Ráiteas Misin na Dara Céime 2017–2023

Second Phase Mission Statement 2017–2023

An Sainghrúpa Comhairleach ar Chuimhneacháin
Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations

Thar aon ní eile, is bailiúchán é an Sainghrúpa Comhairleach athcheaptha de staraithe gairmiúla, coimeádaithe taifead agus cleachtóirí cultúir a bhfuil spéis acu in ábhair éagsúla taighde, a bhfuil a léamh féin acu ar chúrsaí agus a gceangail féin le hinstitiúidí áirithe. Cé go leanfaidh muid ar aghaidh ag feidhmiú mar chuid den Ghrúpa Comhairleach seo, beidh baint againn go léir le taighde ar stair agus lenár dtátail a scaipeadh, chomh maith le bheith ag cur go haonair leis an díospóireacht i ndáil le comóradh. Ní ceart a mheas gurb ionann aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí a chuireann muid in iúl sa cháil sin agus tuairimí an Ghrúpa trí chéile.

The reappointed Expert Advisory Group is, first and foremost, a collection of individual professional historians, record custodians and cultural practitioners, with individual research interests, interpretations and institutional affiliations. While continuing to serve on this Advisory Group, we will all be involved on an ongoing basis in the research and dissemination of history and making individual contributions to the commemoration debate. Any ideas or views that we express in that capacity should not be seen as representing the views of the Group as a whole.

MAR A LÉIRÍODH ó bunaíodh an Grúpa seo, níl sé mar fheidhm aige bheith saintreorach nó díritheach i dtaobh an bealach le tionchar na coda cinniúnaí seo dár stair a léamh. Is é atá ar intinn againn roinnt prionsabal treorach a leagan amach a bheidh mar thagairt againn agus ár mbealach á dhéanamh againn tríd an tréimhse thábhachtach fhoirmitheach seo i dtreo bhunú an Stáit agus é á chur san áireamh le náisiúin an domhain.

Tugann deich mbliana na gcuimhneachán roinnt de na hócáidí is suntasaí i stair nua-aimseartha na hÉireann agus an domhain chun cuimhne: deich mbliana d'fhoréigean, bás, scrios agus athlonnú éigeantach gan fasach, ach freisin d'fhéinchinntiúchán náisiúnta as ar eascair mórathruithe ar an rialtas agus ar theorainneacha polaitiúla, forbairt daonlathas nua-aimseartha na hÉireann agus ceart vótála uilíoch do dhaoine fásta. Tá na prionsabail a leagadh amach i Ráiteas Tosaigh an Ghrúpa bailí agus ábhartha go fóill. Leis an gcáipéis seo déantar cur chuige foriomlán an Ghrúpa a athdhearbhú agus muid ag féachaint chun cinn i dtreo an dara leath de Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán.

Áirítear ar na dearbhphrionsabail sin:

- Is é an aidhm a ba cheart a bheith leis an gcomóradh ná comhbhá a leathnú gan iarraidh ar aon duine a dhílseacht nó a dílseacht a thréigean, agus aitheantas a thabhairt ach go háirithe don luach a bhaineann le barrshamhlacha agus le híobairt, lena n-áirítear an costas a bhaineann leo.
- Le linn an méid atá fágtha de na deich mbliana, tá sé tábhachtach nach ndéanfar dearmad de dhoirteadh fola agus naimhdeas mór na mblianta sin. Cé nach maireann mórán finnéithe sa lá atá inniu ann, tá an chuimhne beo bríomhar go fóill i measc phobail agus teaghlaigh faoi leith, agus d'fhéadfadh go músclóidh na comórthaí cuimhní de chaillteanas nó de dhíshealbhú iontu.
- Is cóir dúinn a choinneáil i gcuimhne freisin go bhfuil stair i gcoiteann againn ar an oileán seo ach nach bhfuil an chuimhne chéanna againn go léir ar na hócáidí múnlaithe sin.

IT IS NOT the function of this Group, as shown since its inception, to be prescriptive or directive in how to interpret the impact of this pivotal part of our history. It is our intention to set out some guiding principles to be referenced when navigating this important and formative historical period on the road to the foundation of the State and in its taking its place among the nations.

The decade of commemorations recalls some of the most significant events in the history of modern Ireland and the modern world: a decade of unprecedented violence, death, destruction and forced resettlement, but also the exercise of national self-determination resulting in major changes in government and political boundaries, the development of a modern Irish democracy and universal adult suffrage. The principles expressed in the Group's Initial Statement are still valid and relevant. This document re-affirms the Group's overall approach as we look forward to the second half of the Decade of Centenaries.

