A #prochoice supporter. She grabbed the pamphlets from the #prolife worker, pictured above, cried that the reason she was pro-choice was because abortion had to be acknowledged and used to build a brighter, more hopeful future. "The #prolife worker, she said, "is not an inevitability, and it is not something that we should be comfortable with." While some unionists see this view, others believe that it is not an inevitability, and it is not something that we should be comfortable with. "

When I spoke with younger Irish men and women, the idea of a unified Ireland is something they do think about, but the focus is more on economics than religion. Danny Dobson lives in Buncrana, County Donegal, in the Republic of Ireland, and grew at the tail end of The Troubles. To me, there is a difference in older-generation opinion. It is when you speak to people of the older generation and the stories they hear of them all speaking the prayers and stuff like that," said Dobson. "Ireland being combined with the English, I don't know if I would do that. It is a bad idea because it could cause some more of the same issues that have been there, but I believe that we can at least build on the peace that we have now." While MacLaughlin and other members of Sinn Féin are hopeful, many unionists have the exact opposite view. "I think the idea is that we don't need to be afraid," said MacLaughlin. "We will have a united Ireland someday, absolutely. That is the only way we can get there. It is our path to peace, and we believe in that."
Blurry Borders Breed Economic Uncertainty In Northern Ireland

BY RUTH BRUNO

As a small shop in downtown Belfast, Northern Ireland, Tracey McNally turns the key to unlock a glass door to business. The lunch hour has just ended, prompting McNally to re-open the shop for the day. A wall of chef knives huddle behind magnets including the chef’s desk where McNally keeps her place as show down every Thursday for the past 10 years of employment at The Chef Shop. Though the routine seems routine—monotone even—McNally worries that it won’t be able to open the shop to customers for much longer as the economic impacts of Brexit loom on Northern Ireland’s horizon.

“We’ll have to staff reduction.” McNally said as a direct result of the Brexit referendum. “Because we’re an independent store, we can re-employ every one that comes. It’s been very demanding.”

Following a 2016 referendum, the United Kingdom left the European Union. Northern Ireland finds itself under an obligation to follow along even though a majority vote of 56 percent in the region had voted to stay. The UK’s decision to leave the EU is set to take effect by March of next year according to Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. Until then, small business owners, blue-collar workers and farmers are left wondering how the split will affect their businesses and the nation’s economy as a whole.

“The border issue is massive,” said McNally who identifies as a Catholic Nationalist. “The UK will not leave the EC without a border between the two countries because that’s where the English put up their walls and asked for them. They don’t want to part of the club so they have to secure their borders.”

Exactly what kind of borders will be drawn, however, remains uncertain. A major concern is the question of hard and soft borders and the border hard could have on exports and imports. The border between the two countries is currently a soft one because both regions are in the EU, for now.

Currently, no checkpoints are in place if one were to cross the border. Passports are not checked, visas are not necessary and the exchanges of goods and services between the two countries flow freely. However, a decision for a hard border could change all that. A hard border would mean the implementation of taxes for goods and services that could be a hard blow to Northern Ireland’s economy. Small and micro businesses throughout Northern Irelandn are already being affected by Brexit.

“The Chef Shop imports products from countries all over the world to supply their biggest customers—the major hotels and restaurants in Belfast—with cost-effective products. But with the threat of tariffs on imports and exports, McNally wonders how their supply will look down the road to find the same products for a cheaper price.”

“Now, at the mark of the Good Friday Agreement, the Northern Irish are left wondering if the agreement will hold under Brexit.”

McNally isn’t alone in her concern or her speculation. A hard border would negatively impact approximately 13 percent of the region’s business, according to The Financial Times. With the implementation of tariffs and check-ups, goods and brokers would be more expensive to export and transportation of these exports will be slow.

“Northern Ireland’s agricultural sector is expected to suffer, as well, the region is reliant on the Republic for more than 60 percent of its food and live animal exports, according to The Financial Times. The implementation of tariffs and check-ups, goods and brokers would be more expensive to export and transportation of these exports will be slow.”

