

Draft Advertisement (Newspapers/Periodicals)

The Forum for Peace and Reconciliation established by the [Irish] Government held its inaugural meeting on Friday 28 October 1994. It is chaired by Judge Catherine McGuinness.

Its terms of reference are as follows:

"The Forum for Peace and Reconciliation is being established by the Government in accordance with their intentions as expressed in the Joint Declaration, for as long as is necessary, to consult on and examine ways in which lasting peace, stability and reconciliation can be established by agreement among all the people of Ireland, and on the steps required to remove barriers of distrust, on the basis of promoting respect for the equal rights and validity of both traditions and identities. It will also explore ways in which new approaches can be developed to serve economic interests common to both parts of Ireland, including in the framework of European Union. It will be a fundamental guiding principle of the Forum and of participation in it that all differences relating to the exercise of the right of self-determination of the people of Ireland, and to all other matters, will be resolved exclusively by peaceful and democratic means. The purpose of the Forum will be to provide, as far as possible, an opportunity to both major traditions as well as to others, to assist in identifying and clarifying issues which could most contribute to creating a new era of trust and co-operation on the island. Participation in the Forum will be entirely without prejudice to the position on constitutional issues held by any party."

The Forum hopes to benefit from the views on these matters of the widest possible range of individuals and groups. It is especially anxious that the voices of members of both the Unionist and Nationalist traditions, as well as of others, be heard.

Accordingly, the Forum seeks written submissions from any individual or group with an interest in the issues it is considering. It may subsequently invite some of those who have made submissions to make oral presentations before it.

Submissions, in either Irish or English, should be addressed to

The Secretary-General
Forum for Peace and Reconciliation
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2

and should arrive, if possible, no later than 1 December 1994.

Further information on any aspect of the above may be obtained from the Forum's Secretariat (tel. 01 [003531] xxxx).

[Note: (a) the advertisement will be translated into Irish for use in Irish language publications.

(b) the Forum may wish to consider an alternative text for use on radio.]