These tenets include:

- The aim of commemoration should be to broaden sympathies without having to abandon loyalties and, in particular, to recognise the value of ideals and sacrifices, including their cost.
- Throughout the remainder of the decade, it is important not to forget the bloodshed and the deep antagonisms of these years. While few eyewitnesses survive, the memories remain vivid in some communities and families and commemorations may revive painful memories of loss or dispossession.
- We should also be conscious that on this island we have a common history but not a common memory of these shaping events.
- Commemoration should not ignore differences and divisions. The goal of inclusiveness is best achieved, not by trying for an enforced common interest or universal participation, but by encouraging multiple

- Níor cheart nach dtabharfaí aird le linn chomórthaí ar dhifríochtaí agus ar scoilteanna. Is é an bealach is fearr chun uileghabhálachas a bhaint amach ná, seachas comhshuim nó rannpháirtíocht gach duine a lorg i gcomóradh imeachtaí, ilchuimhneacháin a spreagadh ina meabhraítear ar an am atá caite agus cinnte a dhéanamh ag an am céanna, a mhéid is féidir, nach músclaítear sean-teannas leis an gcomóradh.

Aontaítear an grúpa seo mar gur mian linn go léir cabhrú chun cuimhneachán lánbhrí a eagrú trí chomhairle a chur ar an Rialtas maidir le hócáidí cuimhneacháin oifigiúla. Déanann muid é seo ar mhaithe le seirbhís phoiblí agus déanann muid é neamhspleách ar aon tuairimí polaitiúla, cláir pholaitiúla nó tionchar polaitiúil. Creideann muid go bhfuil sé ríthábhachtach go mbeidh an Rialtas leanúnach i dtaobh a thiomantas do chomóradh agus go dtógfaidh sé ar an rath a bhí ar na himeachtaí comórtha céad bliain a tharla le linn dheich mbliana na gcuimhneachán go dtí seo. D'fhonn plé uile-pháirtí a éascú leis an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta ar réimsí féideartha ar a mbeidh le breathnú agus ar mhaithe le leanúnachas agus uileghabhálachas polaitiúil, tacaíonn muid le cinneadh an Aire an Grúpa Comhairliúcháin Uile-Pháirtí ar Chuimhneacháin a athbhunú agus táimid ag súil le bheith ag obair leis an ngrúpa sin.

Cuirimid fáilte freisin roimh chaidreamh dearfach le húdaráis áitiúla, agus tugaimid faoi deara an ról tábhachtach atá acu ó thaobh phobail áitiúla a tharraingt isteach in imeachtaí comórtha, go háirithe le linn 2016.

Aithníonn an Grúpa méid agus raon suntasach an tsaineolais atá gnóthaithe le linn na tréimhse cuimhneacháin go dtí seo, rud a bheidh mar bhonn ag an nGrúpa i dtaca leis an gcur chuige a bheidh le glacadh sa chéad chéim eile de Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán. Tá dúshláin faoi leith ag baint le comóradh na tréimhse 1917-1923, agus tá gá le léamha samhlaíocha, machnamhacha, nuálacha agus fíréanta a mheallfaidh pobal géarchúiseach tnúthánach agus a bheidh dílis d'ord

and plural commemorations which remember the past while ensuring, as far as possible, that the commemoration does not re-ignite old tensions.

What unites us is a desire to make a contribution to meaningful commemoration in the form of advice to the Government on official commemorative events. We do this in a spirit of public service and independently of any political views, agendas or influence. We do believe it is essential that the Government should maintain continuity in its commitment to commemoration and build on the widely acknowledged success of the centenary events during the decade of commemorations so far. In order to facilitate all-party discussion with the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on potential areas of consideration and for the sake of continuity and political inclusiveness, we endorse the Minister's decision to re-establish the All-Party Consultation Group on Commemorations and look forward to working with that group.

We also welcome continued positive engagement with local authorities, noting their key role in engaging local communities in commemorative events, particularly during 2016.

