

COUNCIL PRINCIPLES

The Council has agreed that the following principles should be used in marking events during this Decade:

- Events supported by the Council should provide opportunities to include a range of different perspectives and ideologies, rather than a single viewpoint, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of other perspectives and identities
- They should be based on historic accuracy, robust academic expertise and critical analysis – engagement with universities, museums, libraries, PRONI etc is essential to ensure this evidence base
- The interpretation of events should be in a broad historical context and understanding of the national and European setting of the time
- The Council should develop strong links with other institutions – i.e. museums, libraries, PRONI and other relevant organisations, to ensure that there is no duplication and that events and programmes are complementary
- We will provide/support a range of different types of events – from lectures, discussions, debates to films, drama, activities that attract schools and children/families etc – so that events can not only be educational but participative, creative and enjoyable
- We will provide/support events and activities that are not exclusive but are welcoming to all sections of our increasingly diverse community in Belfast.
- The Council, committed both to the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations in the City, will not support events or activities that could be deemed to be triumphalist, to deepen or harden existing divisions, or belittle or demonise other groups*.

(*Adapted from Irish School of Ecumenics, *Moving Beyond Sectarianism* research)

These principles will apply to any key anniversaries being marked by the Council.