



traditional unionist
VOICE



2010 WESTMINSTER MANIFESTO



**PUTTING IT
RIGHT!**

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PREFACE BY THE PARTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM ROSS

No one will mourn the passing of the 2005-10 parliament. The sleaze and dishonour brought upon public life by the expenses scandal and the damage done to our public finances by a profligate government combined to make it a parliament of shame. Sadly, the excesses of some local MPs added to the infamy.



Thus, it is right that this Manifesto begins by addressing the crucial issue of 'Probity in Public Office'. I urge a disillusioned public to read this manifesto and see that in Northern Ireland there is one party, Traditional Unionist Voice, which not only shares the values of honest, hard-working people but which has a vision to make all our lives better.

In TUV we tell it as it is. We don't do spin. When convicted terrorists are elevated to the heart and top of government we don't equivocate; when Sinn Fein is permitted to wreck our education system we don't prevaricate; when politicians don't do the job they were elected to do and leave a trail of broken promises we will expose them. We offer straight talking and straightforward politics.

There is much to be done in parliament to put things right in this nation and province, but the starting point has to be the election of honest candidates to replace those who are part of the problem and who collectively have left us both the shambles at Stormont and the disrepute of parliament.

I, therefore, strongly urge you to read this manifesto and then support the candidates seeking election under it.

William Ross

PROBITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

ONE MAN, ONE JOB

Being an MP is a full-time job and is paid as such. Yet in Northern Ireland voters have been short-changed by part-time MPs clinging to the salaries and positions of other conflicting public offices. Many are not only double jobbers, but triple jobbers and more. Every DUP MP double jobs in the Assembly and Peter Robinson and Sammy Wilson are also Executive Ministers.

It's time to give the double and triple jobbers your answer: out with the part-timers on full-time pay. If they haven't thought **you** worthy of full-time representation in Parliament, then **they** are not worthy of your vote. Just as Jim Allister gave Northern Ireland full-time service in Europe so every TUV MP will be required to do likewise in Westminster.



Representing Northern Ireland in Westminster is not a one day a week job to be fitted in when other duties permit, rather it is full-time responsibility.

In the last parliament neglect and double jobbing saw poor performance. Even key votes of national importance were missed. For example, and quite shockingly, Ian Paisley, Iris Robinson and Jeffrey Donaldson were absent when the crucial vote demanding a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty was taken. And, when it came to the vital abortion votes Ian Paisley, Peter Robinson and Jeffrey Donaldson were not in the lobbies to vote to reduce the legal limit from 24 weeks!

Even when some MPs were there they were strangely silent. **When it came to the critical debate on the legislative change which now allows Martin McGuinness to become First Minister, not a single DUP MP spoke up in opposition and not a single vote was forced on the Bill making this dastardly change.**

Not surprisingly Sinn Fein are the biggest fraud taking the expenses without ever turning up, but generally the voting record of Northern Ireland MPs is lamentable. Out of 646 MPs the best return for a local MP is 586th and the worst 628th, with Lady Hermon taking part in only 26% of the votes, Dr McDonnell 22% and Dr Paisley 18%.

Northern Ireland has been failed by its absentee and silent MPs. It's time for change. It's time to vote TUV.

TRANSPARENCY IN EXPENSES

Immense shame has been brought on politics and politicians by the Westminster expenses scandal. Hard-working honest people are disgusted.

Some outgoing Northern Ireland MPs played their part in bringing politics into disrepute. Whether it was Sinn Fein's scandalous £500,000 claim for rent for apartments for their absentee MPs, or Jeffrey Donaldson claiming for hotel movies, or Iris Robinson thinking taxpayers' money should be spent on buying her an expensive Mont Blanc pen and bed, or William McCrea's



lavish walnut desk, or Dr Paisley claiming £23,200 in London food allowance (1/4/04-31/3/09), even when parliament was not sitting, or Mr and Mrs Robinson claiming over £42,507.88 for food (1/4/04-31/12/08), they have all contributed to the rightful public resentment and anger about misuse of taxpayers' hard earned cash.

Now, is your opportunity to pass your verdict. You can do so most effectively by voting TUV – the party which has done most to keep the DUP in check.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Wearied and dismayed by the greed and self-indulgence of double jobbing, the Robinson scandal and the expenses scandal, many honest citizens have said they will never vote again. TUV understands this anger, but it is only by voting against those who have so besmirched politics that you can best make your point and help put things right.

TUV may not be a perfect party, but remember that when the independent Taxpayers Alliance evaluated the voting record and actions of every UK MEP (2004-09) they found that TUV Leader Jim Allister emerged as the top Euro MP from across the whole of the UK when it came to hard work and transparency:

[http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/politics/best-and-worst-meps-revealed-\\$1300787.htm](http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/politics/best-and-worst-meps-revealed-$1300787.htm) . This is the standard set by TUV and required of anyone elected to Parliament.



