

## **Northern Ireland: who are the victims?**

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It has been suggested that in some senses everyone who lives in Northern Ireland can consider themselves to have been a victim of the 'troubles' of the last thirty years. In this paper we present empirical data from a random sample survey of the Northern Irish adult population. In this survey 1,000 respondents, age 18 years plus, were asked to indicate if they ever thought of themselves as a victim of the recent political violence. It would appear, that based on the results obtained, only a relatively small proportion (12%) of the population think of themselves in this way. On the other hand when these same respondents were asked to recall important events from Northern Ireland's recent past the vast majority (91%) recalled an event in some way associated with the "troubles" We therefore go on to consider in more detail the relationship victimhood and memory in a Northern Irish context and to examine the possibility that a sense of victimhood stems from memories of unacknowledged losses..