

Full Council – 17 September 2018

Motion selected by the Labour Group

Good Friday Agreement

This council recognises that:

The Irish Troubles were an horrific conflict which, in just three short decades, costs the lives of over 3,500 people and injured 47,000 more the vast majority of these victims were innocent civilians.

The Troubles claimed victims all across these islands, including in our city of London which in particular saw the Docklands attack, the most financially costly terrorist attack in the history of the United Kingdom.

This council notes with pleasure that this seemingly intractable conflict was ended twenty years ago this year with the signing of the Belfast Agreement (aka Good Friday Agreement), and that this milestone agreement has undoubtedly saved hundreds of lives and directly benefitted the many thousands of families with Irish heritage in Brent.

This council endorses the principles of the Agreement which include:

- consent;
- self determination;
- abandonment of violence;
- recognition of both identities in Northern Ireland;
- power sharing;
- devolution;

This council notes with concern that in its twentieth year the Belfast Agreement has never been as threatened as it is today by the prospect of a hard border on the island of Ireland imposed by Britain's exit from the European Union, which would undermine the ideas of inter-island cooperation, recognition of dual identities and self-determination in the Agreement.

This council resolves to:

- celebrate the Belfast Agreement as an historic achievement in all of its cultural work in Brent;
- register its opposition, on behalf of the Irish community in Brent, to a hard border between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in writing to the relevant Secretary of State;
- continue to promote the values of consent, harmony and cooperation in its community work in the spirit of the Belfast Agreement.

Councillor Matt Kelcher
Kensal Green Ward