

Irish Americans in Support of the Martin McGuinness Principles

During the darkest days of the 1970's and 1980's, Ireland's conflict in the North seemed unsolvable. Twenty years ago, the Good Friday Agreement brought an end to decades of armed conflict. The most critical skeptics of that time would be hard pressed to deny the many unexpected dividends of the Good Friday Agreement. Men and women who could not, or would not, look past the historical divide saw a way forward. However, a number of crucial commitments provided by the Good Friday Agreement unfortunately have never been fully implemented. Failure to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement hinders further progress in the North of Ireland and the possible unification of the island of Ireland.

Ireland's people made outstanding contributions to the founding of our own great Nation and its principles of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. At this 20 year mark, we proudly recognize America's contribution to the Good Friday Agreement and reaffirm its fundamental Principles of:

Self-determination

Equality

Respect

Truth

in Ireland.

Martin McGuinness's legacy, through his own words, is commemorated in each Principle. As a respected statesman, Martin McGuinness reached across the political, socio-economic and religious divide, stood by the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and committed the remainder of his life to working towards the fulfillment of its goals. In memory of all who brought us this far, we pledge support for the Martin McGuinness Principles.

THE MARTIN MCGUINNESS PRINCIPLES

“I believe we stand on the threshold of great change. Previous generations have struggled for a United Ireland. But our generation has the best opportunity to achieve it.” -Martin McGuinness

(1) EQUALITY

THE ENACTMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS

“We have pressed consistently for the establishment of a Bill of Rights in the North and an all-Ireland Charter of Rights” -Martin McGuinness

(2) RESPECT

FULL STATUTORY EQUALITY FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE:

“Successive British Governments...have totally failed to meet their obligations...to protect the rights of the Irish language community” -Martin McGuinness

(3) TRUTH

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT AND THEIR FAMILIES:

“Dealing with the legacy of the past remains one of the key outstanding challenges of our peace process. Unless it is dealt with in a comprehensive manner then the essential process of healing and reconciliation cannot gain momentum”

“Instead of working constructively to address the hurt and pain caused by the legacy of our recent conflict, the British Government has, at every turn, blocked and frustrated all efforts to reach a solution” -Martin McGuinness

(4) SELF-DETERMINATION

THERE MUST BE A REFERENDUM ON IRISH UNITY TO AFFIRM IRISH

SELF-DETERMINATION:

“There is a democratic imperative to provide Irish citizens with the right to a referendum on Irish unity to end partition and retain a role in the EU.”

“A referendum on Irish unity is part of the process of building a modern and dynamic New Republic on this island – an agreed Ireland achieved by peaceful and democratic means.”

-Martin McGuinness