughremembering.org

TRN Board Members and Staff

Fergus Cumiskey, TRN Chairperson
Clinical Director
Contact Youth Counselling Services

Anne MacSherry, TRN Vice Chairperson
Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist
North and West Trauma Resource Centre

Joelle Gartner, TRN Secretary
Psychotherapist and Trainer

Philip Cahill, TRN Treasurer
Counsellor

Irene Sherry, TRN Board Member
Project Manager
The Ashton Centre

Mary Grant, TRN Board Member
Lifespring Health and Healing

Pauline Rice, TRN Board Member
Manager of Support Services
The Peace Factory

Rachel Craig, TRN Board Member
Family Worker
Corrymeela

Paula Beattie
Network Regional Manager

Colleen Symington
Development Officer (Membership)

Sara Mc Closkey
Administrative Officer

TRN Annual Conference & AGM

We also will be holding our Annual Conference and AGM in November 2007 where an update on all our work programmes will be made available as well as further debate on the trauma recovery process and therapy practice.

Aisling Centre Enniskillen Counselling and Art Therapy

Supporting people who have been affected by the 'Troubles' whether through direct personal experience or because of family members, friends or neighbours experience.

Through:
Individual Counselling
Individual & Group Art therapy
Group Support

Ages 7 years*
Referral forms are available from reception 9.00am - 5.00pm
Group programmes available on request (Contact Ms Jackie Stretch)

This free service is funded by the Community Relations Council

Aisling Centre, 37 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP
Tel: 028 6632 5811



Cúnamh ICT is a social economy enterprise that provides affordable database solutions to the community & voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations.

Contact (028) 71308166 or email peter@cunamh.org
For more information visit www.emonitoring.org

Awareness of Self and Others

A One Day Personal and Professional Development workshop based on Gestalt Therapy process of working in groups

Date: Saturday 2nd June 2007
Time: 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Venue:
Gate Lodge, Strand Road, Derry

Facilitator: Mary Kay Mullan
Advance Booking Essential - There are 12 places available

Cost: £50

For further information and to reserve a place, contact:

Mary Kay Mullan, 36 Grafton Street, Derry BT48 0ER
Tel: 028 71279844 email: marykaymullan@mac.com