The Group recognises the considerable depth and range of expertise gained in the commemorative period to date, all of which will inform the Group as to the approach to be adopted in the next stages of the Decade of Centenaries. Commemorating the period 1917-1923 raises particular challenges, requiring imaginative, thoughtful, innovative and authentic interpretations to appeal to a discerning and expectant public and to stay true to the intricate and controversial sequence of events of that time. Official events must, within reason, be inclusive and non-partisan, but the State should not be expected to be neutral about its own existence.

casta conspóideach na n-imeachtaí ag an am. Ní mór go mbeidh ócáidí oifigiúla uileghabhálach agus neamhpháirtíneach a mhéid is féidir, ach níor cheart go mbeifí ag dréim leis an Stát a bheith neodrach maidir lena eiseadh féin. Ba cheart go mbeidh an fócas leanúnach ar chomóradh tomhaiste machnamach, agus bunaithe ar aitheantas iomlán ar an gcastacht a bhaineann le hócáidí stairiúla agus a n-oidhreacht; ar na léamha éagsúla a bhíonn ar an stair; agus ar na féiniúlachtaí agus traidisiúin iomadúla atá ann mar chuid d'eispéireas staire na hÉireann. Níor cheart go ndéanfaí aon iarracht comhdhearcadh nach mbaineann leis an stair nó atá siarghabhálach a chruthú maidir leis an tionchar comhaimseartha agus an oidhreacht a bhaineann le himeachtaí a chothaíonn easaontas.

Is dóigh linn gur faoi na teidil seo a leanas ach go háirithe a bheidh ár gcomhairle bainteach:

AN COMHTHÉACS I GCOITINNE

Sna blianta beaga amach romhainn beidh comóradh á dhéanamh ar chuimhneacháin chéad bliain roinnt de na hócáidí is suntasaí agus is achrannaí i stair nua-aimseartha na hÉireann ach a léiríonn freisin, rud atá chomh tábhachtach céanna, stair an domhain nua-aimseartha. Ní mór dúinn a bheith airdeallach go bhfuil imeachtaí na hÉireann, go háirithe na ceisteanna a bhaineann le coinbhleacht mhíleata, féinchinntiúchán agus bunú stáit, mar chuid de scéal i bhfad níos fairsinge agus ní mór go gcuirfear fócas an chomóraidh i láthair sa chomhthéacs sin.

ÉAGSÚLACHT

Beidh sé ina thosaíocht againn nach gcuirfear aon léamh aonair ar an stair chun cinn. Ní mór go n-aithneofar go hiomlán na féiniúlachtaí, castachtaí agus traidisiúin iomadúla atá mar chuid den scéal foriomlán.

The focus on commemorations should continue to be measured and reflective and informed by a full acknowledgement of the complexity of historical events and their legacy; of the multiple readings of history; and of the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the Irish historical experience. There should be no attempt to contrive an ahistorical or retrospective consensus about the contemporary impact and legacy of divisive events.

We see our advice as being particularly relevant under the following headings:

WIDER CONTEXT

The coming years see the centenaries of some of the most significant and also divisive events in the history of modern Ireland but equally importantly, reflect the history of the modern world. We should be conscious that events in Ireland, particularly the issues of military conflict, self-determination and state-building, form part of a much wider story and the focus of commemoration needs to be framed in that context.

DIVERSITY

A key issue will be the avoidance of the promotion of any single reading of history. There must be full acknowledgement of the multiple identities, complexities and traditions which are part of the overall story.

BARANTÚLACHT, CRUINNEAS AGUS PRAITICIÚLACHT

I dtaca le cuimhneacháin oifigiúla atá beartaithe, beidh sé mar chuid de shainchúram an Ghrúpa comhairle a thabhairt go mbeidh na himeachtaí a roghnófar dílis ó thaobh na staire de agus go mbeidh suntas leo, agus go gcuirfear i láthair ar bhealach údarach iad. Déanfar úsáid ábhar bunfhoinse a chur chun cinn. Tuigeann muid freisin an chontúirt a bhaineann leis an iomarca comóraidh oifigiúil, rud nach mbeadh indéanta go praiticiúil ná ó thaobh na heacnamaíochta de. Ní féidir gach ní a bhaineann leis na Deich mBliana seo a chomóradh ag leibhéal an Stáit.

IMEACHAÍ UILE-OILEÁIN

Tuigeann an Grúpa an íogaireacht a bhaineann le comóradh sa dá dhlínse ar an oileán agus rachfar i dteagmháil, nuair is féidir é, le grúpaí cuí nuair atá comhairle á foirmliú aige don Rialtas maidir le himeachtaí ábhartha. Ba chóir dúinn leanúint ar aghaidh ag comóradh i gcomhpháirtíocht le forais agus grúpaí leasa ábhartha i dTuaisceart Éireann, ach freisin aithint agus glacadh leis gur faoi gach dlínse atá sé cinneadh a dhéanamh páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhartha comórtha aonair agus gur ceist dheonach é.

