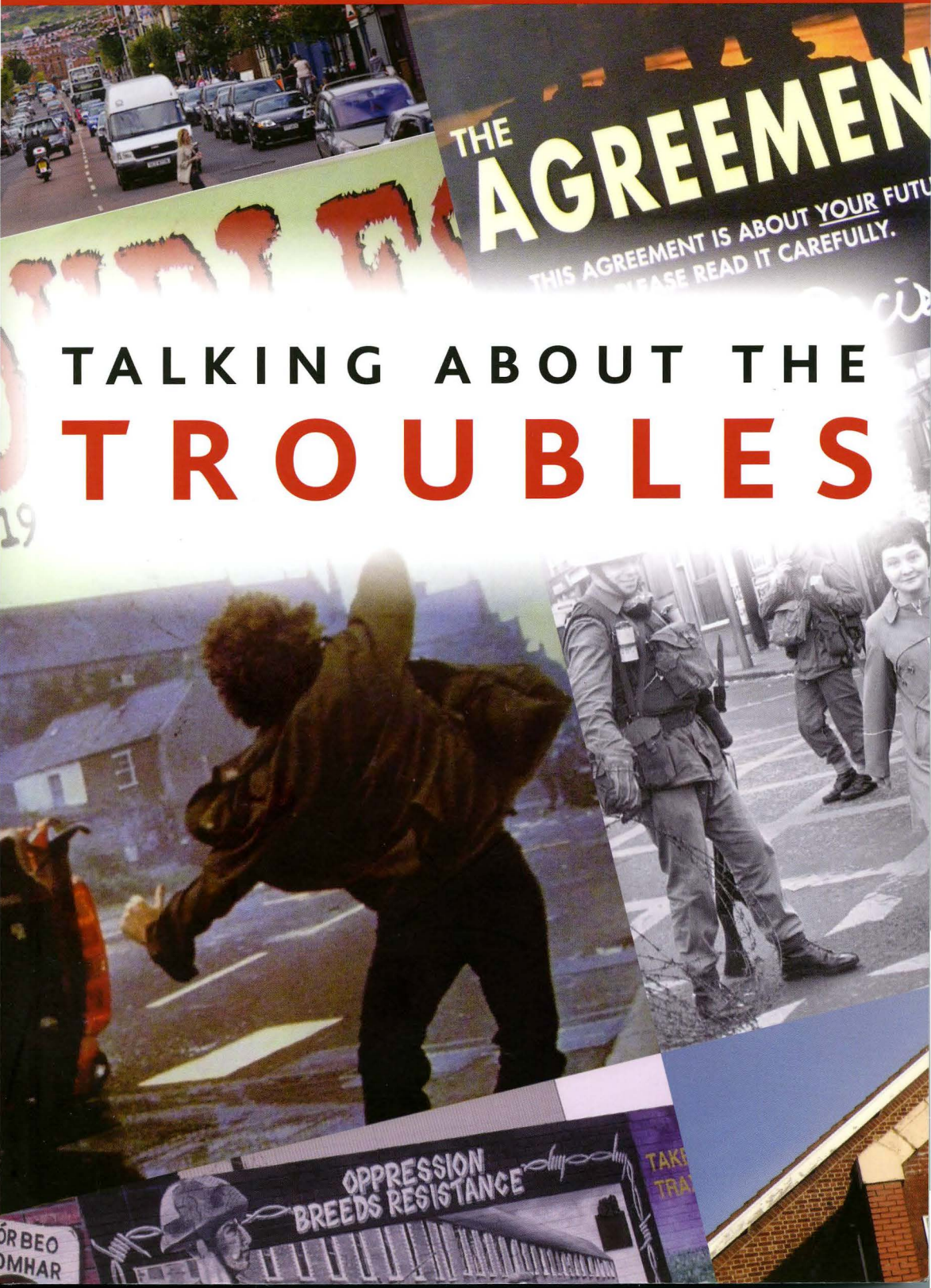


FORTHSPRING 5 DECADES PROJECT



THE
AGREEMENT
THIS AGREEMENT IS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.
PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

TALKING ABOUT THE
TROUBLES

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Forthspring has worked since 1997 to build relationships between neighbouring Protestant and Catholic communities in West Belfast. The *5 Decades Project* grew out of a desire to examine these communities' very different experience of living through the 'Troubles', with the goal of developing a shared, but not agreed, account of the conflict and its impact.

Experiences and memories were gathered through storytelling in small groups from the same community background, roughly structured around the 5 decades beginning with the 1960s. There were also opportunities to share and hear stories from other communities. Over 150 people have taken part.

This publication contains 80 stories, drawn from individual interviews initially shared in larger groups. Participants were drawn mainly from the communities along the Springfield Road – the majority women – many of whom recalled the start of the Troubles. Accordingly, there is an emphasis on the 1970s in the stories though they stretch across the 5 Decades.

'Fascinating and poignant'. *Claire Hackett, Dúchas Oral History Archive.*

'Stories that will educate, move and inspire you'. *Tony Macaulay, author of 'Paperboy'.*

Comments on the 5 Decades exhibition:

'Interesting and informative'; 'excellent display of community history'; 'wonderful exhibition, so important our history is passed on'; 'excellent exhibition, a fine slice of oral history'; 'moving, funny and informative'; 'a real insight into people's lives'; 'captures the times'.

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