PRUDENCE IN PUBLIC FINANCES

FIXING OUR BROKEN ECONOMY

TUV believes that UK economic stability must be restored as a priority after the reckless, spendthrift years of Labour Government. Political parties should be honest with the electorate and that is why TUV strongly advocates that government lives within its financial means and makes the necessary structural changes to deal with the economic challenges that lie ahead in an effective but responsible manner.

The single greatest economic challenge facing the UK lies in reducing the massive and unsustainable Public Sector Debt which is standing at £178 billion for 2010. TUV believes that this can only be achieved if there are significant cutbacks across the bloated bureaucracy of government and this means, for example, axing many of the 1162 quangos across the UK currently costing the taxpayer over £1 billion per annum. There is also a need to remove the many non-jobs (e.g. "Diversity and Equality Co-ordinators" and "CCTV Enforcement Manager") that have proliferated under Labour as these are unproductive and pointless. The severity of the prevailing economic climate requires the public sector to tighten its belt just as families do. We must pull together as a nation and share the pain required to put the UK back on the path to recovery.

Though these are difficult times TUV will seek to protect vital front-line services in areas such as Health from cuts and it would achieve this by removing unnecessary layers of administration. For example, the NHS needs fewer pen pushers and more midwives! At the moment midwives are outnumbered almost three to one by administrators and this needs



radical change. The future financial focus should be at the point of delivery and in giving the best quality care by removing superfluous and expensive management levels and enabling our doctors, nurses and frontline support staff to get on with doing their job.

TUV believes that the role of government should be to ensure that hard working people retain as much of their income as possible. To that end, TUV advocates the introduction of a flat-rate tax system for the UK. This will have the advantage of simplifying the UK tax system, generating more revenue for social purposes, encouraging enterprise whilst reducing the bureaucracy that disfigures the UK Tax system. By raising the entry threshold to taxation to a more realistic level ten million people could be lifted out from paying any tax and a real incentive put in place with the introduction of this progressive system. A low tax British economy will attract external investment whilst rewarding indigenous enterprise. High tax economies do not grow.



TUV opposes any increase in the current rate of VAT viewing this as both unfair and totally inappropriate on retail and service sectors already struggling under the weight of the recessionary climate.

TUV supports the traditional family unit and argues for effective financial incentives to bolster this central building block of our society. There are several economic instruments, including the transferable married couples tax allowance, which should be re-introduced, that could be employed to encourage people to get married and then stay married.

TUV seeks a lower tax take on fuel to ensure that the British motorist is best protected from any future shocks on oil prices. Currently the

Government takes over 50p per litre in fuel tax, plus VAT, which is excessive and unfair. The high price per litre of fuel erodes the competitiveness of British industry and costs jobs. TUV will lobby to ensure that British motorists pay a more reasonable price for fuel, which is particularly important in rural Northern Ireland where inadequate public transport makes car dependency unavoidable.

Providing financial protection for the most vulnerable is the mark of a civilised society. TUV understands that pensioners have suffered greatly as their income from savings has plummeted in recent times. In order to allow pensioners to retain a higher proportion of their savings income we advocate that the non taxable age allowance should be substantially increased. This will provide needed respite for our senior citizens at a very trying time. Why should these careful savers be punished because of the reckless profligacy of Labour politicians? Nine million pensioners will be immediately helped if this TUV policy is introduced in the next Parliament.

Small to medium-sized Enterprises are the backbone of the UK economy and TUV wants to help them grow, gain a greater international competitive edge, and boost local employment. Reducing Nanny State regulations, currently absorbing 10-12% of GDP, and opposing any increase in the current corporation tax rate whilst easing the NIC burden will help British business grow. An entrepreneurial business culture is essential to future growth and the lightest touch possible from government is the key to achieving this.



Home owners are also facing economic hardship as property prices fall, creating record levels of negative equity. With the existing rates based on out of date valuations, it is time that annual rates were urgently re-assessed. As we already pay for water in our rates any attempt to introduce double charging would be iniquitous. If water charging is decoupled from our rates, then consumers must have the option of meters, the annual standing charge for which should reflect the actual cost of provision and maintenance. The neglect of our water and sewage infrastructure has been appalling, often aggravated by unfettered development, and whereas at Sinn Fein's behest the Irish Language can be endowed with £20 million of government funding, hard-pressed householders are expected to foot the bill for years of neglect in vital services.



FIGHTING FOR FARMING

Farming and the related agri-food industry remains central to our economic success. The greater importance of this sector to this part of the United Kingdom and the resulting tensions with DEFRA, means robust representation in Westminster is very important.

