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## Bringing Home the Bodies of Those Who Drown Abroad: The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust

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*Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust (N. Ireland)*

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## Bringing Home the Bodies of Those Who Drown Abroad:

The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust

Colin Bell (Northern Ireland)

The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust

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### **Background**

The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust is a non-profit charity set up by the Bell Family, from Newry, in memory of their son and brother Kevin who was killed in a hit and run incident in New York in June 2013.

### **Aim of the Trust**

The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust aims to alleviate the financial hardship of bereaved families repatriating the body (bodies) of loved one(s) who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances back to Ireland. KBRT have now repatriated over 560 loved ones to their families in Ireland since its inception in June 2013, averaging 15-20 per month, from as far away as Australia, Argentina, Canada, Cambodia, Ecuador and the USA to name just a few, to every county in Ireland.

The Trust operates on a 32-county-basis for all sides of the community regardless of creed, colour, and circumstances of death. KBRT are here to help the families who receive the devastating news that a loved one has passed away abroad. When they don't know who to turn to we can take it out of their hands, make the arrangements to get them home and pay all costs.

### **Objectives of the Trust**

- To provide financial assistance to bereaved families to repatriate the body (or bodies) of a loved one(s) who died outside Ireland.
- To maintain the Trust as a permanent legacy of Kevin Bell.
- To sustain the Trust by having on-going fundraising activities.
- To recruit members of the Trust to sustain its purpose and ideas



Colin and Eithne Bell from Newry, County Down, Northern Ireland lost their 26-year-old son in a hit-and-run incident in New York in 2013. The problems which they faced bringing their son's body home spurred them to found the repatriation trust so that no family would have to endure what they did.