Abbreviations and glossary

CBT  cognitive behavioural therapy – one of a number of psycho-social interventions combining behavioural and cognitive approaches to counselling or therapy, which is underpinned by a distinctive set of principles and practices, and an extensive evidence base.

DHSS  Department of Health and Social Services – Northern Ireland’s health and social care department up until 1999.

DHSSPS  Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety – the abbreviation used from 1999 until 2016 to refer to Northern Ireland’s health and social care department.

loyalism  A term used to refer to the political movement that promotes the union of Northern Ireland with Britain. The term is often used interchangeably with ‘unionism’.

nationalism  A term used to refer to the political movement that aspires to a unified and autonomous Ireland. The term is often used interchangeably with ‘republicanism’.


NICCTT  Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation (2002–2011) – established to develop and deliver a programme for the treatment of trauma-related disorders related to the Troubles. Based in Omagh, the Centre also had programmes for research, training and education, policy and advocacy, and humanitarian relief.

NISHS  Northern Ireland Study of Health and Stress – undertaken by the Ulster University in 2005–2008 as one the World Mental Health Survey Initiative series of national studies. The NISHS
was funded by the Research and Development Office of Northern Ireland’s health department.

**OFMDFM** Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister – the central administrative department of Northern Ireland governing Executive. The term was used from 1999 until 2016.

**paramilitaries** The term widely used in Northern Ireland to refer to non-state armed groups.

**psycho-social** An approach to the physical and mental well-being of individuals that seeks to promote wellness and functioning through an understanding of their psychological difficulties and strengths, along with an understanding of their family and other relationships, and their social and economic circumstances.

**PTSD** post-traumatic stress disorder – a specific psychological disorder which includes as one of its essential criteria that a person must have had a traumatic experience. This means the concept is particularly useful for understanding and responding to the needs of people who have been affected by life threatening or other traumatic experiences, as well as understanding the impact of commonly experienced stressors (such as those caused by war and violent conflict) on populations.

**republicanism** A term used to refer to the political movement that aspires to a unified and autonomous Ireland. The term is often used interchangeably with ‘nationalism’.

**SEUPB** Special European Union Programme Body: the body established in 1995 following the ceasefires by armed groups and which later became one of six cross-border bodies – subsequent to the Belfast Agreement of 1998. The role of the SEUPB was to manage cross-border European Union Structural Funds programmes in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and parts of western Scotland. Its programmes included PEACE I, II, II and IV, which were made available by EU donors with additional funding from the British and Irish Governments, along with other European Structural Funds such as Interreg I, II, III and IV.

**the Troubles** The term widely used in Northern Ireland to refer to the period of civil conflict that is generally agreed to have commenced in 1969. Some consider the year of the Belfast Agreement (1998) to be the end of the Troubles. Since the Agreement, the general level of violence has reduced.
considerably. However, others, noting that people have been killed and otherwise seriously affected by violence since the Agreement, take the view that the end of the Troubles has not yet been reached (i.e. by 2017).

UU  The Ulster University (previously known as the University of Ulster).

unionism A term used to refer to the political movement that promotes the union of Northern Ireland with Britain. The term is often used interchangeably with 'loyalism'.