Hard-pressed by the bureaucracy of Europe on one hand and the anti-farming tendency of DEFRA on the other, Northern Ireland agriculture often feels the pinch. Every sector has passed through tough times and deserves attention. With major CAP reform underway the needs of the industry need focused articulation in Parliament.



Food security, which includes sensible protection from imports cheapened by non-compliance with EU production and processing standards, and maintaining adequate food supply at sustainable farmgate prices are challenges that must be met. TUV, as evidenced by Jim Allister's championing of agricultural issues while an MEP, is committed to fighting hard for the entire sector.

Each sector has its own specific needs, but a common need is stability in price and management of overheads. Global pressures are often determinative, but on hands involvement in Parliament can help.

Too often agriculture is allowed to drift from one crisis to another. Bringing DARD under local control has done little to help. Still we lack a clear vision for our red meat sector and dairy farmers have to ride the market rollercoaster with little long-term planning. Restructuring of the

industry is often promised, but never sustained with tangible help. Likewise, the poultry sector has been left to face the trauma of the new cage regime without help, while even the cash-strapped Republic can help our competitors.

Under Sinn Fein we have seen politically inspired focus in animal health and elsewhere on 'Fortress Ireland', yet when tested it failed spectacularly in the dioxin crisis, confirming us in our view that 'Fortress Northern Ireland' is the far safer and better option.



A Minister who plays politics with farming is not serving the industry's needs. Yet, even on the 2nd tranche of the Farm Modernisation Scheme she has deliberately imported disadvantage to lowland farmers by weighting the aid in favour of the most nationalist areas. This TUV will continue to resist.

Minister Gildernew seldom walks the walk of leading a department which is truly on side with farming, even streamlining multi discipline farm inspections to a bearable level has not happened. With TUV in opposition to Sinn Fein and not hampered by any governmental alliance with the Minister, we will be the toughest in pressing the Department for action and in exposing her preferences for pouring money into soft social projects rather than front line farming needs.

DEFENDING OUR FISHERMEN

The Common Fisheries Policy has abjectly failed. It is supposed to deliver both sustainable stocks and economic prosperity for the sector. It has done neither. Rather, our industry has spiraled into decline under its stewardship, reduced often to 3 days fishing per week. It is hard to imagine a more unsuitable management tool in a mixed fishery than quotas, which is the prime control instrument of the CFP.

Top down, over-regulation and multi-layered micro-management from Brussels, has been disastrous. It is hard to find a sector where stakeholders feel more disconnected and alienated, or where there is a greater sense of inequity. Repatriation of control of fishing policy from Brussels to the UK would have our full support.



We believe root and branch change is required, but equally a change of mindset is essential. **Fishermen are not the enemies of sustainability.** On the contrary, they have the greatest vested interest in maintaining sustainable fisheries. Thus, they must be engaged, not excluded, in sustainable management. Reward for complete record-keeping, with catch allocations, not landing allocations and the capacity to pool, swap and trade allocations between vessels, would all contribute to locally administered management capable of providing the results on sustainability and economic reward, which the CFP has lamentably failed to deliver.

PRINCIPLE BEFORE POWER

THE IGNOMINY AND FAILURE OF TERRORIST INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT

In the last Westminster election the DUP solemnly pledged in its manifesto that mandatory coalition with Sinn Fein was "OUT OF THE QUESTION". That is the yardstick against which its current pledges should be measured. Playing fast and loose with pledges solemnly made is not the way of honest politics, whether it be in the Trimble era or the Paisley/Robinson era.

This election is an opportunity for you to give your verdict on Stormont's terrorist inclusive government and its actual delivery of services and good government, as opposed to the lavish promises made.



Delivery by this Stormont has been dismal. There has been plenty of hype and promises of new dawns and economic miracles through massive inward investment, but the reality has been very different: rapidly rising unemployment, huge waste on Quangos, Irish language translation and promotion, bloated bureaucracy – especially in over-staffed OFMDFM, damp squib investment conferences and a 'programme for government' out of date and out of touch with today's economic needs.

At the root of this failure and malfunction is the poisonous veto which mandatory coalition bestows on Sinn Fein. Hence their capacity and practice of obstructing government and bringing it to the brink till their insatiable demands are met: as at Hillsborough where they

systematically unpicked the DUP's triple lock on policing and justice and got what they wanted as the price of Stormont continuing.

Hence, too, the chaos brought to our prized education system under devolution, by the destructive hand of Caitriona Ruane, epitomises much of the failure of Stormont to deliver on the heady promises made.

Our view is clear. Sinn Fein is not fit for government. We believe terrorists should be in jail, not government.



