



COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE
COUNTY MEATH · 2026

DELEGATE INFORMATION PACK

The Katie Trust

*Seeking answers for families whose loved ones died by
suspected suicide, accident or disappearance.*

Advocating for bereaved families across the UK and Ireland
Shining a light on hidden homicides

WHO WE ARE

Every family deserves the truth about how their loved one died.

The Katie Trust was established on **18 July 2025** to stand alongside families in the UK and Ireland who are left with unanswered questions after the death or disappearance of someone they love.

Too often, a death is recorded as suicide, as an accident or as unexplained, and the questions that remain are never fully examined. We work with families to understand what happened, to scrutinise the evidence, and to press the relevant authorities for the answers they are entitled to.

120+

families currently seeking
our help

2025

founded on 18 July 2025

UK & IE

working with families on
both sides of the Irish Sea

In little over a year, more than 120 families have come to us. That is not a caseload. It is a warning.



THE KATIE TRUST ADDRESSING THE MEDIA

Hidden homicides: deaths that are never properly investigated.

A hidden homicide is an unlawful killing that goes unrecognised. The death is recorded as suicide, as an accident or as an unexplained disappearance, so no one is held to account and the family is left without the truth.

The number of families contacting the Trust points to a **growing and largely unseen problem** in the UK and Ireland, and to structural gaps in the coronial system both jurisdictions rely on.

01

Early assumptions

When a death is treated as non-suspicious from the outset, crucial evidence can be lost in the first hours and days, and may never be recovered.

02

Limits of the inquest

An inquest establishes who died, and when, where and how. It cannot determine criminal or civil liability, so serious questions can be left unasked.

03

Families left outside

Bereaved families often have limited access to evidence, legal support or independent review, and struggle to challenge an official finding.

04

No clear picture

Without consistent review and reporting of contested deaths, the true scale of hidden homicide in the UK and Ireland remains unknown.



OUR FOUNDER

Retired D/Sgt James Brannigan

Founder, The Katie Trust

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Families should not have to investigate their own loved one's death.

As a detective I saw how much depends on the first decisions made at the scene of a death. Once a death is labelled suicide or an accident, the chance to gather evidence can pass very quickly and may not come again.

I founded The Katie Trust so that families who know something is wrong have someone with investigative experience on their side.

We are not here to blame individual officers or coroners. We are here to ask the right questions, to make sure every death is properly examined, and to push for a system that gets it right the first time.

Community safety depends on it.

James Brannigan

Getting families' questions answered.

We offer families practical and investigative support, and work to change the system that too often fails them.

Case review

We go through the circumstances of each death with the family and set out the questions that have not been answered.

Advocacy

We raise families' questions with An Garda Síochána, UK police services, coroners and other authorities, and follow them up.

Family support

We explain inquests, reviews and reopening processes, and stay with families through each stage.

Specialist connections

We connect families with legal, forensic and other specialists who can help take their case forward.

Awareness

We work with media, communities and public bodies to bring hidden homicides into public view.

Reform

We campaign for stronger death investigation and coronial processes in the UK and Ireland.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Community safety starts with asking the right questions.

Everyone at this conference, from community groups and Gardaí to local services and elected representatives, can help make sure no death goes unexamined.

- 1 Treat every unexplained death as a question to be answered, not a conclusion already reached.
- 2 Listen to families. They often notice what others miss.
- 3 Refer families with unanswered questions to The Katie Trust.
- 4 Support calls for reform of the coronial and death investigation systems.



Contact The Katie Trust

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