

## About IRISH NORTHERN AID

### Who We Are

Irish Northern Aid is an American-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization, which supports a free and independent 32 county Ireland — a united Ireland of equals. The Irish struggle embodies universal principles of freedom, independence and justice that appeal to all peoples.

### Our Mission

We work to build U.S. support for the Irish Peace Process and full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. We seek to mobilize public opinion and the U.S. government to pressure the British government to leave Ireland to the Irish, including the withdrawal of all British troops from the country.

In the U.S. we stand for an unbiased U.S. visa policy. Specifically, we want an end to the U.S. policy of deportations of Irish-American families whose only crime was to fight for Irish freedom. Additionally, we oppose any British-U.S. Extradition Treaty which would allow the deportation of U.S. citizens without judicial review, the use of secret evidence, or other violations of the Constitution.

We raise funds for non-profit groups in Ireland working for peace and justice. Current groups we support include: **Coiste na n-Iarchimi** coordinates self-help and mutual aid projects of former Irish Republican prisoners and their families. **An Fhirinne — The Truth Campaign Relatives Group** seeks full disclosure by the British government of its participation and actions in collusion cases with Loyalist paramilitary death squads. They also seek the dismantling of the structures and agencies which allowed collusion practices to go unchecked.

### Building on Past Successes

For four decades Irish Northern Aid has been in the forefront in winning support for the struggle of the nationalist community in the north of Ireland. We have organized support for Irish political prisoners and raised funds for their reintegration into civil society as they left prison. We have assisted family members of those killed in political violence. We have helped mobilize U.S. support at critical turning points, from the early stages of the “troubles” in the early 1970’s, to Hunger Strikes of 1981 and the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.



## Irish Northern Aid Committee

*Why we continue to support the Irish struggle for freedom and justice . . . and how you can help.*

**YES! I'm interested in more information about INAC activities and events.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## Political Transformation in the north of Ireland

On May 8th 2007 Irish Republicans embarked on a new road, one not foreseen by many when the Good Friday Agreement was hammered out 10 years ago. With a ceremonial hand shake between Martin McGuinness from Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party, the power sharing government in the north of Ireland was reestablished.

Each and every day representatives of the parties in the government of the north meet to solve problems and deliver effective governance. Budgets are approved, investment strategy is worked on and sustainable institutions are built. Some of the all-Ireland institutions outlined in the Good Friday Agreement are up and running. All of this occurs with Sinn Fein representatives placing equality at the heart of decision making in the north of Ireland for the first time since the British partitioned Ireland in 1921.

While the Northern Assembly is functioning today, London has suspended it three times since the Good Friday Agreement was signed and there are no guarantees that the Unionists will not withdraw again.

## Road Blocks Still Exist

**Dismantling the effects of decades of discrimination**, repression and state terror, poverty, sectarianism and conflict on the streets is no small challenge, and steps that can be taken are often met with opposition.

**Thousands of British troops are still stationed in the six counties** of the north of Ireland, even though they no longer actively patrol the streets of nationalist communities.

**Efforts aimed at creating a nonsectarian police force** that is directly controlled by the Northern Assembly Executive have been mired in obstructionist tactics by British government and Unionist forces.

**The process of conflict resolution is far from over.** There is a need for a truth recovery process that delivers for all victims and survivors. But the British government refuses to cooperate on a number of fronts. They won't turn over files that relate to the killing of civilians including civil rights attorney Pat Finucane. The Saville Inquiry which was formed to investigate the 1972 Bloody Sunday killings is now over ten years old and still no resolution appears in sight. *The British government still will not admit their collusion with Unionist death squads.*

**Ex-prisoners still face many obstacles** to full re-integration into society. Most cannot find work. Punitive laws exist that deny them the right to adopt children, obtain licenses or work in civil-service jobs.

## The All-Ireland Aspects of the Good Friday Agreement

Irish Republicans vision for the future as described in the Easter Proclamation of 1916 emphasizes a commitment to "cherish all the children of the nation equally." The Good Friday Agreement provides many openings to move toward this vision.

**The All-Ireland Ministerial Council is up and running.** Six All-Ireland Implementation bodies have been established. Many recent economic development projects see the border as irrelevant.

Sinn Fein is campaigning to deepen and expand the all-Ireland aspects of the peace process.

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*"Over the years we have looked to our friends in the USA and across the world to support the Irish peace process. . . . without their support we would not have succeeded.*

*As we approach the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising we are asking the Irish Diaspora to put its full weight behind a renewed campaign for Irish reunification."*

Gerry Adams,  
President of Sinn Fein, February 2008

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## Our current goals

- **Pressure the U.S. government to support the ongoing Peace Process.**  
The U.S. needs to pressure London to remove all troops from Ireland, to devolve policing and justice functions to the Executive in the north of Ireland, and cooperate with the conflict resolution process that so sorely needs to be advanced.
- Support Sinn Fein's efforts to expand the all-Ireland aspects of the Good Friday Agreement so that a united Ireland of equals can exist.
- Oppose the U.S. government's continued drive to harass and in some cases deport Irish immigrants who have fled here over the last 40 years. Former IRA prisoners living in the U.S. continue to face questions about their legal status, including their right to work.

## Join Irish Northern Aid

Visit us at [www.inac.org](http://www.inac.org)  
for information on  
what can be done today.