The present arrangements are a reward for terrorism. Hence the absurd mechanism of mandatory coalition, whereby IRA/Sinn Fein is guaranteed a place in government for as long as it takes them to achieve their all Ireland Republic. Because of mandatory coalition, Northern Ireland is the only region in the EU where the voter is prohibited by law from voting a Party out of office. This undemocratic absurdity must be ended. To us mandatory coalition is, and will remain, out of the question.

The prohibition under Belfast Agreement devolution on having an Opposition at Stormont compounds the democratic deficit, with no one to expose policies and hold the executive to account. The fact that McGuinness, the personification of the IRA's wicked terrorist campaign, is Joint First Minister adds insult to the grave injury done to democracy and justice in Northern Ireland.

In order to sustain terrorist-inclusive government a blind eye has been turned to monstrous events, including

- the IRA/Sinn Fein benefit from the ill-gotten gains of the Northern Bank robbery;
- the IRA murder of Robert McCartney;
- the South Armagh IRA murder of Paul Quinn;
- the continuing use of IRA semtex and weapons in terrorist attacks;
- the continuance of the IRA's evil Army Council;
- the regular glorification of past IRA deeds by Sinn Fein government ministers.

All other candidates support terrorist-inclusive government. Only TUV stands opposed. So a vote for anyone else endorses McGuinness as Joint First Minister and the blind eye approach to all the above issues.



DUP SURRENDER ON POLICING & JUSTICE

Political lifetimes melted into a few weeks at Hillsborough as the DUP rolled over and gifted Sinn Fein – the party whose IRA murdered policemen and judges - their strategic demand of devolving policing and justice to their terrorist-inclusive Executive at Stormont.

Across the land there are memorials to many innocent dead, policemen, soldiers, civilians. Many bear the exhortation, "**Keep faith with them**". Sadly, in the Stormont vote to empower republicanism on policing and justice on 9th March the DUP choose rather to keep faith with the sordid deal they'd done with IRA/Sinn Fein killers of policemen and judges.

IRA/Sinn Fein's scheme was made clear in their 2005 manifesto: "Our strategy is for a new all-Ireland policing and justice system. That cannot be achieved **without** the transfer of policing and justice powers away from London, into an Executive and Assembly and the all-Ireland institutions."



Now, that the DUP has delivered this staging post win for Sinn Fein, McGuinness and Kelly can meddle in justice because of their toxic veto on every legislative and funding proposal affecting the Department. And, immediately through OFMDFM they, not the Justice Minister, get to jointly appoint the Attorney General and the Judicial Appointments Commission, which will appoint the judges, and the Joint First Ministers get to recommend who should be Police Ombudsman.

And, what did the DUP get in return? A review of a review on parading, but meantime the Parades Commission stays! Moving towards mandatory dialogue between parade organisers and republican objectors, whereby their status is enhanced, does not strike us as an advance. Nor, would adjudicators appointed by the Joint First Ministers instill confidence. Allowing Martin McGuinness to handpick his own placemen as adjudicators is hardly going to resolve parading issues.

Sharing public roads to permit traditional parades is not in our view too much to ask of anyone. Sinn Fein demand as of right power-sharing in Stormont, but can't street-share in Dunloy, Rasharkin, Ardoyne or Portadown.



But Sinn Fein got much more than policing and justice at Hillsborough; they also won concessions on the Irish language and north/southery. A Working Party dedicated to reporting progress on these issues, including advancing the establishment of a north-south parliamentary forum and civic forum, embeds a requirement for delivery on these Sinn Fein goals as their new points of grievance.

Triumphant at Hillsborough, Sinn Fein will move on to their next staging post and again hold government to ransom if delivery on the Irish language and north/south bodies is not by their timetable.

TUV's position is clear: IRA/Sinn Fein should not be getting within a devolutionary mile of policing and justice.

In consequence of this surrender to Sinn Fein's key strategic demand we can now expect a rolling programme of attack, dressed up as reform, on justice institutions. Already there is demand for 'Patten-style' reform of the Prison Service, something TUV will resist.

NO TERRORISTS IN GOVERNMENT

Irrespective of the precise mechanism devised to form an administration in Northern Ireland, **Traditional Unionist Voice** believes that, both in deference to the innocent victims of the past and as a protection for the future, for all time there should be statutory testimony to there being no reward for terrorism. Thus, we propose that it should be provided in primary legislation **that no one with a terrorist conviction can ever hold ministerial office.**

If terrorist groupings do in time transform into exclusively democratic parties, then this would be a decreasing imposition, but, nonetheless a timely reminder of the political price to be paid for terrorism, or reversion thereto. And, it would show fitting respect for the victims of terrorism.