CEISTEANNA A BHAINEANN LE TÉAMA

Tá an Grúpa aireach faoi go bhfuil seans ann nach dtabharfadh aon chur chuige ócáid-bhunaithe aghaidh ar mhórcheisteanna a bhaineann le téama. Tabharfaidh muid comhairle maidir le téamaí oiriúnacha agus moltaí i ndáil le bealaí ina bhféadfaí cuir chucu. Ar mórthéamaí na tréimhse atá le comóradh sna blianta amach romhainn tá an claochlú ó réabhlóid fhoréigneach go daonlathas feidhmiúil agus bunú Stát na hÉireann agus Thuaisceart Éireann chomh maith leis an gCogadh Cathartha. Tabharfaidh seo deis taighde agus peirspictíochtaí nua agus leanúnacha a aibhsiú agus cuirfidh sé béim ar an leathnú a rinneadh le tamall anuas ar na creataí chun imeachtaí 1917 -

AUTHENTICITY, ACCURACY AND PRACTICALITY

With regard to proposed official commemorations, it shall be within the brief of the Group to advise that events so selected are historically authentic and of significance, and that they are presented and framed in an accurate way. The use of primary source material will be promoted. We are also conscious of the danger of excessive official commemoration, which would not be practically or economically feasible. Not everything to do with this Decade can be commemorated at State level.

ALL-ISLAND EVENTS

The Group is conscious of the sensitivity surrounding commemoration in both jurisdictions on the island and will where possible liaise with appropriate groups in formulating its advice to Government on relevant events. We should continue to commemorate in partnership with relevant bodies and interest groups in Northern Ireland, but recognising and accepting that, ultimately, the decision to participate in individual acts of commemoration is voluntary and a matter of judgement in each jurisdiction.

THEMATIC ISSUES

The Group is conscious that any event-based approach may ignore major thematic issues. We will advise on appropriate themes and suggest ways in which they may best be approached. Major themes of the period to be commemorated in the coming years include the transformation of a revolution with violence into a functioning democracy and the foundation of the Irish State and Northern Ireland as well as the Civil War. This will provide an opportunity to highlight new and ongoing research and perspectives and to emphasise the huge broadening of the frameworks for interpreting the events of 1917 - 1923 in recent decades, with a focus

1923 a léiriú, rud a d'fhág fócas nach bhfuil dírithe go hiomlán ar an stair pholaitiúil níos mó ach ar an stair shóisialta, chultúrtha, aicme agus inscne freisin.

TAIGHDE AGUS SCOLÁIREACHT

Mothaíonn an Grúpa go láidir nach mór an deis a thapú a mhéid is féidir chun léann a spreagadh go háitiúil agus go náisiúnta, le béim faoi leith ar fhorbairt chartlainne agus infheistíocht ann, rannpháirtíocht na bhforas cultúir náisiúnta, institiúidí foghlama agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.

Measann an Grúpa go bhfuil tacaíocht an Rialtais tuillte ag na tionscnaimh seo a leanas:

- Cinntiú go leanfaidh forais chultúir na hÉireann ina bhfuil an t-ábhar is ábhartha don tréimhse - an Chartlann Náisiúnta, an Leabharlann Náisiúnta, an Chartlann Mhíleata agus an tArd-Mhúsaem go príomha - lena ról lárnach i dtaobh stair na tréimhse a fhiosrú agus a mhíniú;
- Scaoileadh na gcomhad uile a bhaineann le pinsean seirbhíse míleata agus atá go fóill i gcomhaid na Cartlainne Míleata, agus é mar aidhm leis go mbeidh an bailiúchán uile ar fáil ar líne saor in aisce faoi mhí Eanáir 2019;
- Cinntiú go ndéanfar páipéir phearsanta de chuid phríomhphearsana na tréimhse atá á gcoinneáil i Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, in ollscoileanna, i stórtha áitiúla agus réigiúnacha, agus in áiteanna eile a shainaithint de réir a chéile lena ndigitiú agus lena gcur ar fáil saor in aisce ar líne. Tá ábhar bainteach á choinneáil i gCartlann Náisiúnta na Breataine in Kew agus ba chóir iarracht a dhéanamh a chinntiú go gcuirfear an t-ábhar sin ar fáil;
- Cinntiú go leanfar ar aghaidh ag coinneáil taifead ar raon na n-imeachtaí comórtha agus na meáin a ghintear mar gheall ar dheich mbliana seo an mhachnaimh, lena n-áirítear grianghraif, scannáin, suíomhanna gréasáin agus cartlanna digiteacha, i dteannta ábhair ghearrshaolach pháipéir, don dream a thiocfaidh inár ndiaidh agus go gcuirfear i gcartlann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann iad.