Tommy McKearney, a freelance journalist, political activist and organizer associated with the Independent Workers Union, believes Northern Ireland will be hit in a particularly vulnerable position, as the region does not posses a strong manufacturing or engineering industry.

“What we’re left here is a flaking economy at best in Northern Ireland,” McKearney said. “Due to Northern Ireland’s history of conflict and violent disputes, McKearney feels that a hard border would be necessary in order to quell any friction that might erupt, but he maintains that the border will be detrimental to business.”

Political Debate Over Borders

In early February, officials from the UK and the EU began drawing up a plan to keep Northern Ireland in the single market and effectively avoid a hard border. Scotland first months, Nicola Sturgeon, two-quit to point out the insanity in Sturgeon argue that if Northern Ireland were to be allowed to participate in the single market, it would leave Scotland at a disadvantage in trying to export soybean meal with Northern Ireland.

In addition to pressure from surrounding countries who will not be given any special exceptions to continue in the single market, there are several prominent parties of Northern Ireland who are in favor of hard border.

The Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party and the Progressive Unionist Party have repeatedly stated their opposition for Northern Ireland and insist on hard borders. The DUP has been the major force in Northern Ireland, backing Theresa May’s conservative government and the UK’s decision to leave the EU.

Nigel Farage former deputy of the UKIP and a vocal supporter of Brexit has said his party is less concerned about the discrepancies and implications of the type of border and more focused on ensuring that the UK formulates a plan that effectively allows their exit from the EU within the year.

“I don’t give a damn about what sort of border it is, it doesn’t have any impact on me, as an economist,” Gardiner said.

Gardiner minuted his former party’s view that Northern Ireland is obliged to uphold the decision to leave the UK and shouldn’t hold any allegiance to the EC.

“If the United Kingdom is an integral part of the United Kingdom. They don’t belong to anyone else, they belong to the United Kingdom.” Gardiner said.

Many government and independent analyst predict a border set up would be quite costly. The border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is longer than the US-Mexico border, and the two countries have similar economies.

Overall, the economic loss in division in the European Union will be huge for Northern Ireland,” Fingal Mac Lochlainn, a Sinn Fein senator, said.

“The British government has yet to come up with any real solutions. They’re concerned with the UK being able to decide, and what Northern Ireland wants as an independent country will be the future.”

Mac Lochlainn feels that the economic problems posed by Brexit are not just a problem for Northern Ireland.

“All of Europe, all countries are affected.”

The two university students participated in a massive rally in Dublin to protest the right to life.

BY ANGELA FORTUNA

The city of L/Derry is full of colorful and creative peace murals just like those in the Bogside of Derry, the messages of many murals are different. The one above is about Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, a politician and activist and the one below is Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, a Catholic activist who protected equal rights.

Free Derry Murals

Legacy Of McAliskey Expressed In L/Derry Mural

BY DIIONN MHEEAN

On January 30, 1972, the British Army fired on innocent Catholic citizens in the town of L/Derry, Northern Ireland, killing 13 and leaving from survivors sustained a few months later. At least a dozen more were injured.

For nearly four decades, the central killing of unarmed civilians was covered up by the British government until the results of a public inquiry were unveiled in 2010. The inquiry revealed that the killings were unprovoked and that the soldiers could have avoided the violence.

In the immediate aftermath of the massacre, support for the IRA and their cause amongst Catholics dramatically increased.

The mural was created by the Bogside Artists, a fitting name considering the attack and the mural is in the Bogside neighborhood of Derry. They protest the policies taken up by the mostly Protestant Derry Police and British Army, who, knowing fully well and absolved American Catholic for decades during The Troubles. The two university students participated in a massive rally in Dublin to protest the right to life.

BY ANGELA FORTUNA

The two, who participated in a massive rally in Dublin on March 10th prepared to repeat the 8th Amendment, which prohibits abortion, says the message of abortion has been watered down by the irresponsible and immature mindset of their generation.

