

STAND AGAINST

THE LEGACY

LEGISLATION



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RELATIVES FOR
JUSTICE

STAND AGAINST

One Year on from the Tory/Labour legacy Act (ICRIR)

- **The** Tory Legacy Act was introduced on May 1, 2024.
- **The** Act ensures State impunity.
- **The** Act prohibits independent investigations.
- **The** Act bans inquests.
- **The** Act created a new body - The Independent Commission on Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR).
- **The** Tory government handpicked those running the ICRIR.
- **The** work of the ICRIR will mostly be conducted in secret.
- **The** British government has the final say on the work of the ICRIR.
- **The** courts ruled this to be unlawful.
- **The** Labour Party promised to 'repeal and replace' the Act.
- **They** have failed to do so.
- **They** now seek to coerce families down the route of the ICRIR.





Siobhán Clinton

My name is Siobhán Clinton.

My Mummy, Theresa Clinton, was murdered on April 14, 1994 - shot dead in her home by a notorious loyalist death squad.

I was three years old at the time. We were robbed of everything.

It is a known fact that those who murdered my Mummy were State agents working for RUC special branch.

This notorious State sponsored death squad consisted of 8 RUC special branch agents involved in at least 27 murders of Catholics, injuring many more, in south Belfast.

Despite these irrefutable facts no one has ever been prosecuted in respect to the murder of my Mummy or the other Catholics they murdered and injured; not one member of RUC special branch or their UDA death squad.

I want a proper investigation with full accountability that brings all those responsible for my Mammy's murder to justice.

Hilary Benn says he wants to hear from victims.

His ICIR body is not independent – it is incapable of delivering justice that holds the British State and special branch to account.

It's head of investigations is a former RUC assistant chief constable who had oversight of special branch. It is unacceptable. It is unlawful. Scrap the ICIR now.

Work with families, the Irish government, human rights groups and the international community to put in place a proper lawful investigative process.

It's the very least we deserve.



Mary & Eugene Heenan

My Name is Mary Heenan. I am 98 years old.
My husband Paddy was murdered in February 1973.

I'm Eugene Heenan. My father was a good decent family man travelling to do an honest day's work - building a school for children - when a hand grenade was thrown into his work bus as it came to staged halt in order to facilitate the attack.

As the foreman on the job my father instinctively threw himself onto the grenade taking the full force of the blast in order to protect his colleagues and friends.

His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of others.

We have since learned that the person who opened the minibus doors and threw in the grenade was a serving British soldier – Albert 'Ginger' Baker.

We also learned the Baker was secreted into this sectarian loyalist murder gang - the UDA - to assist them in their murderous deeds; part of the policy of the British government's so-called counter-insurgency policy - in short collusion - as set out in the manuals written by General Sir Frank Kitson, who was stationed at the time in Belfast.

We have absolutely no confidence whatsoever in Hilary Benn's ICRIR. It is led by a former RUC chief. It is staffed by former RUC members. Further, Hilary Benn is advised by the British intelligence services about what to publish and not publish in reports. These are the very same agencies that were behind the murder of my father and the subsequent cover-up.



Jonathan McKerr

My name is Jonathan McKerr.

My father Gervaise McKerr was murdered by the RUC in November 1982; a victim of shoot-to-kill.

My mother died prematurely due to ill-health, trauma and stress caused by my father's murder. My only sibling, David died young. I am the only surviving direct relative in our family.

Our family waited four decades for an inquest to complete.

The killing of my father was investigated by British police chief John Stalker; he was controversially removed from the investigation as he was intent on revealing the truth. His report has never been published.

The British government, the RUC and PSNI, have used every conceivable underhanded tactic to delay and prevent us from having our inquest.

They even colluded with loyalist paramilitaries to murder our solicitor, Pat Finucane, as he successfully used the law to challenge and expose shoot-to-kill.

Their latest tactic is the Tory Legacy Act and the shameful ICRIR.

I call on Hilary Benn to scrap the Tory Legacy Act and its cover up commission, the ICRIR.

I can on him to repeal and replace this legislation – it has absolutely no support.

After four decades I want a full and proper inquest into my father's deliberate and planned murder by the RUC - not the ICRIR.



Martin Mallon

My name is Martin Mallon.

I am the nephew of 76-year-old Roseanne Mallon murdered by the Mid-Ulster UVF on May 8, 1994, at our family home, county Tyrone.

Roseanne was my father's sister and she never married. She lived with us and helped to rear us all. She devoted her life to her family and the church.

