

NIBN Café Conversations Event – Feedback Summary

We received 26 responses from people who attended the event. Over half of those who responded (65%) said they felt the event was ‘excellent’ and 27% said the event was ‘good’¹. In addition, 22 attendees said that they would like to stay in touch with us.

Q1 What did you like about the Cafe conversation session

Speakers

Several respondents praised the speakers at the event. They said the speakers were clear on the aim of event and that *“the background information shared helped keep discussions factual and on point.”* One person said they felt the event was well organised and kept on time.

Learning and discussion

Many said that they liked learning more about the subject area and work of the NIBN. They felt the event was “informative and thought provoking” and that it was great that *“bereavement is finally being talked about in Northern Ireland”*.

Another key area the attendees enjoyed were the group discussions. They felt the discussions were engaging and productive and that they could contribute meaningfully to the conversation. It was also mentioned by some that they liked having the opportunity to discuss grief and bereavement with a diverse group of people. They said that everyone felt included and had a chance to be heard. One person said that the event was a *“brilliant way to get people engaged”*.

Hybrid Event

Some attendees expressed that they enjoyed the hybrid nature of the event, having the opportunity to be there in person or online. One of those who took part in the online event said that although they were not in the room they felt *“really involved and included”* and they didn’t feel they had missed out not being present in person.

Q2 How would you improve the session?

Issues with online sessions

Several attendees raised issues with the online sessions. They said there were technical issues, and that some groups had too small numbers to have a meaningful discussion and that it was *“difficult getting other participants to discuss the topics”*.

¹ Respondents could rate their experience of the event, excellent, good, average, not great or poor.

For others they said that the discussions “*didn’t stay focussed*” and that “*it was sometimes less clear how discussion tied into the questions that had been highlighted immediately prior to the breakout session.*” One person said their group spent too long introducing themselves and not enough time discussing. Another felt that the event should only have been in person.

Longer Event

Three people said they felt the event could have been longer to allow for more discussion. One of these people said they would have liked to take part in the education and web design sessions.

Who attended

It was suggested that there should have been more diverse groups of people attending. The feedback said that there was an imbalance with more professionals than the general public present. Other suggestions were that there could have been the inclusion of lived experiences in the presentations.

Q3 What one big thing has stood out for you today?

Importance of Grief and Bereavement

Most attendees said what stood out to them most was the importance of this work. They said they were happy that this subject was getting recognition and were glad that so many people were interested in the area. Some said they were excited for this work to progress and for the strategy to be implemented. A few spoke about how wide reaching the topic is.

Agreement

Some said that they were pleased that so many people had the same commitment and enthusiasm for the work. One person said that although there were many different views, everyone was ultimately working towards the same goal.

Other

Smaller numbers of people said that they felt more informed after the event and some praised the event organisation, particularly to the discussions. Some said they were happy to have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from across NI.