“I think young people are only thinking about themselves, they are being very selfish. They want to have sex without any responsibility of having babies. They just want to get out of it because they feel it is an inconvenient and don’t think it’s fair. An unborn baby has equal rights to life just like these. Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, as she splashed an orange poster stating, “Without the right to life, other rights have no meaning.”

The two young women plan to vote in the historic referendum on May 25th. Despite efforts to persuade them to support the repeal, the two ladies walk side by side, their convictions certain. They only hope that their pens do so the same.

“Wake up your mind if you haven’t decided which way you are going to put all the information and look at all the facts. Just make up your mind,” Bandenburg said.

Sinn Féin Attempts To Wrestle Religious Control From Schools

By Sarah Willson

Religious segregation in Northern Ireland schools has been the reality for much of the country’s history, according to Sinn Féin leader. “Classrooms are divided, from the time the children are the age of three, they are separated into primary schools according to whether they are Catholic or Protestant, creating the Northern Ireland education system. McKernan— McKernan and Sinn Féin is working towards integrating Catholic and Protestant students.

“We need to wrestle control of our education system from the Catholic and Protestant churches,” McKernan said. “We need to educate our children about both religions so that they are exposed to a secular republic. We have a big challenge, but we will get there.”

McKernan said, the biggest struggle in all of this will be receiving support of the churches.

McKernan also said while his party does support some religious education in school, it believes parents should have the option to educate their children with both religions and to have students educated with both. The Protestant preschool school has shown there is a solution in a Protestant enclave that is surrounded by Catholic neighborhoods in the area of L/Derry/ Londonderry. Most Protestants live on the other side of the river.

Ruth Bruno

A poster in Derry relays opposition to Brexit
An Irish Language Act Could Transform Northern Ireland

BY ANGELA FORTUNA

Angela Nicole NicShéain said that she did not have the answer today. The parents are absolutely the problem today. The parents, who she believes are still part of the politics of society, that was seen as the normal day to day life in Northern Ireland. Mac Lochlainn said. “They’re really vibrant people. They are saying ‘I want my language back.’”

She recalled a time where a group of kids were asking students from the Catholic and Protestant churches in a presentation to a group of students from the English and Irish languages in the country. “It’s total nonsense,” NicShéain said. “There’s no problem today. The parents do. The parents get ‘a bit flustered and embarrassed,’ trying to do just that." 

Growing up in the city of Derry in Northern Ireland, NicShéain said she did not have the opportunity to go to a denominational school that had Catholic and Protestant students. As a result, all of her friends shared the same religious values.

The voters and negotiations around the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union, known as Brexit, have given the language act more urgency because Irish language propagandists, such as Sinn Féin, have been the most vocal in acceptance of the conditions of leaving.

A teaching a Catholic school all of her life, Aran Nicole NicShéain did not meet her first Protestant friend until she was 15 years old. “I had [to my parents], and went out where I shouldn’t have been,” NicShéain recalled, saying that was the first time she made a friend who was of a different religion.

Some blame The Troubles for the worsening of the divide, NicShéain said. The blames her parents, who she believes are split by the problem today.

“Told us it’s nonsense,” he said. “There’s still hate and it’s because kids copy what their parents do. The parents are absolutely the problem in this.”

During Irish Hunger Strike of 1981, many Irish Republicans protested in their prison cells, where they were forced to stay 24/7. The Irish Hunger Strike took place during the violence of The Troubles and lasted for nearly five years.

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Tom McKearney, a Senator and activist for the British government, commented that “it’s getting better and better. I know for our community, and the Catholics and Protestants and the people who are fighting.”

The editor of the Londonderry Sentinel, Peter Hutcheon, took questions about the religious divide between L/Derry, Hutcheon said that newspapers nowadays in Northern Ireland are facing away from the political strife, including the Democratic Unionist Party and the Government of Northern Ireland. 

