



Advocacy Service

Mrs Arlene Foster
Democratic Unionist Party
91 Dundela Avenue
Belfast
BT4 3BU

Open Letter

9 December 2019

Dear Mrs Foster,

Re: Proposed draft legislation to deal with the Legacy of the Past

We are writing to you about the proposed draft legislation to deal with the legacy of the past which has been brought about as a result of the Stormont House Agreement (SHA).

It is clear that representatives of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) took part in the negotiations that produced these proposals, which once scrutinised, have aroused grave concerns among victims of terrorism and members of the security forces, who protected society against terrorism in Northern Ireland.

The Ulster Human Rights Watch (UHRW) has analysed the proposals reached by political consensus to establish four new bodies to “address the past”. Rather than providing a significant improvement on current arrangements as suggested, these proposals will have an adverse and detrimental impact on the victims of terrorism, both civilians and former members of the security forces (armed forces and police). It is strongly believed among the victims of terrorism we represent that these proposals will undermine the due process of law and will provide the means by which those who engaged in terrorism and their sympathisers could justify terrorism and rewrite the history of the terrorist campaign in Northern Ireland. If implemented, these proposals will alienate victims of terrorism, including former members of the security forces.

Since these proposals were made public in May 2018, we have raised legitimate, grave and well-founded concerns about the four proposed bodies requesting that the DUP unequivocally disengage from them all so they can be replaced with a proper alternative. Unfortunately, until now this has not happened and the ambiguous answers provided by DUP representatives have shown that they still support these disastrous proposals.

On behalf of victims of terrorism, including members of the security forces and their families, we would kindly ask you to firmly state that the DUP will no longer support the proposed SHA legislation about the Legacy of the Past.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Campbell
Managing Director

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Advocacy Support Manager

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