

# **BRITAIN & IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE**

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# BRITAIN & IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

**Restoration of the IRA ceasefire and the commitment of British and Irish governments to facilitate an inclusive talks process have dramatically improved prospects for a lasting peace in Ireland.**

International experience of conflict resolution shows that a democratic accommodation can only succeed in removing the barriers of mistrust if it builds upon consent by creating a shared vision of the future. It is our conviction that if violence is to be removed from politics irrevocably, then the shaping of an agreed Ireland and the creation of a human rights environment must go hand in hand.

The primacy of military security that has shaped the political agenda in Northern Ireland for more than a quarter of a century needs to be superceded by a new ethos that can only be developed in the course of fundamental structural change.

Mutual respect for different identities requires addressing the legacy of past discrimination and creating a new equal rights and opportunities framework for the protection and participation of individuals and their communities. The starting point must be a programme of confidence- building measures designed to remove obstacles to progress.

Miscarriages of justice and the erosion of civil and political rights has undermined the rule of law in Britain and throughout Ireland. The Irish community in Britain, numerically its largest ethnic minority, has yet to achieve the recognition and respect that is commensurate with a commitment to pluralism. It is our belief that the presently constituted three-stranded talks should herald a process of renewal in both jurisdictions and a thoroughgoing modernisation of Anglo-Irish relations.

The **BRITAIN & IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE** is a London-based non-governmental organisation established to monitor, promote and extend human rights protection in the context of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland.

Since its formation in 1992, the Centre has played a lead role in many successful campaigns and achieved widespread recognition for its work. The Centre has engaged in all fields of human rights advocacy, promoting international standards for social and economic justice as well as civil and political rights. It has brought the human rights agenda to bear upon the politics of Northern Ireland and put conflict-related issues onto the international arena.

### **CONFIDENCE-BUILDING PROJECT**

The Centre is currently engaged in promoting an integrated programme of confidence-building measures to assist the development of the peace process. The programme calls for immediate revocation of the legal state of emergency and practical steps to dismantle the regime of special powers; urgent action on prisoners and policing; further progress on fair employment and equality of treatment.

### **RAPPORTEUR**

The *Rapporteur* is a monthly international digest providing critical texts and commentary relevant to human rights protection and conflict resolution in Northern Ireland. It contains reports from the United Nations and other international agencies; gives advance notification of academic and NGO activities; following current debates about all aspects of the confidence-building project.

In addition to servicing human rights lobbyists, the *Rapporteur* is an invaluable resource for media organisations, law firms, university departments, trade unions and political parties.

### **FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE**

Individuals and organisations that support the cause of human rights can identify with and sustain this vital work by becoming Friends of the Centre. Supporters of the scheme are kept in touch with the work of the Centre, are invited to special events and receive a quarterly newsletter.

# BRITAIN & IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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## ACTIVITIES

- Systematic collection of information through monitoring press and media, conducting interviews, observing court proceedings and parliamentary debates, participating in conferences and seminars
- Research to analyse data and determine trends, to draw from international experience and identify appropriate responses at a domestic and international level
- Commissioning authoritative reports and discussion papers, briefings, submissions and presentations, targeting press and publicity towards critical opinion formers and legislators
- networking to develop effective forms of co-operation with other organisations in the field and specialist agencies, exchanging information and seeking practical collaboration for the enhancement of human rights protection
- Campaigning for individuals and groups who feel their rights or the rights of others are under threat; helping to identify human rights issues, providing information about international protection, developing strategies to seek remedy

## FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE

If you agree with the aims of the Centre, why not join its supporter network? By becoming a "Friend", you can contribute financially and keep up to date with developments in this field.

Annual rates:	Individuals	£20.00	Affiliates	£25.00
	Unwaged	£10.00	Life member	£500.00

## RAPPORTEUR

Make sure you have the full facts by subscribing to the Rapporteur, a monthly digest of information on human rights and Ireland.

Annual rates:	Individuals/NGOs	£50.00
	Corporate bodies	£100.00

Fill in and **RETURN** the attached form. For information contact:

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