

To Barbara  
From Kate

Give me a ring if you want any more detail.

### Proposed extension of Parades Commission remit

Women's Coalition some questions to Paul Murphy 6 Oct 1997

How is "tradition" to be defined?

How is "offensive" to be defines?

Is there a current public order/political problem with the stewarding of GAA matches and fixtures?

Is the flying of particular state flags to be deemed offensive?

If traditions are deemed offensive will the legislation speak to culturally specific traditions? If this is the case, and nationalist traditions are named does this mean, by extrapolation that for example Irish dancing, language and music will fall under the same category. What does this say about a significant proportion of the residents of this region. That they are repugnant to the state?

Its here where the AIA could be useful:

Article 4 (a) reads: "In relation to matters coming within its field of activity, the Conference shall be a framework within which the United Kingdom government and the Irish Government work together (i) for the accommodation of the rights and identities of the two traditions which exist in Northern Ireland;

Article 5(a) comments on these matters in greater detail:

"The Conference shall concern itself with measures to recognise and accommodate the rights and identities of the two tradition in Northern Ireland , to protect human rights and to prevent discrimination. Matters to be considered in this area include measures to foster the cultural heritage of both traditions, changes in electoral arrangements, the use of flags and emblems, the avoidance of economic and social discrimination and the advantages and disadvantages of a Bill of Rights in some form in Northern Ireland."

Additionally, rights of cultural expression to be found in Article 27 of UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

"In those states in which ethnic religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture to profess and practise their own religion or to use their own language."

Repeal of Flags and Emblems Act 1954 under Public Order 1986 made possible by this.

The other thing which is quite odd, and which may be contributing to the British government's complacency, of ignorance on this is that the SDLP have been silent on the affair.