Terrorism should never pay. Indeed, it should carry a lifelong disincentive. Hence, the logic and necessity of a statutory provision which puts government office beyond the reach of anyone – ‘loyalist’ or republican – with a terrorist conviction. Why should the victim



survivors of terrorism pay a life-long price, but the perpetrators be able to gain the highest office in the land? This perversion of justice and democracy must be reversed. **We believe that which is morally wrong can never be politically right!**

So, TUV believes that by law we should have **no terrorists in government**, whereas the purpose of mandatory coalition is to **guarantee** terrorists in government.

THE ALTERNATIVES

As part of the UK, any form of devolution must be compatible with British practice and precedent - instead of the absurd and undemocratic model of mandatory coalition, which was created to ensure IRA/Sinn Fein is always in government.

We are **not** opposed to shared government. We **are** opposed to terrorists in government and to a system which guarantees their permanent rule over us. In the rest of the UK the route to shared government is through voluntary coalition, and so it should be here. After an election those who can agree and command the necessary majority in the Assembly form a coalition and those who can't are the Opposition, capable of offering an alternative government at the next election. So the people can change their government. That's democracy. Mandatory coalition is the very opposite.

We make it plain that the TUV would not be entering government with Sinn Fein under any system. The only argument against voluntary coalition is the contemptible assertion "oh, but you must have a system which guarantees inclusion of Sinn Fein, because if you don't, we'll go back to the bad old days".



Who would take us there? Clearly, the IRA under whatever flag of convenience suits the moment. We are constantly told that the republican movement has given up violence for good, has decommissioned, is wholly committed to the democratic process? If that is wrong, then we are being blackmailed, as well as conned. If Sinn Fein are only democrats so long as they have power, then they are not democrats at all and the sooner we face up to that uncomfortable fact the better.

If - which we don't accept - Northern Ireland can't have devolution without Sinn Fein, then why should Unionists want such rigged devolution, which puts at the heart of government those still dedicated to Ulster's destruction?

But, if acceptable devolution isn't attainable, then TUV would seek enhanced local government. We don't need 108 MLAs, 12 Departments, 15 Ministers and all the vast expense that goes with it to administer the affairs of just 1.7 million people. Streamlined local government combined with a single elected authority to corporately administer education, health and roads could easily provide efficient and sufficient government.

OPPOSING SINN FEIN 24/7

TUV recognises IRA/Sinn Fein for what it was and still is, and treats it accordingly. Our actions match our words. There is nothing cosy about TUV's relationship with Sinn Fein.

In this election there is again much cynical propaganda about resisting Sinn Fein. **If the DUP, and the UUP, truly cared about thwarting Sinn Fein, they would not have advanced them to the heart and very top of government. Actions still speak louder than words.**

Tough talk at elections, followed by returning to the cabinet table with IRA/Sinn Fein as soon as the election is over, is seen for what it is. You can't prop up Sinn Fein in government 9 to 5 in Stormont, and then go out, with credibility, at night to tell voters you are the party to stop the Shinners. For 24/7 principled opposition to Sinn Fein vote TUV.



DEFEATING IRA MURDER

TUV, believing that the present IRA/Sinn Fein stance is merely tactical, does not accept, as others have naively done, that the republican leopard has changed its spots. When Sinn Fein leaders still eulogise the IRA's genocidal murderers as **"decent, selfless and honourable"**, there's not much substance to "new" Sinn Fein! Likewise, when supposedly decommissioned IRA semtex still turns up on "active service", you know it is right to sift, not swallow, all the political spin of 'the peace process'.

We have long cautioned vigilance and repudiate the notion that if you are nice to the IRA they will be nice to you. This is the road to ruin. The prevalence of on-going targeting and threats, particularly directed at former members of the security forces, illustrates the republican leopard has not changed its spots. Yet, quite disgracefully, personal protection weapons are being withdrawn from vulnerable ex-security personnel. Their service and lives may mean little to those delighted by terrorists in government, but to TUV they are heroes deserving of maximum thanks and protection.

The return of IRA murder and bombing to our streets, while horrifying, is not surprising. Because, when you reward terrorism with the highest office in the land and three convicted terrorists as Ministers, then the message is shamefully clear: republican violence pays. As you sow, so you reap.



Likewise, the destruction of the RUC, soon to be followed by the Full-time Reserve, and reduction of the PSNI to a mere civic policing service, with no Special Branch - all at the behest of IRA/Sinn Fein - has left us ill equipped to face down renewed IRA terrorism.

Significantly IRA/Sinn Fein - those we are told now support law and order - are the first to denounce any measures capable of effectively countering terrorism. Yet, another reason why policing and justice should not be devolved to a government in which Sinn Fein holds sway.

The mistakes of the past must not be repeated. The first duty of government is to protect the lives of its citizens and this is something TUV MPs will never let HMG forget. Thus, TUV is clear that there can be no pandering to terrorism. IRA resurgence must be nipped in the bud. Whatever policing and military steps are necessary must be taken.

