

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund Peace • Reconciliation • Support

#### We need your support now

If you would like to support the important work of the Fund as an individual, the most simple and effective way to give is by Gift Aid. Because the Fund is registered with the Inland Revenue as a Charity, donations made to the Fund can be Gift Aided. This means that for every pound you donate, the Fund can claim back 28p in tax from the Inland Revenue. You can donate to the Fund by Standing Order from your bank or through payroll giving.

For further advice on how you, or your company, might support the Fund, including information on Gift Aiding and payroll giving, please contact:

#### **Northern Ireland Memorial Fund**

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# The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

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## Northern Ireland Memorial Fund



Established in May 1999, the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund is an independent charity that seeks to promote peace and reconciliation by ensuring that those who have suffered injury or bereavement as a result of the Troubles in Northern Ireland are remembered, by providing them with help and support in a practical and meaningful way.

### Practical Help for those who have suffered

The Memorial Fund now operates seven schemes to support those who have suffered as a result of the Troubles in Northern Ireland:

• Small Grants Scheme - provides small grants up to a maximum of £500 to those who are currently experiencing financial difficulties to assist with the purchase of essential household items or services.

• Short Break Scheme - provides individuals and families with a short break away from their usual surroundings, responsibilities and commitments. Short Breaks are available throughout the British Isles.

• Chronic Pain Management Scheme - provides individuals who are suffering chronic physical pain (as a result of the injuries sustained) with financial assistance (£2000) towards private medical consultations and treatment. Additional funding is also made available for those who require surgical procedures.

• Amputee Assessment Scheme - provides amputees with the best suitable prosthesis available.

• Wheelchair Assessment Scheme - provides wheelchair users with a better alternative wheelchair to the one they are currently using.

• Education & Training Scheme - provides grant assistance to children and adults whose education or vocation has been affected by their experiences. This grant assistance enables them to access the educational and training opportunities available to help them realise their ambitions and improve their employment prospects.

• Back to School Grant (ran from June to September 2002) - provides a grant to help families with school-age children who are in receipt of either Income Support, the Working Families Tax Credit, the Disabled Person's Tax Credit, Job Seekers' Allowance or Housing Benefit, with the purchase of school uniforms and other costs associated with the beginning of the school year.

# Helping victims in a meaningful way

Terrorists entered Mr A's home in 1979 and shot him twice. The Memorial Fund has provided two small grants, two short breaks, one chronic pain payment and a new wheelchair.

Mr B was shot in 1981, he lost sight in one eye and the bullet lodged in his spine. The Memorial Fund has provided two small grants, two short breaks and chronic pain payment.

*Mrs C is an amputee for whom the Fund has provided a new flexi foot.* 

Mr D was in hospital for five months following a bomb explosion in 1972. He lost both his hands and was provided with two split hooks on the NHS. He is currently being assessed with a view to the Fund paying for him to receive two prosthetic hands.

Mr E was shot in the head, back and leg in September 1971. He is now 70 years old and his mobility has deteriorated mainly because of his injuries. Mr E has received assistance from the Small Grants Scheme, Short Break Scheme, Chronic Pain Scheme and the Wheelchair Assessment Scheme. He was also awarded a grant to install a new front door and ramp for wheelchair access.

Mrs F was shot in the chest and spine at her place of work in 1979; a colleague was killed in the same attack. Due to her injuries Mrs F is wheelchair-bound and a new lightweight electric chair is being provided for her.

Mr G's father was shot dead in 1974. He became unruly at school and left with no qualifications. He applied to the Fund's Training and Education Scheme for help with course fees. He is now attending a University in Northern Ireland on a degree course in Computer Studies.

Mr H was shot in the spine during the Troubles. He has suffered chronic pain and disability since then. He and his wife have received a Small Grant and enjoyed a Short Break away. He will shortly have a private operation paid for by the Fund to provide him with a spinal implant which, his Consultant believes, will help relieve this pain.

Mrs I lost her husband in the Troubles and is currently in receipt of Income Support with no other means of support. The Fund awarded her a small grant of £500 which enabled her to purchase a new fridge and bed.

#### What can you do to help?

Up until 31 January 2003 the Fund has spent £3.48 million and has helped 12,279 individual victims:

- £2.3 million has been paid out in small grants to some 4,701 households
- £580,000 has been paid out to over 945 families to take a short break
- 46 people have benefited from chronic pain management totalling £33,000
- 435 people have benefited from Training & Education grants totalling some £184,000
- 7 amputees have received new prostheses totalling £24,000
- 20 state-of-the-art wheelchairs have been provided totalling £60,000
- 403 families have benefited from a Back to School grant totalling £130,000

But in order to meet and maintain the needs of victims and survivors over the coming years, the Fund requires significant additional funding. Indeed, £2.2 million will be required to sustain the existing schemes for one year, of which the Northern Ireland Office has given a commitment of £1 million. The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister within the Northern Ireland Executive has provided over £700,000 in total over the past 2 years. While the Fund will continue to lobby Government for primary funding, it also needs to look locally, nationally and internationally for additional financial support.