



CHURCH of IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD
CHURCH in SOCIETY COMMITTEE
Social Justice and Theology (NI) Sub-Committee

**REVD KENNY HALL'S RESPONSE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
VICTIM'S COMMISSION**

The Interim Victims Commissioner, Mrs Bertha McDougall, has called for an £8 million fund and forum for victims to be established. In supporting this call, I would urge all victims to take part.

A new Commissioner will spearhead plans and priorities for the Victims and Survivors Forum. Many victims, both from a security forces background and from a civilian background, feel that they are the forgotten part of the peace process. It is therefore important that this new Commissioner is acceptable to all.

Many people in Northern Ireland remain frightened to speak what they perceive as the truth. This often results in their remaining silent. A background of fear is capable of disrupting trust and communication. The proposed Forum must be a place where people do not feel under threat and are able to express their thoughts and concerns. This is a prerequisite for movement towards reconciliation. All must work together for the benefit of each other and build a society that is at peace with itself.