



NONVIOLENT NEWS

Nonviolence and campaigning news from **INNATE**



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL -

Amnesty International (AI) was founded in 1961 following a newspaper appeal by British lawyer Peter Benenson; today it has over 1,000,000 members, subscribers and regular donors in over 170 countries and there are nationally organised sections in 55 countries (many of these in the South). Its mandate is to campaign to free all prisoners of conscience (people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour or language, who have not used or advocated violence; ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners; end extrajudicial executions and 'disappearances'; oppose abuses by opposition groups including hostage taking and torture.

In the Republic

In the Republic there is a membership of around 8,000 people. There are 48 groups who work on country campaigning, lobbying, fundraising, publicity and may also have their own action file (these 'action files' cover a number of different types of human rights violation, including prisoners of conscience, death penalty dossiers, and 'disappearance' dossiers). There are about 150 school and youth groups and most trade unions are affiliated. There are also a women's network, a religious network, a children's network and an urgent action network for people who are willing to take action urgently on cases where there is fear of torture or an imminent execution or serious health concern. The membership is serviced by the secretariat at 48 Fleet Street, Dublin 2, which centrally looks after home government lobbying and national publicity. A magazine is produced for members every two months (16 pages, A3 size).

Membership is £18 individual, £25 for a couple/household, £6 unwaged individual, £9 unwaged couple, or you can just make a donation.

Amnesty International, Irish Section, 48 Fleet Street, Dublin 2 or phone 01 - 677 6361 / fax 01 - 677 6392. E-mail: ai-ir@amnesty.gn.apc.org

In the North

There are nearly 900 members of Amnesty International and membership is increasing rapidly; the NI Region operates as part of the UK section of Amnesty. The possibility of establishing a number of new groups is being investigated. One major development is an Amnesty NI Children's Action Network to raise public awareness about the child victims of human rights abuses and to expose those responsible. They were involved in a substantial campaign about Ken Saro-Wiwa and are calling on people to write to General Sani Abacha, Chairman Provisional Ruling Council, State House, Aso Rock, Abuja, Nigeria, to express their condemnation of his hanging.

AI, Northern Ireland Region, can be contacted c/o 1 Ardfern, Saul Road, Downpatrick, Co Down BT30 6TN (ph 01398 - 613548, this is a home phone number).

PANA - A new group promoting Irish neutrality

The Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA) is a new grouping in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown constituency which will be highlighting the threats to the Republic's neutrality and anti-nuclear status from current moves in European defence; it will promote a positive and active Irish neutrality and an independent foreign policy. It intends to be broadly based involving peace, environmental and political activists. PANA will be encouraging the establishment of, and networking with, similar groups throughout the country. Further information from: Vincent MacDowell 01 - 2806700; Carol Fox 01 - 2808247. Carol Fox's briefing paper (referred to the last Nonviolent News), entitled 'European Defence Debate', is available from PANA at Box No 55, Dun Laoghaire PO, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

WOMEN TOGETHER

Women Together are launching their next "Friendship Seat" in memory of all victims of the troubles, in Victoria Park, East Belfast on Thursday 14th December at 11 am; all welcome. The launch of the annual "Light a Candle on Christmas Eve" campaign is on Thursday 21st December; every family in NI is asked to place a candle in their window on Christmas Eve and spare a thought or prayer for all those families facing Christmas without a loved one, a victim of sectarian violence. Display posters to promote this are available from the Women Together office. Women Together are also currently taking 1996 bookings for the display of their NI Peace Quilt; phone Pat Campbell at the office for details. Women Together, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone 01232 - 662753.

PAX CHRISTI

The annual Peace Mass will be held on Sunday January 28th with Bishop Dermot O'Mahony; contact office for details. As part of Pax Christi's ongoing work on landmines, Dr Pierre Ryckmans from Belgium recently came to Dublin as a guest of Pax Christi and addressed a public meeting. Belgium is the first country to introduce legislation banning the manufacture, importation, and exportation of anti-personnel mines (i.e. this is a legislative measure not a temporary moratorium). PC would like to persuade other countries to do the same.... For information on landmines or on Pax Christi work in general, contact: 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Tel 4965293/ Fax 4965492.

BEHOLD THE LAMB

A 8-day silent eucharistic adoration retreat on Christian nonviolent love, with Emmanuel Charles McCarthy (a Byzantine priest, former lawyer, and co-founder of Pax Christi USA), will take place from 17th - 23rd March 1996 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock. There is a £20 booking fee and after that retreatants give according to what they can afford to cover meals and accommodation. Enquiries to Margaret de Brún, 50 Upper Mountpleasant Avenue, Dublin 6. Tel. 01 - 497 8257.

LOYALIST PARADES

"Political Rituals: Loyalist Parades in Portadown" by Dominic Bryan, T G Fraser and Seamus Dunn is published by the Centre for the Study of Conflict, University of Ulster (ISBN 1 85923 002 4), 74 pages. This traces the evolving significance and political complexities of parades in one particular location, concentrating on the period 1985-6. It is available from the Centre for the Study of Conflict, University of Ulster, Coleraine, (Phone 01265 - 44141 ext 4666) at £4 plus postage.

'AIM TO SUSTAIN' - Northern grants for sustainability projects

A grant fund to help implement projects which promote more environmentally sustainable lifestyles has been launched by NI Environment Link; it will provide grants of between £100 and £5,000 for community groups, schools, youth organisations or businesses to implement new projects designed to encourage people to change the way people live so as to do less environmental damage. Deadline for receipt of project proposals is the end of February 1996. Further information from; NI Environment Link, 47a Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JL, phone 01232 - 314944 / fax 01232 - 311558.

CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK

This is a British-based network of Christians, with some members in Ireland, dedicated to spreading Green insights in the Church and offering Christian insights to the Green movement: it runs campaigns, conferences and local groups, provides information to individuals. Fr Sean McDonagh is one of the patrons. Membership is £12 a year (£8 unwaged) which includes their quarterly magazine "Green Christians" (sub only for the magazine £8) to: Christian Ecology Link, 20 Carlton Road, Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG2 8DD (or phone 01423 -871616).

STAD - Stop THORP Alliance Dundalk

This is a support group for the four Irish people taking legal action against British Nuclear Fuels over potential danger posed by the extension of the Sellafield Reprocessing Facility in Cumbria - THORP - on the grounds that this does not comply with EU law. Their case will be heard on 23rd January. STAD are petitioning the Irish government for funding and need help to get signatures. STAD, Backhouse Centre, Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, Co Louth, Phone 042 - 27571. [Source: Green Newsletter, November 1995]

INNATE Networking meeting, Belfast

The next INNATE networking meeting in Belfast is this Thursday 7th December at 7.30 pm in Quaker House, 7 University Avenue, Belfast 7. All welcome. Business includes setting up the seminar on training for early 1996 - plus your concerns if you're there! Queries to Rob at 01232 - 647106 (phone/fax).