



RESOURCES ON IRISH PEACE HISTORY

@ **LEX INNOCENTIUM 21ST CENTURY CONFERENCE, BIRR,**
21ST SEPTEMBER 2024 – INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

There are a wide variety of materials available, most of the following readily available, some harder to locate. Dip your toe in where you like and follow it up.....

▲ **The Law of the Innocents, 697 CE:** There are three publications on this topic in the last couple of decades, including two by conference speaker (and Birr man) James Houlihan - "**Adomnán's Lex Innocentium and the Laws of War**", Four Courts Press, 240 pages, 2020, <https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2020/lex-adomnan/> is priced at €40 but there is also a shorter version, "**The Great Law of Birr**", 2023, priced at €10; this has illustrations by Caroline Conway and is available from Offaly Historical Society.

▲ "**Adomnán at Birr AD 697 – Essays in commemoration of the Law of the Innocents**", ed. Thomas O'Loughlin was published by the Four Courts Press in 2001. It includes chapters by Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha on 'Birr and the Law of the Innocents', Maire Herbert on 'The World of Adomnán', Thomas O'Loughlin on 'Adomnán: A man of Many Parts', and 'The Law of Adomnán: A Translation' by Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha. 77 pages. ISBN 1-85182-538-x

▲ Richard Harrison/Risteárd Mac Anraoi wrote "**Irish Anti-War Movements 1824 – 1974**" in 1986 (in English), a relatively short book for International Year of Peace (out of print) and "**Stair na Síochána in Éirinn**" on the history of peace in Ireland from early to modern times, written in Irish (Coiscéim, 2023, 300 pages, excellent value at €20). The latter book is reviewed at <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/2024/07/01/readings-in-nonviolence-stair-na-siochana-in-eirinn-le-risteard-mac-anraoi-is-abolishing-war-possible/>

▲ "**Nonviolence in Irish History**" pamphlet from Dawn, 1978, this classic pamphlet looks at Daniel O'Connell, Quakers, Boycott, Michael Davitt and the Land League, the westward moving Irish in the USA, non-violent action in the early 20th century, and peace groups from the 1920s to the 1970s. Available under Pamphlets (click on 'Much more') on the INNATE website or go to <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/pamphlets/>

▲ "**Nonviolence – the Irish Experience – Quiz**": Copy given to those attending the Birr conference, it was first compiled 35 years ago.... Short and impressionistic look at the topic. Available online at <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/resources/>

▲ **Listing of peace groups** in Ireland since the 19th century: <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Irish-peace-groups-listing-2024.08.pdf> This 15 page listing, "**Peace groups in Ireland through the years**", refers to links and resources including on Quaker peacemaking (something well covered in Risteárd Mac Anraoi's work above).

▲ **INNATE's photo and documentation site** is at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland> and the easiest way to access photos/material on particular topics there is through clicking on 'Albums'. Album topics include Afri, Bishops court Peace Camp, Churches' Peace Education Programme, Conflict Textiles, Corrymeela, Dawn, Disarmament and resistance to war including at Shannon, Drumcree Faith and Justice Group, FOR/Fellowship of Reconciliation, Glenree, Irish neutrality, Irish Pacifist Movement, INNATE, Kilcranny House (Coleraine), Mediation, Northern Ireland Peace Forum, Nuclear disarmament including CND, Anti-Nuclear power movement, Pax Christi, Peace People, Peace and Reconciliation Group (Derry), Quaker peace work, Raytheon Derry Campaign, Troubles and peace in Northern Ireland, Witness for Peace, Women Together, World Beyond War Limerick conference. New photos/relevant documents welcome....

▲ "**Nonviolence in Ireland: A Study Guide**" (for individual or group use), also on the INNATE website, has links to Irish peace history <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Nonviolence-in-Ireland-study-guide.pdf>

▲Belfast (motorised) peace trail with chronology of Troubles responses

See <https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/43899692560/in/album-72157676326740807/> (and the entry beside it) which gives a chronology of peace approaches developed in relation to the Troubles in Northern Ireland and was compiled by Emily Stanton.