no longer exclusively on political history but also on social, cultural, class and gender history.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The Group is of the strong view that the opportunity to encourage scholarship at national and local level must be used as fully as possible, with particular emphasis on archival investment and development, the involvement of national cultural institutions, institutions of learning and the Department of Education and Skills.

The Group considers that the initiatives detailed below merit support by Government:

- Ensuring that Irish cultural institutions that house material most relevant to the period - principally the National Archives, the National Library, the Military Archives and the National Museum - continue to play a central role in exploring and explaining the history of this period;
- The release of all remaining military service pension files in the Military Archives' files, with the aim that the entire collection is freely available online by January 2019;
- Ensuring that personal papers of key figures from the period in the National Library of Ireland, universities, local and regional repositories and elsewhere are progressively identified for digitisation and made freely available online. There are relevant materials retained in the British National Archives in Kew and efforts should be made to ensure that this material is made available;
- Ensuring that the range of commemorative events and media generated by this decade of reflection, including photographs, film, websites and digital archives, in addition to paper-based ephemera, continue to be captured for posterity and archived in the National Library of Ireland. We are also conscious that we have a responsibility towards ensuring that a younger generation of students are familiar with the events of this decade and that history at all levels of education needs to be a core part of the curricula.

Tá muid aireach freisin go bhfuil freagracht orainn as cinnte a dhéanamh go mbeidh glúin óg de mhic léinn ar an eolas faoi imeachtaí na ndeich mbliana sin agus creideann muid gur gá go mbeadh an stair, ag gach leibhéal oideachais, ag croílár na gcuraclam.

TIONSCADAIL CHAIPITIL AGUS MEABHRÚCHÁIN BHUANA

As forbairt tionscadal comórtha caipitil Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán go dtí seo, d'eascair infreastruchtúr comórtha suntasach a bhí de dhíth agus a rachaidh chun tairbhe do na saoránaigh go léir ar feadh blianta fada amach romhainn. Tá sé fíorthábhachtach go leanfar ar aghaidh le cistiú dá leithéid de thionscadail ach freisin nach mbeidh na tionscadail chaipitil teoranta do Bhaile Átha Cliath, go háirithe i bhfianaise a thábhachtaí is a bhí na heispéiris réigiúnacha le linn Chogadh na Saoirse agus an Chogaidh Chathartha.

Ós rud é gur scriosadh Oifig na dTaifead Poiblí ag tús Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann, molaimid go ndéanfar infheistíocht chaipitil leis an gCarltann Náisiúnta a athchóiriú go hiomlán, agus go mbreathnófar ar Stóras Comhroinnte Náisiúnta d'fhonn cumhdach agus rochtain bhuan a chinntiú do na bailiúcháin náisiúnta.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PERMANENT REMINDERS

The development of the Decade of Centenaries commemorative capital projects to date has led to welcome and significant commemorative infrastructure, which will benefit all citizens for decades to come. It is essential that funding of such projects continues but also that the capital projects are not confined to Dublin, especially given the importance of the regional experiences during the War of Independence and Civil War.

Given that the start of the Irish Civil War brought the destruction of the Public Records Office, we recommend capital investment to fully refurbish the National Archives, and consideration for a National Shared Store to ensure permanent safekeeping and access for the national collections.

