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Online forum to discuss ways to deal with Troubles legacy

By Andrea McKernon

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DEALING with the north's troubled past after the furore over the launch of Eames/Bradley report is the

subject of a new online forum which goes live today.

Slugger O'Toole – one of Northern Ireland's most popular current affairs websites – is launching the forum following the bitter recriminations that greeted the presentation of the report last month January. Denis Bradley and Robin Eames jointly chaired the Consultative Group on the Past which compiled the 190page report. The group was established to seek views across the community on the best way to deal with the legacy of the past in the north.

It controversially recommended no hierarchy of victims with a reconciliation payment of £12,000 awarded to families.

The study also supported an end to public inquiries into conflict-related killings.

In a post on the main Slugger O'Toole website announcing the engagement exercise, Brian Walker, a former BBC editor in Belfast who is spearheading the initiative said: "With luck, we will create a more comprehensive and constructive critique of Eames/Bradley than we have seen hitherto. If the quality of the analysis is high, it stands a chance of being heeded."

The website's founder Mick Fealty said the forum would discuss the full range of the report, chapter by chapter. "This is our effort to give people a chance to comment in detail on the report. If it works well, we will use it as a model of engagement for other public policy themes."

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