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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

Latest News:

THE NEEDS OF INNOCENT VICTIMS MUST BE MET SAYS MOUTRAY

The DUP's Upper Bann MLA Stephen Moutray has spoken ahead of an Assembly debate on the Accelerated passage Commission for Victims and Survivors Bill. This Bill seeks to lay the legislative foundation for the newly formed Victims Commission. Speaking prior to the debate Mr. Moutray said,

"The appointment of the four Commissioners was a positive development for innocent victims right across the Province. It has demonstrated that the Assembly is committed to providing support and help for the innocent victims who for so long have gone unheard and unsupported.

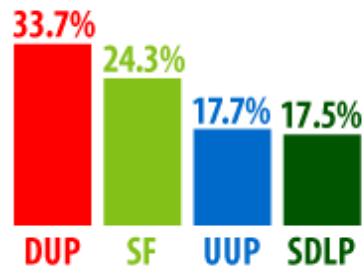
The last administration in Stormont neglected the needs of the innocent victims. While the failed Belfast Agreement delivered for terrorist prisoners it did not address the needs of victims of violence. It pandered to the perpetrators and ignored victims. Those unionists who advocated the deal should hang their heads in shame.

The Democratic Unionist Party has and always will champion the cause of innocent victims who were sidelined and ignored under the UUP's Belfast Agreement.

Since becoming the largest unionist party the DUP has made great progress for victims by securing the appointment of an Interim Commissioner for Victims. Mrs

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Bertha McDougall who held that position produced an interim report with visionary recommendations which could assist victims. The appointment of the four Commissioners will enable the foundation laid by the Interim Report to be built upon.

Many innocent victims struggle to make ends meet and to raise families in difficult circumstances. Many victims are getting on in years and it's the simple matters such as running a home in old age with which they need assistance.

These people are not looking handouts – they're looking assistance to lead a "normal" life. They want to have the same quality of life as those who were less affected by the Troubles. We fail to realise the impact which the Troubles had on the social life of so many victims.

I will be supporting the motion for accelerated passage and I trust in the near future that innocent victims will see the benefits of the four Commissioners and the practical benefits of the largest ever budget allocation of £36 million for supporting the needs of victims."

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