



Summary of Evaluation of Healing Through Remembering Day of Reflection 2008

The independent evaluation was carried out by Joe Blake Associates, an experienced consultancy firm in the voluntary and community sector.

The full report was commissioned by 'Healing Through Remembering' (HTR) to evaluate the process and response to a "*Day of Private Reflection*" held on the 21 June 2008. This is the second such Day and follows a previous Day of Private Reflection on the same date in 2007.

The report sought to review the previous Day of Private Reflection but equally sought to inform the forthcoming Day of Private Reflection on the 21st of June 2009.

The Day of Private Reflection was underpinned by a series of agreed principles and values which ensured the Day was approached in an inclusive and sensitive manner.

There is still a general positive attitude about the Day of Private Reflection initiative and many in the community welcome this as an opportunity to reflect on the past.

There are opportunities to promote the Day of Private Reflection through networks and umbrella organisations across Northern Ireland and beyond.

There is still a sense that this has a stronger resonance among the Nationalist community than the Unionist community.

However, there is a move to more positive engagement from parts of the Unionist community who would have been previously less open to the idea of a Day of Private Reflection.

HTR could explore the potential for the Day of Private Reflection to be linked to other initiatives which deal with the past, which are currently taking place amongst communities and organisations.

As with the previous Day of Private Reflection there is a concern from many in the public arena that they are not sure how they should get involved in the initiative. This is still an issue that HTR needs to address.

In 2009 HTR must take into consideration sensitivities due to the fact that the Day of Private Reflection falls on a Sunday and also coincides with Father's Day.

Bearing in mind these considerations and responding to the recommendations in the report the Day of Private Reflection should go ahead as this is increasingly seen as positive by many and non-threatening by others.