Peace trails – often walking trails - more generally are a way to bring peace history alive locally, INNATE and Afri produced one for Mayo and INNATE has one that is used regularly for Belfast city centre and Ormeau area (contact INNATE innate@ntlworld.com)

▲**The Troubles general material:** There are some accounts available of aspects of civil society responses to the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland (e.g. on the churches, on the Women's Coalition contribution to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, or the Peace People) but more generally stories have not been told. 'Civil society' here includes community groups, women's groups, trade unions, churches, peace and reconciliation groups, civil liberties/human rights groups, and various pressure groups. Try a word search but for general coverage of the Troubles go to the CAIN archive <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/> The **Peace Monitoring Report** project (2012+) <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/search?query=peace+monitoring+reports> gives detail by detail coverage of changes in the North in relation to a broad perspective on 'peace'.

▲Emily Stanton's book "**Theorising civil society peacebuilding – The practical wisdom of local peace practitioners in Northern Ireland, 1965-2015**" (Routledge, 2021) has a valuable chapter on Northern Troubles peace responses (try libraries/colleges – the book itself is 'academically priced' = astronomical). Reviewed at <https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/2023/04/03/readings-in-nonviolence-practical-wisdom-in-peacemaking/>

▲**Peace periodicals:** A wide variety of groups have produced their own newsletters or periodicals, some of which like '**Corrymeela News**' or the Peace People's '**Peace by Peace**' (both have ceased production) would have had more general reflections on what was happening in society and in relation to peace. With some exceptions (the two above publications may be in some libraries, 'Peace by Peace' is in Queen's University Belfast) these are not readily available and may not be archived. Irish CND produced the detailed '**Disarm**' for a period in the 1980s (under different names, 1980-88). Websites and Facebook/other social media have now generally replaced printed newsletters. Where websites have changed you can try the Way Back machine <https://web.archive.org/> to gaze into the (fairly recent, online) past.

The only generic 'peace publications' of recent times have been '**Dawn**' magazine (1974-85) and INNATE's '**Nonviolent News**' (1990 to date). Dawn produced 107 issues of 'Dawn' magazine and 11 issues of the more nonviolence-focused 'Dawn Train'; some material is available online on the INNATE website (including all issues of 'Dawn Train'). INNATE's 'Nonviolent News' began as a two page newsheet on peace and related issues in both the North and Republic and the paper edition remains two sides; however email and web editions were soon produced and expanded in size. All issues of 'Nonviolent News' are available on the INNATE website (you may need to click on the button for the older website for before 2021).

▲**INNATE webinars on Irish peace movement history** (2021)...a bit rough and ready but there you go....travel to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/51689114275/in/dateposted/> for the links. One looked at peace work in Northern Ireland with speakers Ann Patterson, Anne Carr, Derick Wilson, Geoffrey Corry, Mari Fitzduff and Michael Doherty. Their involvements include the Peace People, Women Together, Corrymeela, Glenree, community relations, and the Peace and Reconciliation Group in Derry. The second looked at international peace work in Ireland with speakers Joe Murray, John Lannon, Patrick Comerford, Peter Emerson, and Sylvia Thompson. Their background includes Afri, Shannonwatch, CND (both in the North and the Republic) and peace and ecology.

▲**Irish neutrality:** Irish international neutrality has been an essential part of a progressive stand by Ireland – but recent governments have tried hard to ditch it as much as possible with a totally sleeveless attitude to the Irish public – and craven submission to the USA (e.g. about Shannon) and cosying up to NATO. Irish neutrality was first spoken of by Wolfe Tone, word search online for de Valera and the League of Nations, Irish rep Seán Lester at the League of Nations, Irish military peacekeeping with the UN, the Irish role in nuclear non-proliferation, and treaties to ban land mines and cluster munitions. More specifically you can look up the website of **PANA/Peace and Neutrality Alliance** www.pana.ie for various material and **Afri's** pamphlet "**A Force for Good: Reflections on Irish neutrality and the future of Irish defence**" <https://www.afri.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Irish-Neutrality-WEB.pdf> – this contains an amazing account of 1950s/1960s (Fianna Fáil) policies of fearless non-alignment under Frank Aiken, written by Karen Devine. See also video at <https://www.afri.ie/category/a-force-for-good-reflections-on-irish-neutrality-documentary/>

