

**MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS ON  
THE ISLAND OF IRELAND  
(THE JOINT COMMITTEE)**

**Held at 11am on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, in the Print-Works Room,  
Morrison Hotel, Dublin 1**

**Present:**

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| IHRC:  | Maurice Manning (President) - Chair<br>Michael Farrell<br>Nuala Kelly<br>Robert Daly<br>William Binchy<br>Mervyn Taylor<br>Suzanne Egan<br>Tom O'Higgins<br>Clodach McGrory |
| NIHRC: | Monica McWilliams (Chief Commissioner)<br>Jonathan Bell<br>Thomas Duncan<br>Anne Hope<br>Colin Harvey<br>Alan Henry<br>Eamonn O'Neill                                       |

**In Attendance:**

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| Alpha Connelly (Chief Executive, IHRC)<br>Paddy Sloan (Chief Executive, NIHRC)<br>Gavin McSpadden (General Administrator, IHRC) |
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**Apologies:**

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| IHRC  | Katherine Zappone<br>Maureen Harding Clark<br>Gerard Quinn<br>Fionnuala Ní Aoláin<br>Olive Braiden<br>Martin Collins |
| NIHRC | Lady Christine Eames<br>Kieran McLaughlin<br>Geraldine Rice  |

## **1.0 Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Joint Committee**

1.1 The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

2.1 No matters arose.

## **3.0 Proposal in Relation to the Future Operation of the Committee.**

3.1 The President of the IHRC spoke to his paper on the matter which had been previously circulated. It was agreed that, accordingly, a sub-committee be established, with representatives from both Commissions, including respective Chief Executives, to consider and revert in relation to possible areas of work for the Joint Committee. It was further agreed that the President of the IHRC be the convenor of the sub-committee. Those interested in serving on this sub-committee were invited to make this known to the President or Chief Commissioner, as appropriate.

3.2 There followed a discussion on the various areas in which the Joint Committee might most effectively work. It was agreed that the sub-committee would revert as soon as possible with a list of proposals for areas of joint work.

## **4.0 Sub-Committee Reports**

(a) Charter of Rights for the Island of Ireland

4.1 Nuala Kelly spoke to the paper previously circulated. It was noted that the newly created sub-committee would consider the matter *de novo* and revert to plenary.

(b) Anti Racism

4.2 Michael Farrell updated the meeting on the work of this committee to date.

## **5.0 Update on Activities of the two Commissions**

5.1 Individual papers were circulated and spoken to by both Chief Executives outlining recent activities of both Commissions

5.2 In relation to the Omagh Support Group, it was noted that both Commissions were in contact with this group and that the President of the IHRC had travelled to Omagh to meet with the group and invited them to come to Dublin to meet with the IHRC.

**6.0 AOB**

- 6.1 The Joint Committee noted correspondence received in relation to a request by the United States of America for a persons extradition from Northern Ireland.
- 6.2 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January in Belfast.

The meeting finished at 1.15 approximately.