POLITICS OF TRUE EQUALITY

RESISTING AN ANTI-UNIONIST RIGHTS AGENDA

If there is to be a new Bill of Rights, then it must be national, not regional. In consequence we reject the notion of a separate and politicised Bill of Rights specific to Northern Ireland. Any equivalence of rights must be UK based, not, as sought by the discredited NI Human Rights Commission, designed to promote an all-Ireland agenda through uniformity of rights north and south.

Meanwhile traditional parading rights are under concerted political attack. TUV will continue to defend the rights of the Loyal Orders and repudiate the relentless republican assault, be it physical assault on Orange property or Sinn Fein orchestrated opposition to peaceful marches.

Increasingly, often at the behest of the EU, attempts are being made to foist a social and rights agendas on the people of the UK, frequently at the expense of traditional family values. Under the guise of a so called EU Equal Treatment Directive and the Charter of Fundamental Rights attempts will be made to further impede faith based groups and freedom of expression. This TUV will resist.



INNOCENT VICTIMS – RIGHTING THE WRONGS

Despite all the hype from some about a caring interest in victims, the reality is that innocent victims of terrorism are one of the most politically exploited and neglected sectors in the new Northern Ireland. Having their innocent victims still hurting while the IRA sits in government, is an inconvenient embarrassment for those who ushered Sinn Fein into the top office in the land, where Martin McGuinness – the personification of the IRA’s wicked campaign – has joint oversight of victims’ issues. But the comfort of office eases the embarrassment. Even at the Hillsborough negotiations nothing was secured for victims.

At the heart of the inequity meted upon innocent victims is the atrocious definition of “victim” which remains in The Victims and Survivors Order (NI) 2006. By equating victims with those who made them victims, we have this obscenity of the perpetrator having the same standing and rights as his innocent prey. Until this definition is changed there will be no justice for victims.

“Very soon, legislation will be brought before the Assembly to change the definition of a victim. It has been passed to the Bill Office and is at an advanced stage.”

(Diane Dodds in a DUP press release, 16th April 2009)



That is what the DUP told you before the last election. Yet one year on no such legislation has been passed by the Assembly. The result is that after three years of devolution the atrocious definition of “victim” remains in The Victims and Survivors Order (NI) 2006.

The DUP's disingenuous pretence that they will yet, after 3 years of "control", right this wrong of Direct Rule, by having the definition changed in Stormont, only adds to the slight upon victims, because the DUP well knows that they have surrendered an absolute veto to nationalism over such change. **Devolution which can't even deliver a just definition of "victim" is devolution in hock to the forces of terrorism.**

TUV is pledged to continue the fight both for justice and adequate funding for the victims sector, with a proper statutory definition of 'victim' being the key requirement.

EAMES/BRADLEY REJECTED

The monstrous proposal of Eames/Bradley for a £12,000 reward for murder was a manifestation of the wicked statutory definition of victim. Traditional Unionist Voice has no apology to make for prominently protesting against this immoral proposition, helping innocent victims groups force Westminster into a u-turn. Sadly, over the years, a politically-driven peace and reconciliation industry – as an integral part of “the peace process” - has largely cornered control of victims’ issues, often perverting the cause of the innocent and elevating the terrorist.



Built on a false ideology, it is structurally biased against Unionism and has demeaned the quest for justice to “story-telling”, where the innocent victim’s story would have the same moral and truth value as that of the former terrorist.

We reject this philosophy. **Hence, we reject the central tenets of Eames/Bradley and its template to move away from pursuit of justice to “information gathering”, where the State authorities would be compelled to co-operate, but terrorists would respond only as and how it suited them.**

Given the “republican code of honour”, in which Martin McGuinness took refuge at the “Bloody Sunday Inquiry”, the chance of getting the truth is nil. Yet, outrageously, as an incentive, amnesty would be offered for information and after 5 years all criminal investigations would close. The IRA could not have written it **better!** Nor, could they have ever imagined that a DUP First Minister would join in appointing the sister of an IRA “volunteer”, who met his just deserts, as a “Victims Commissioner”. But, sadly, such is what happens when Sinn Fein has to be kept happy as the price of the DUP clinging to office.

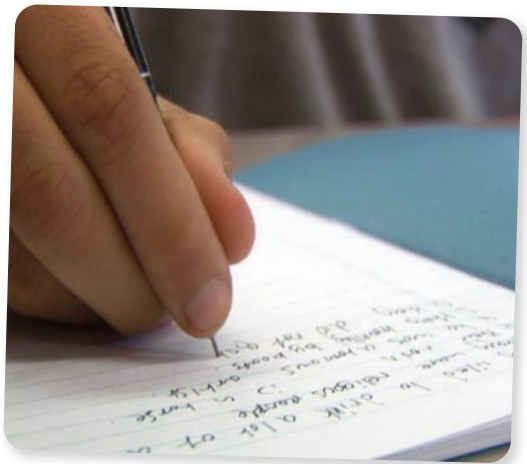
PERTINENT ISSUES

CHILDREN BEFORE DOGMA

Few things matter more for the future of Northern Ireland than the education of our children. Yet, it is this very matter which has been plunged into utter chaos by Sinn Fein's power under devolution.

