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03 June 2008 - Paisley and McGuinness announce establishment of Victims and Survivors Commission

First Minister the Rt. Hon Dr Ian Paisley and deputy First Minister Martin

McGuinness have described the establishment of the Commission for Victims and Survivors as a "major step" towards addressing the pain and suffering which still exists.

Announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the establishment of the Commission follows the coming into force of the Commission for Victims and Survivors Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister News

- 09 July 2008 - Junior Minister Kelly seeks urgent meeting with Hydebank Inspector
- 09 July 2008 - McGuinness pays tribute to Seamus Brennan
- 02 July 2008 - Robinson and McGuinness open RTE offices
- 26 June 2008 - Junior Minister Kelly calls for enhanced role for women in post conflict societies
- 26 June 2008 - Kelly and Donaldson welcome North Belfast MLAs' commitment to interface peace
- 26 June 2008 - Junior Minister presents youth give and take awards
- 25 June 2008 - Robinson and McGuinness press for relief from oil duty hike
- 25 June 2008 - Junior

The Commissioners designate Brendan McAllister, Patricia McBride, Bertha McDougall and Michael Nesbitt have been appointed to the new Commission.

Dr Paisley said: "We are taking a major step in addressing the needs of victims and survivors and in addressing the legacy of the 'Troubles'. The formal establishment of the Commission which, together with the record commitment of £36 million to work with victims and survivors, demonstrates the commitment of the Executive and our personal commitment to addressing the legacy of the past and to building a better future for all who have suffered so much."

Mr McGuinness said: "We are all very aware of the enormity of the challenges which face the new Commission as we emerge from conflict. Much work has still to be done. There are many sensitive issues to be addressed. There are no ready made solutions. I think we can all agree to that and in doing so I would urge all those involved in work with victims and survivors

Minister opens seminar on including children and young people in public decision-making

- 24 June 2008 - Kelly committed to equality of opportunity for all
- 24 June 2008 - Robinson and McGuinness condemn murder
- 23 June 2008 - Junior Ministers praise youth for efforts to end interface violence in north Belfast
- 19 June 2008 - Tackling poverty and exclusion requires partnership: Junior Minister Gerry Kelly
- 19 June 2008 - Deputy First Minister praises work of learning together initiative
- 18 June 2008 - Deputy First Minister attends launch of Centre of Excellence
- 17 June 2008 - Deputy First Minister committed to building a diverse and equal society
- 14 June 2008 - Robinson congratulates honours recipients
- 14 June 2008 - Birthday 2008 honours list - Northern Ireland
- 13 June 2008 - McGuinness joins in celebrations at St Patrick's Primary School
- 13 June 2008 - Deputy First Minister visits

to extend to the new Commission the understanding and support which will be necessary over the months and years ahead."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Commission for Victims and Survivors Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 has received Royal Assent. It amends the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.
2. The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 made provision for a Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland, to be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly.
3. Following a public appointments process, the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 28 January 2008, announced to the Assembly the appointment of four Commissioners Designate for Victims and Survivors. However the establishment of the Commission required amendment of

former Lisanelly army base

- 11 June 2008 - Deputy First Minister visits historic west Belfast mill
- 10 June 2008 - Junior Ministers welcome after schools funding
- 05 June 2008 - Speeches delivered by First Minister and Deputy First Minister in the assembly chamber
- 04 June 2008 - New Stena Line terminal is open for business
- 03 June 2008 - Paisley and McGuinness announce establishment of Victims and Survivors Commission**
- 03 June 2008 - Remarkable bravery of Kegworth team recognised
- 02 June 2008 - New commissioners appointed to the planning and water appeals commissions

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the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

4. The Commission for Victims and Survivors Act provides for the Commission for Victims and Survivors in place of a Commissioner.
5. For media enquiries contact 028 9052 1905. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Office via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.

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