

ALD2/2/6/10/2/293

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE
Northern Ireland

Telephone (0232) 324274
Facsimile (0232) 333147

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PRESS STATEMENT 26/5/96

FIRST TIME VOTERS - NOT BLAMED FOR THE PAST BUT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE

Dr David Alderdice addressing local Party activists in North Antrim said:

"There is a real need for young people to get out and vote on Thursday. We have all complained about the blinkered old politicians of Northern Ireland who have nothing but bitterness to offer their own generation; never mind the younger people. Some of us have actually got involved in Northern Ireland politics, not always the most inspiring of arenas! Others will be contributing to a positive future of Northern Ireland in different ways eg business, church etc... However we all have an obligation to exercise our vote."

Dr Alderdice continued:

"First time voters cannot be blamed for the politicians elected in the past but if they don't use their right to vote or don't use it responsibly in this election then they cannot expect to have the future they want."

The evidence from the doorstep is that young people who either have just turned 18 or who have previously ignored politics are not turning to the old monolithic parties in Northern Ireland. Instead they are realising that the Alliance Party is the only significant party which has a modern and clear vision of the future for Northern Ireland and draws its support from all sections of the community whether Protestant or Catholic, working or middle class, old or young."

North Antrim Alliance candidate, Dr Alderdice, went on to say:

"The Alliance Party is full of enthusiastic young people who are tuned into the needs and priorities of Northern Ireland young people. Not only do we have the energy but we have built up the insight and experience so that we are ready to be involved in real decision making when regional government is restored to Northern Ireland. Young people have the most to lose from a lack of political progress in Northern Ireland. They really need to get out on Thursday and vote for progress - Vote Alliance."

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