My mother was also shot in the attack.

At the time a British army undercover unit, secreted in a field overlooking our home, observed the attack in real time. They also recorded all movements around our home from sophisticated cameras. Several other undercover units were nearby.

On reporting the shooting to their command centre at Mahon Barracks, the covert unit were ordered to stay put - "do not react." They also switched off their cameras so as not to record the attack.

The weapons used to in the attack were used to murder 17 people in East Tyrone – republicans and their uninvolved relatives.

The British secretary of state at the time – Sir Patrick Mayhew - sanctioned the RUC special branch and MI5 operation to spy on our home. The UVF gang that murdered Roseanne comprised of agents run by both MI5 and special branch.

Through the British secretary of state MI5 would determine the outcome of any ICRIR so-called examination of the murder of Roseanne; much in the same way they are currently doing in the Sean Brown case.

MI5 and the Tories wrote the Legacy Act and handpicked those to run the ICRIR. We will not participate in Hilary Benn's Tory agenda of whitewashing the truth.



Alana McShane

My name is Alana McShane.

My 17-year-old brother Gavin was murdered by a lone UVF gunman in Armagh City on May 18, 1994.

His friend, Shane McArdle also 17, was murdered alongside Gavin.

Gavin was a student at Armagh Tech. and wanted to become an architect. Gavin was also a talented hurler with numerous accolades despite his young age. His murder devastated our family.

My mummy was injured in a bomb explosion in Keady in 1976; a bomb planted by members of the RUC Glenanne Gang. She lost an eye in the explosion and had extensive head injuries. She was also pregnant with Gavin. Thankfully he survived. He was her miracle baby.

My mother campaigned for justice for Gavin; taking ill prematurely and dying 3 years ago. Her death is as a direct result of all the trauma she endured.

After Gavin's murder we learned the identity of the killer who was also linked to at least a dozen other sectarian murders.

Frustrated by the lack of progress in the murder investigation an RUC detective provided us with information confirming the identity of the killer.

Despite a treasure trove of ballistic and forensic evidence, including intelligence, the killer remains free – protected by special branch and MI5.

Hilary Benn says he wants to hear from families; how can we trust a process – the ICRIR - that permits these same State agencies to control the flow of information?

Quite simply, we can't.

It's unfair and it's unjust.



Mark Kelly

My name is Mark Kelly. I am the brother of 12-year-old Carol-Anne Kelly shot dead by a British soldier in May 1981.

We were the closest in age in our family. My mother never got over Carol-Anne's murder. To be honest none of us have. I think of her every day.

There has never been an investigation into her killing. No one was ever made accountable. It's as if she never really mattered.

The British government's Legacy Act was essentially about ensuring British soldiers remain protected from investigation and prosecution for their actions in Ireland - legalised impunity was the Tory and establishment agenda.

I want a proper independent investigative process into Carol-Anne's killing.

Labour promised to repeal and replace the Legacy Act. What we got instead is more of the same old Tory establishment agenda.

Hilary Benn needs to listen to victims – the ICRIR will not work.

It's not independent; it cannot win the trust and confidence of the majority of victims because of how it came about and of its real intentions. It is unlawful.

Trying to force it upon us will not work either.

Do the right thing - live up to your pledge.

Decommission this cover-up commission.



Kathleen & Christine Duffy

My name is Christine Duffy. My brother Seamus was shot dead by the RUC on August 9, 1989. He was 15-years-old. He was shot with a plastic bullet.

Seamus was a happy go lucky child. He was named after my mammy's brother Seamus, who was shot dead by the British army in July 1973 as he stood chatting with friends.

There was no justification for shooting Seamus. There has never been a proper investigation into his killing. No one was ever held to account.

The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) did not examine RUC killings. The Police Ombudsman are prevented from investigating RUC killings, and so families impacted by RUC atrocities are left in limbo.

The stated objective of the Legacy Act is to protect the British army and the RUC from investigation and prosecution. The ICIR was created for this purpose.

The British government appointed a former RUC assistant chief constable as the ICIR's head of investigations.

Hilary Benn has removed the lawful rights of victims to independent remedy.

He cynically talks about people ageing while feigning concern seeking cover in order to peddle the ICIR agenda.

He is trying to force families down the ICIR route. It will not work.

How can we as a family have any confidence in the ICIR given its composition, its origins and purpose, as stated in the legislation?

Hilary Benn is just continuing on the Tory agenda of legalising impunity.

Such hubris and lack of real concern is retraumatising victims.