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Daily

Website for victims of troubles

Tuesday, May 08, 2007

A new website aimed at helping families pay tribute to loved ones killed during the Troubles was today being launched during the first meeting of the new Executive.

The Light A Candle website is the brainchild of Londonderry man Hugo McConnell.

The free website will allow families and friends to light an eternal candle for their loved ones, upload photographs and include tributes or information about their lives.

Mr McConnell said the idea behind the site was to give everyone the chance to record their loss and ensure they did not feel forgotten or left out while Northern Ireland's political climate was changing.

He said: "The term 'moving forward' is used a lot and it is much easier for people who haven't lost anyone close.

"This is about creating a space for people who have lost someone where they can light a flame in their memory that will never go out."

Mr McConnell added: "Those who have lost somebody can feel very much alone.

"I feel personally that when you write something down, you little by little get the pain out of your system.

"Also, reading someone else's story can help you realise that you are not alone, that there are people just like you suffering the same."

He added: "There is also a guest book within the website which will allow people from all over the world to leave thoughts and messages of support as Northern Ireland moves into a new era."

Mr McConnell said he hopes one day that there will be a candle for every single person killed during the Troubles.

On hearing of Mr Connell's idea, two companies, [www.fed202solutions.com](#) and Lermagh Design Ltd, designed the website for free. The website is: [www.lightacandle.ie](#).

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