# INTERNATIONAL VICTIMS OF TERRORISM CONFERENCE



19TH - 20TH JUNE 2008
WATERFRONT HALL, BELFAST

# FAIR - A Decade Dedicated to Helping Victims



Families Acting for Innocent Relatives formed in 1998 at a time when victims of terrorism felt isolated and helpless. It aimed to give victims a voice, to provide practical support and to ensure their values, views and very real needs were not ignored. Victims are ordinary people who have suffered extraordinary trauma in their lives. We feel that they deserve the very best in terms of care and consideration, and in return, victims if treated properly, hold the key to dealing with the troubled past of our country.

Our conference aims to mark the contribution of FAIR and other such groups and the contribution of the Victims sector as a whole. It will showcase our work and the support received from a range of funders especially the European Commission through both its PEACE Programmes and also under the Directorate-General Justice Freedom and Security Preparatory Action in favour of Victims of terrorist Acts 2006, and locally the support given by Community Relations Council through the Victims and Survivors Funding programme. It is also timely to pay tribute to the many thousands of others many of them victims and supporters, funders and volunteers as well as the people of Europe as a whole for their support and help.

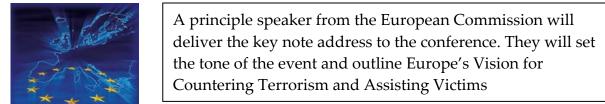
The conference will underpin the International and especially European networking that FAIR has pioneered and further our vision of Victims Solidarity. With strength through unity we can more effectively counter the radicalism and terrorism it spawns and complement the measures taken by governments and the European Union. Victims possess a strong Moral Mandate that when allied to the Democratic Mandate provides an irresistible force against terrorism. It is this process based on sound democratic principle, the application of justice and the exercise of Human Rights that can best secure a genuine lasting Peace. It is to this end that we as Victims rededicate ourselves and ask you to stand once more with us.

# PROGRAMME. MORNING SESSION

9.00 Press Launch of Conference

9.30 DELEGATE REGISTRATION

10.00AM CONFERENCE OPENING 10.15AM OPENING ADDRESS -



10.45AM INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO PROJECT

11.00am Launch of FAIR VIDEO



11.30AM SUPPORTING VICTIMS PROJECTS — RDC

### 11.45AM COUNTER-NARRATIVES TO TERRORIST



A Panel of International Speakers will address the importance of Victims Stories as both a benefit to the victim in terms of healing but also as a powerful message against violence. Their potential as a counter to the justification for terrorism is we believe a key to Peace and Security Internationally.

**Don Hamilton**, Director Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism

LUNCH 12.30 - 1.30PM

## 01.30 pm MEMORIAL EVENT



#### Minutes Silence and Act of Remembrance

Recitation from a Collection of Writings by Monty Alexander

## 1.50 INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT MONNET



#### 2.20 TERRORISM — THE DEVILS IN THE DEFINITION



International Panel of Terrorism Experts will address the issue of defining and then countering terrorism within a European and International context.

Professor Alex P. Schmid, Chair in International Relations, St Andrews

## 3.00 TERRORISM — OUR EXPERIENCE



Local experts and academics will address Northern Ireland as a case study in terrorism, and the lessons that can be learnt from our particular circumstances.

Professor Richard English; Dr James Dingley

## 3.30 TERRORISM — A LASTING LEGACY



Victims and Practitioners both locally and Internationally will outline the lasting impact of terrorism on culture, community and the individual.

**International Panel of Victims Representatives** 

4.00 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

#### **EVENING PROGRAMME**



4.30 - 6.00 TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

A Showcase presentation, outlining the development and integration of training into the overall work of the victims sector. A keynote speaker will outline the need for victims to develop their capacity and skills then a practical application of training will be demonstrated.

# **EVENING RECEPTION AND DINNER**



MEETING THE VICTIMS
MEETING THEIR NEEDS

A valuable networking opportunity for victims to meet other groups, experts and practitioners from across the globe. The sharing of stories and experiences as well as solutions and best practice. The event will highlight victims' needs and introduce innovative ways of addressing them.

### DAYTWO - PROGRAMME.

9.00 9.30

DELEGATE REGISTRATION
CONFERENCE OPENING

9.45

LAWFARE - THE THINKING MAN'S WAR ON TERROR



An introduction to the concept and potential of victims using new legal action against terrorism and its state sponsors.

# HUMAN RIGHTS TO REMEDY INHUMAN WRONGS



The need to establish fundamental principles to secure the rights of victims, to protect democracy and to hold terrorists accountable. A case study in Northern Ireland's experience and current developments would be taken.

Axel Schmidt – Project MONNET

#### *10.55*

### REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM



The challenge to the Human Rights Community to evolve the framework of rights to protect citizens from sub-state groups and to address how best to promote and protect the human rights of victims of terrorism will be discussed.

Austen Morgan, Barrister Human Rights Expert

#### 11.40

#### PUTTING PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE — POLICING AND JUSTICE TO COUNTER TERRORISM



Policing and promoting justice in the face of a terrorist threat has long been a challenge to democracy. Preserving peace and public safety while protecting human rights and individual lives has long been a challenge to the state, policing holds the key to such issues.

Stephen White, Head of Mission EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq

LUNCH 12.30 - 1.30PM

#### 01.30 LIVING MEMORIALS AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

# Living Memorial Centre Remembering the Past, Rebuilding for the Future



Victims will outline a range of 'Living Memorial' projects they have developed to best commemorate the past and remember their loved ones in a relevant lasting way.

Various Memorial Concepts and Projects will be discussed with reports on their development and implementation

FAIR will officially launch their Living Memorial Centre Appeal.

#### 3.00

#### VICTIMS SOLIDARITY IN ACTION



Victims themselves will have the opportunity to speak on a range of issues relevant to themselves and their work both locally and internationally. This will inform many of the invited speakers and guests allowing them to continue their work with victims very much in mind

#### 4.30

#### THE BELFAST DECLARATION



The finale of the conference will be a declaration composed by victims from Northern Ireland to build upon other international solidarity work such as the Madrid Declaration

#### 5.00

#### CONFERENCE CLOSE



#### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held in the Waterfront Hall Belfast, Northern Ireland's top Conference Venue. Having welcomed more than five million visitors, staged more than 3,000 entertainment events and hosted more than 2,000 conferences since 1997, Belfast Waterfront is now one of the world's leading conference centres and is a top destination for national and international performers.

Our Vision is one of Victims Remembering the Past but Preparing for the Future, and as such the Waterfront location sends out a clear signal of our intentions. We hope that you can join us to remember the lives lost and damaged in the fight against Terrorism, to celebrate Ten Years of Victims Work trying to rebuild and to secure a Future where Victims are Valued and Included.

Further Details on Travel, Accommodation, or the Programme can be found by visiting the websites below or contacting the office. To register to attend simply complete the accompanying registration form, or register online.

## FAMILIES ACTING for INNOCENT RELATIVES

18, Mowhan Road, Markethill, Co. Armagh, BT60 1RQ.

TELEPHONE: +442837 552619 FAX: +442837 552719 Web Sites: www.victims.org.uk; www.projectmonnet.com

E-Mail: <u>Info@victims.org.uk</u>

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