BY SARAH WILLSON

While exploring the city of L/Derry during St. Patrick’s Day, four friends and I went to a school party, questioning why their Catholic peers from the other institution were speaking another language. 

Growing up in the city of Derry in Northern Ireland, NicShéain said she did not have the opportunity to go to a denominational school that had Catholic and Protestant students. As a result, all of her friends shared the same religious values.

The 30 years of violence, also known as The Troubles, was due to the barriers segregation between Catholics and Protestants in school and other areas of society, that was seen as the normal day to day life of the country that came to be in the 1920s.

The Troubles, children, from the time they are five-years-old, are divided by their religion into educational programs that are facilitated by The Good Friday Peace Agreement that formally ended the troubles in 1998. 91% of children in Northern Ireland still attend religiously segregated schools.

As a result of the troubles, children and their families have been divided by their religion and their ability to learn.

While the majority of hate crimes have been committed by Protestant communities, it has been shown that the Catholic church maintained their grip on religion, according to the United Kingdom and the Irish language became a big issue.

An Irish Language Act was promised in the Good Friday Agreement and is not directly affected by an Irish Language Act, there has been a growing interest in keeping it alive.

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement expressly requires that the British Government work towards the establishment of the Irish language: “to advance the use of the language, while removing restrictions that discourage the use of the language in the country’s public life.” According to the Good Friday Agreement, the Irish Language Act will be used as a tool to promote the use of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and is not directly affected by an Irish Language Act, there has been a growing interest in keeping it alive.

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The support block for the reestablishment of the Irish language consists of an unexpected following from younger people, according to Mac Lochlainn. "They’re really vibrant people. They are saying ‘I want my language back.’ He is really happy with the Irish language as he is able to adapt it. His future is looking bright."

Many idiots from this area [L/Derry], attacked us and the parents because they didn’t like that, ” Guthrie said referring to the separation that took place in the late sixties. “We need to wrestle control of our education back.”

Growing up in the city of Derry in Northern Ireland, NicShéain said she did not have the opportunity to go to a denominational school that had Catholic and Protestant students. As a result, all of her friends shared the same religious values.

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**I**n the late 1960s he joined the Ulster Defense Association (UDA), which was a terrorist group. He was involved in the Troubles and continued to work with the UDA after it was disbanded. He expressed regret for his involvement in the Troubles and the violence it caused.

**In the late 60s he joined the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) and worked with the group during the Troubles.**

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**KAYLA MURPHY**

**The Peace Bridge in Derry was open to the public in 2011 and served as a step forward in improving relations between the Unionists “wetside” and the nationalists “city side.”**

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**11-Year-Old Killed By Plastic Bullet**

**BY RUTH BRUNO**

A newspaper clipping in Derry serves as a memorial.

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**Lack Of Government Continues To Plague Northern Ireland**

**BY TYLEE ROAIX**

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**Catholic And Protestant Combatants Dispute The Past**

**BY RUTH BRUNO**

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**What about peace now amongst younger generations?**

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**A newspaper clipping in Derry serves as a memorial.**

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**Ireland has been functioning, or at least pretending to function, since January of 2017, Northern Ireland. Padraig Mac Lochlainn, also cited Brexit, 46, a Sinn Fein member and Senator, as a “weak British government in power that has tricked down into the smaller cities and towns.”**

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**Music is music and should be heard by all ears,” said McIvor with a warm smile. “But what about peace now amongst younger generations?**

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**John Guthrie, a Protestant, which makes his views unique, said that it was as it was back in the days immediately prior to the troubles, “explained Ryan Kelley. “I think there’s a better future for Northern Ireland. I think older generations are a little more hesitant towards change.”**

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**Moving forward with peace.**

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**In January 2012 the International Fund for Ireland launched a Peace Wall funding program to support local community projects that want to remove the peace walls. By mutual consent, the Northern Ireland Executive continues to work along with and the DUP’s remit is to support local communities that want to work towards the goal of a united Ireland.**