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ADVOCACY AND CASEWORK SERVICE



or visit our website at www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk

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Advocacy and Casework Service Truth, Justice & Acknowledgement

For many families and individuals bereaved and injured by the conflict, truth, justice and acknowledgement is a vital part of recovering health and well-being.

In keeping with WAVE's holistic ethos, we provide support to families with outstanding issues assisting them practically and emotionally through the process. WAVE believes that the provision of advocacy and support to families engaging in statutory processes is vital.

The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) and the Police Ombudsman's Office for Northern Ireland (OPONI) both have a remit to investigate historic cases. HET was set up with the specific task of reviewing all conflict related deaths. The Police Ombudsman's powers are restricted to conflict related cases where there is an allegation of police wrong-doing. The HET will also refer cases that may lead to prosecutions back to the PSNI to be investigated alongside current cases.



How we can help?

We assist families and individuals by providing them with information and guidance on the different statutory methods by which they can seek information about their bereavement or injury. Some cases can be complex, involving sensitive information and difficult legal issues. We will communicate with people in plain language by telephone, in writing and on a face-to-face basis regarding the work required as cases progress and ensure that you are fully aware of the likely outcomes, timescales and risks involved. We can assist in responding to correspondence or reports received from other bodies and organisations and help with preparation for meetings relevant to your case. We will help you articulate the questions you want to ask and work with you to get comprehensive answers. We will also accompany you to any meetings to advocate on your behalf with staff and investigators involved in the case.

WAVE recognises that institutions such as HET and OPONI are important in Northern Ireland as mechanisms for obtaining truth and accountability. Our role is that of a 'critical friend', vocalising your individual concerns and helping to ensure you receive the 'maximum permissible disclosure' promised by the statutory bodies. We will help you obtain as much information as possible as a means of challenging unfounded rumours or misinformation about your bereavement or injury, examine any available documentary evidence and ensure that the review or investigation that is conducted keeps you and the wishes of your family as its focus.

How can I access the service?

Our Advocacy & Casework Service is based in Belfast. You can contact us on 028 9077 9922. Alternatively contact your local WAVE office and ask to be referred to the service. We can then make arrangements to see you at your local WAVE centre. If you are unable to travel to the centre for reasons of disability or caring responsibilities we can arrange a home appointment.

Our service is free, confidential & impartial