



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

In light of the high rate of suicides among young people, in particular in the Armagh Diocese, an appeal was made for young people to understand that there are people who care about them and who would be willing to help them find a way through their problems.

The Rev Kenny Hall, Chairperson of the sub-committee, also issued a statement with regard to the appointment of the Victims' Commission urging all victims to take part and for the setting up of a Victims and Survivors Forum. It is also planned to meet with the Victims' Commission as soon as possible.

The committee were grateful to Mrs Ethne Harkness, a former director in Law Reform for making a response to the Draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland *Building a Better Future*. This Programme for Government highlights the key goals and actions the Executive will take to drive forward those priority areas.

A response was also made to the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) stating our support that the PBNI will require additional resources to successfully implement new provisions, while efficiency savings will be expected in provision of existing services. We recognise that the PBNI has a good track record in reducing offending and further development of success in this area is to be welcomed.

A submission is currently being prepared on the proposed *Presumption of Death Bill*. It will be important for relatives of "the disappeared" but its impact will be wider than that, covering cases where people are missing but death cannot be proved in the "normal" way (by production of a body) so there cannot be Registration of a Death.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- It is hoped to meet as soon as possible with The Victims' Commission;
- Draw up a submission on the proposed *Presumption of Death Bill*.