No one should be surprised that Sinn Fein, with its Marxist, anti-stability agenda, should wish to destroy our highly successful education system. The sad reality is that they were gifted the opportunity by the DUP. In consequence, we have seen academic selection, not saved as an integral part of our education system, as promised, but expelled outside the confines of regular and prepared primary/secondary school progression to the wilderness of unregulated mayhem for parents and pupils. And we are supposed to be grateful?

TUV strongly supports academic selection where that suits the abilities of children who wish to avail of it. We further believe that parents are entitled to have their children prepared accordingly in primary school, but for those children who don't take that route there must be equal consideration and secondary education funded adequately to optimise their talents.



There must be no funding hierarchy whereby secondary schools are disadvantaged. Northern Ireland must value all its children, but to do so we must equally facilitate the academic potential of some - rather than thwart it - and the different talents of others. Choice, not prescription, is our guide.

The Sinn Fein/DUP backed Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will, we believe, be disastrous for education. It will centralise control in the hands of the so called “progressivists” who have driven the anti-transfer agenda and curriculum.

The audacity of Sinn Fein in misusing the education portfolio to favour and promote Irish medium education knows no bounds, nor has it been curbed by those who claim they ‘control Stormont’. As controlled schools are closed, preparatories strangled and others starved of funds, Ruane, with impunity, wastes scarce resources on her aggressive pro-Irish agenda. **Getting Sinn Fein out of Education and out of government is a TUV priority.**



Education, and the manner in which Sinn Fein has been permitted to wreak havoc, is a salutary illustration of the falsity and deception of DUP claims that at St Andrews they secured means to hold Ministers in check. Far from putting manners on Sinn Fein, DUP MLAs have been hapless spectators as Ruane has caused runaway havoc. Another ‘clever device’ that turned into a damp squib!

MAKING HEALTH BETTER

Northern Ireland has extremely skilled and committed doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who have always tried their very best to help our people. However, we have frequently seen poor decisions from the Department of Health frustrate their efforts. This situation has not improved under devolution; our health service is falling behind the rest of the UK, with even many of our statutory residential homes being forced into closure.

To make health better front line services must be protected by ring-fenced funding thereby ensuring that:

- Hospital outpatient and inpatient waiting lists are efficiently dealt with.
- Hospitals are clean and safe.
- Front line services are staffed effectively and efficiently to ensure that we all get the quality of care that the 21st century health service demands.
- Adequate protection of children who suffer from abuse and neglect.
- The disabled are allowed to live quality lives and not excluded from ordinary life, but allowed to achieve their full potential.
- Older people are cared for in a caring and dignified way.
- Those with special needs are not forgotten but given what they need to live quality lives.
- All communities have adequate and safe emergency cover at all times.



While in these difficult times severe national financial cuts are coming, reducing unnecessary waste within the health service will assist in ensuring that the allocated funds have the maximum impact.



Many of our hospitals have been closed and as a result bed numbers have fallen. Again, this past winter we saw operations cancelled due to lack of beds. Last year the local Minister sanctioned the closure of another hospital, Tyrone County. We recognise that on occasions changing times will require a change in the configuration of services. However, we are committed to ensuring **that no hospital should close until there are the extra beds available in other hospitals equal to the numbers of beds to close.** There must be no further reduction in total bed numbers. There must be no further closures of beds in the Mid Ulster or Whiteabbey hospitals until an equal number of beds have been opened in Antrim Area or other nearby hospitals.

Much was made of the reduction in the number of Health Trusts in the Review of Public Administration and consequent efficiency savings: there were indeed too many Trusts. However, despite the reduction in their numbers there has been an increase in spending on bureaucracy. Furthermore some of the Trusts are too large either geographically

and/or in population served. The Belfast Trust is one of the largest trusts in the UK and is now a monopoly supplier of many services such as heart operations. The Belfast Trust has suspended sending patients to England for heart operations. This is an example of an unaccountable bureaucracy. We believe that the other Trusts should be able to purchase services including those supplied by the Belfast Trust outwith Northern Ireland without the agreement of the Belfast Trust should they deem Belfast's service inadequate. The cost of this should be borne by the Trust unable to supply the treatments in a timely fashion.