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN, IONCHUIMSITHEACHT AGUS COMÓRADH ÁITIÚIL

Tar éis na gcomhairliúchán poiblí ar éirigh go han-mhaith leo mar chuid d'*Éire 2016: Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain*, beidh an Grúpa ag dul i gcomhairle go forleathan le scoláirí, ollscoileanna, comhlachtaí oideachais agus cultúrtha, gailearaithe, leabharlanna, cartlanna, músaeim, cumainn stairiúla áitiúla agus coistí. Tá muid sásta smaointe agus moltaí a fháil uathu sin chomh maith le daoine aonair. Fáiltíonn muid roimh thaighde bunaidh ag leibhéal áitiúil agus náisiúnta, ag tabhairt aitheantais i rith an ama do na féiniúlachtaí agus traidisiúin éagsúla atá mar chuid de stair oileán na hÉireann agus Éireannaigh ar fud an domhain. Aithníonn muid an tábhacht mhór a bhain go dtí

CONSULTATION, INCLUSIVENESS AND LOCAL COMMEMORATION

Following from the very successful public consultations that took place as part of the *Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme*, the Group will consult widely with scholars, universities, educational and cultural bodies, galleries, libraries, archives, museums, local historical associations and committees. We are happy to receive suggestions and ideas from these as well as from individuals. We welcome original research at local and national level, at all times acknowledging the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the historic story of the island of Ireland and Irish people worldwide. We acknowledge the critical importance of local authorities in the commemorations to date and

seo le húdaráis áitiúla sna cuimhneacháin agus an gá atá ann go leanfaidh siad lena gcuid oibre agus go dtacófar leo ina ról. Ba chóir don Stát leanúint ar aghaidh ag tacú le bearta comórtha áitiúla agus contae d'fhonn tuiscint stairiúil ar shuntas na n-imeachtaí atá á gcomóradh a leathnú agus a neartú i measc an phobail mhóir, lena n-áirítear, mar shampla, trí thaispeántais chuimsitheacha a spreagadh. Ba cheart go leanfadh obair na n-údarás áitiúil na prionsabail atá leagtha amach sa ráiteas seo freisin.

Aithnímid freisin an luach ríthábhachtach a bhaineann le tionscnaíocht áitiúil agus chomh tábhachtach is atá sé go dtacófar leis trí chomhoibriú leanúnach idir institiúidí agus forais chultúir, ar bhonn náisiúnta agus áitiúil, lena n-áirítear trí chomhthaispeántais, acmhainní áirithe a chomhroinnt, léachtaí ó aíonna, agus iasachtaí sealadacha. Léireodh sé sin go follasach tacaíocht an Stáit do bhearta comórtha áitiúla agus contae agus thacódh sé leis an obair shármhaith a dhéanann údaráis átiúla agus iad ag forbairt cuimhneacháin chuimistheacha bunaithe ar shaoránaigh.

B'fhéidir gurb é an bealach is fearr leis an tuiscint sin ar chomhthéacs a bhaint amach ná trí staidéar agus plé ar an bhfianaise stairiúil ar stair shóisialta, chultúrtha, pholaitiúil agus mhíleata mhuintir na hÉireann - i measc a dteaghlaigh, a bpobail agus réimsí gaolmhara - le linn na ndeich mbliana cinniúnacha sin. Spreagfadh sé sin daoine, scoileanna, cumainn thiomnaithe agus eagraíochtaí le fiosrú a dhéanamh ar an bhfianaise stairiúil ar an méid a bhí ag tarlú ina dteaghlaigh, pobail agus ceantair áitiúla féin le linn na tréimhse 1917 - 1923. Mar sin, ba ionann teagmháil ghníomhach fhorleathan leis an bpobal sa dara céim seo den chomóradh agus, mar a bhí go dtí seo, eispéireas phobail in Éirinn le linn na mblianta 1917- 1923 a phlé.

the need for them to continue their work and to be supported in their role. The State should continue to support local and county commemorative exercises to widen and deepen a historical understanding of the significance of the events being commemorated among the public at large, including, for example, by encouraging rounded exhibitions. The work of local authorities should also follow the principles as set out in this statement.

We also recognise the essential value of local initiative and the importance of supporting it by continued collaboration between cultural institutions and bodies, nationally and locally, including through joint exhibitions, the sharing of certain resources, guest lectures, and temporary loans. This would tangibly demonstrate the State's support for local and county commemorative exercises and would underpin the excellent work undertaken by local authorities developing inclusive, citizen-focused commemorations.

This sense of context may best be achieved by encouraging the study and exploration of the historical evidence for the social, cultural, political and military history of Irish people - in their families, communities and associational worlds – during the decisive decade. In effect, this would encourage individuals, schools, dedicated societies and organisations to investigate the historical evidence for what was actually happening in their own families, communities and localities during the period 1917- 1923. Thus, the leitmotiv of widespread public engagement in this second phase of commemoration would be, as has been the case to date, exploring the lived experience of communities in Ireland during the revolutionary years 1917 – 1923.

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