



News Release



Embargoed until
05/11/03

GB Victims Voices are heard

For many people in Britain, November 5 is a key date in the calendar because of the infamous events at the House of Commons in the 16th century! However, we want to make this date in 2003 memorable for a different and altogether more positive reason.

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust, set up by the parents of Tim Parry who was killed by an IRA bomb in Warrington in 1993, is launching a landmark report on 5 November, which we hope will make a difference to victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' who live in Great Britain.

The Legacy Project, one of the Trust's major programmes, has been working with a consultancy company over the past year to identify the needs of victims, through direct interviews with those who have been affected, including ex-soldiers, victims of GB bombings, exiles and emergency service workers, and with the agencies that have responded to them.

Jo Dover, Legacy Project Leader, says "The victims and survivors who live in Great Britain who have been affected have never had an opportunity like this to have their voices heard. We are working with people affected as long ago as the Birmingham bomb in 1974 and also with soldiers who served right at the start of the 'Troubles'. Most of these people have had little or no support, and our report hopes to address that by providing recommendations to Government and agencies so that we can work together improve support services for victims."

Colin Parry, Chairman of the Trust, says "Trauma in victims of major terrorist attacks is now recognised internationally but very little has been done to assess the levels and seriousness of the impact on victims of IRA bomb attacks in Great Britain. The armed forces and their families have also been greatly affected by incidents both in Britain and Northern Ireland. We feel confident that our work will lead to a change in the way that social and medical services help victims and survivors who are still suffering many years after the events".

Jo Dover adds "We believe our report will not only make a difference to victims of the 'Troubles' here in Great Britain, but also that it will help those who become victims of terrorism in the future, from whatever conflict."

- Ends -

EVENT DETAILS:

Children for Peace Event

Location: Terrace Pavillion, House of Commons

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: 5 November 2003

The Trust Chairman, Colin Parry, will be available for interviews on the morning of 5 November 2003.

All press enquiries please contact Jo Dover on 01925 581240 (24hrs)