Northern Ireland is a small region within the UK and sometimes patients need to go to the mainland for treatment. Our senior doctors should be allowed to direct this on the basis of medical need without having to seek the permission of health bureaucrats. We advocate splitting the Belfast Trust in two with the hospitals and services previously supplied by the Mater and Royal and North and West Belfast Trusts being in a separate Trust from those supplied by the City, Greenpark and South and East Belfast.

There is an additional problem with the absurd boundaries of many of the trusts with patients from Whiteabbey taken many miles to Antrim rather than down the M5 to the Mater Hospital. The situation in the Southwest is worse with specialist care for patients from south Fermanagh provided in Londonderry which is much further away than Craigavon. Consideration must be given to moving the Trust boundaries to put the Whiteabbey area into the North and West Belfast area and the Omagh and Fermanagh area into the Southern Trust.

Some of the most modern treatments are only available in Northern Ireland after an unacceptable wait. This was until recently the case with new drugs for the most severe forms of arthritis. This actually results in a greater cost to the NHS. We are committed to ensuring that new treatments are available to patients in the same time frame as they are in the rest of the UK.

At the European election we highlighted the complete failure of the devolved Minister's plans to recruit additional NHS dentists. A year on almost no progress has been made; much of the problem is due to Mr McGimpsey's pay proposals which were completely unrealistic and on this issue additional expenditure will be necessary.

The Health Minister's recent stockpiling of Tamiflu for the treatment of swine flu was vastly more than any projections indicated would be needed. Minister McGimpsey chose a populist approach at variance with best medical advice and in contrast to the approach in the rest of the UK. This resulted in unnecessary expenditure. Such foolish political stunts waste money and must not be repeated.

PATRIOTIC IN PARLIAMENT

DEFENDING BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY

The constant haemorrhaging of powers from Westminster to the EU is doing both constitutional damage and diminishing the centrality and authority of our national parliament. Thereby, British democracy is being weakened.

TUV is strongly opposed to the ongoing drive for a centralised EU Super-state, as advanced without authority from the British people through the Lisbon Treaty. In the defence of national sovereignty TUV believes British voters should still be given their say on this vital issue. Some others say they oppose Lisbon, but strangely 3 of the DUP's outgoing MPs failed to vote for a referendum in the House of Commons on 5th March 2008!



TUV vigorously opposes the UK joining the Euro. Such would entail further **irreversible loss of sovereignty and surrender of essential fiscal and monetary management powers to the EU**, including giving up to the European Central Bank the right to set and change our interest rates. The next step in this monetary harmonisation would be demands for European taxation.

We also oppose the loss of control over our own borders which has flowed as part of the surrender of powers to Brussels. Porous borders and open house immigration are not in the national interest.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

However the UK has become involved in some international situations, the priority now is to secure success and to that end our gallant troops must have the resources and supplies they need. TUV will speak and vote in parliament to ensure this is so.

From the experience of Northern Ireland we will resist 'political solutions' which betray the sacrifices of our troops. We've seen enough reward locally for terrorists to be determined opponents of buy-offs and sops to the Taliban.



TACKLING IMMIGRATION

TUV recognises that effectively controlled immigration is essential to the future growth of the United Kingdom and acknowledges the proud British tradition of welcoming people from many parts of the world. However the “open borders” approach of recent years has created serious problems which need to be urgently addressed in the interests of all concerned.

TUV advocates the rigorous application of border controls and urges additional investment to ensure that we can effectively police our borders. With a possible one million illegal immigrants already living in the UK, this is pressurising public services, creating overcrowding in certain areas, and so we call for a moratorium on all third world immigration until such times as the existing number have been processed. TUV advocates the immediate introduction of a points-based system which allows those with the necessary skills and talents to apply for UK citizenship whilst ensuring that unskilled welfare immigration comes to a permanent halt.

SENSIBLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TUV believes it is important that we act as responsible custodians of our environment so we can ensure future generations can enjoy the rich diversity of our planet. TUV believes we need to develop energy conservation, energy independence, renewable energy sources such as wind power, nuclear power, solar power and hydro power.

TUV rejects punitive green taxes and limitations on individual liberty as these are ineffective, financially punishing and based on dubious science. TUV recognises there are many drivers of changing climate, including uncontrollable natural forces, and encourages honest scientific enquiry into these matters whilst rejecting the political bias of the IPCC.



USING A HUNG PARLIAMENT

Some, who are part-timers, are seeking to gain votes on foot of the prospect of a hung parliament. However, in a hung parliament the priority is to have MPs who can and will be there. Turning up only a Wednesday, when Stormont isn't sitting, won't do.

Only Unionists who are there and are not already committed to one of the big parties, like the UUP are, can exploit a hung parliament to Ulster's benefit. TUV MPs will be there and will use every opportunity to extract the best deal for Ulster, whether on the big political issues or at the local constituency level.





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