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Issue 19



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## Jim Allister Secures "Ann's Law"



The 3rd of June 2013 will go down as a historic day for innocent victims of terrorism, for that is the day that Jim Allister's Special Advisors Bill was approved by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Commenting on the bill, Jim Allister said:

"Ann's Law has succeeded in bringing back a moral standard to which society will benefit from. It seeks to ban those who have been

sentenced to more than 5 years in Jail for serious crime such as terrorism, fraud, murder and child abuse, from being in receipt of up to £90,000 as a politically appointed Special Advisor.

"The appointment of convicted murderers Mary McArdle and Paul Kavanagh by Sinn Fein demonstrates the need for such legislation. They have never apologised or shown contrition for their crimes, instead they wear it as a badge of honour.

"This would not have been possible without Ann Travers, whose courage and convictions led her to the media and to confront Sinn Fein and the SDLP when she learned of the appointment of Mary McArdle and the equivocation on part of the

SDLP.

"No family should have to suffer what the Travers family suffered, and then to be forced to relive the situation on the gross appointment of the victim-maker is outrageous.

"That is why Ann's Law will benefit society as a whole. Perpetrators of serious crime, who have not shown real remorse, should not be in a highly paid politically appointed position."

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"Victims deserve to be heard, acknowledged and be at the heart of policy making.

"This law has set right a great wrong."

## Media & Political Reaction to Ann's Law

"This is a big, big defeat for Sinn Fein and they have a lot of explaining to do. It's going to cause them problems...."

**Alex Kane—Political Commentator**

"I think it's of enormous significance."

**Sam McBride—Newsletter Political Journalist**

"It's a considerable political achievement. It does show that an MLA even though he's a single member, the only TUV representative in the chamber, can achieve something so, in terms of the current Stormont setup this is a considerable achievement."

**Ken Reid—UTV Live**

"If Jim Allister is the most competent politician in the assembly then that's an opportunity for the others to get a bit of an education by watching him. It's not his fault that he is able to run rings round the rest of them. He just does happen to be, for all that he is on a side of the political camp that a lot of us would disagree with, the most eloquent, slick, smartest guy on his feet in the whole shebang and they might as well get used to him being around there. If this is the beginnings of an opposition, bring it on. That's what I would really like to see."

**Malachi O'Doherty—Political Commentator**

## Victims' Reaction to Ann's Law

"They felt yesterday that for them the term victim was reclaimed."

**Kenny Donaldson, Justice for Innocent Victims of Terrorism**

"The SpAd Bill is a starting block for victims to say that we are still here and we still need to be heard. We can't be forgotten because my father's not here to speak for himself. Someone took my father's life. Convicted criminals should not have voices. It's the victims that should have voices.

"I had the privilege when our speakers left to tell the meeting that the Bill had passed and everyone was just ecstatic that the victims' voices were being heard and while the speakers spoke I sat in the back row and I cried because I was so overjoyed that people like myself, my father, David Graham's, voice was being heard yesterday."

**Serena Hamilton whose UDR father was shot in the back on 15th March 1977**

"The Spad Bill was a very sad reflection on our politicians. It took a party with one MLA to stand up for victims of terrorism. Politicians were groveling about, changing their positions. Victims of terrorism never had a place at the Good Friday Agreement talks. An ETA member would never become anything like a Spad in Spain because they take a much stronger line against terrorism".

**Michael Gallagher—UDR brother murdered and son killed in Omagh Bomb**

*"Winners and losers?  
Well, just one winner,  
and it was clearly Jim  
Allister."*

Mick Fealty,  
Slugger O'Toole

*"[Jim Allister] has demonstrated that an individual who knows the system, who knows their way around the system is committed, determined to bring something to the floor can actually achieve something."*

Professor Deirdre Heenan

*"Whatever you think of Jim Allister, getting a private member's bill through any chamber, any parliament, is a remarkable thing to do. He will be pleased and rightly so."*

Alex Kane  
Newsletter Columnist  
Political Commentator

## Maze Already Drawing Terror Tourists

TUV leader, Jim Allister MLA:

"The DUP would have us believe that the Maze will never become a Republican shrine on their watch.

"However, Coiste Political Tours – a group which, according to its website, organises tours which "give the Republican viewpoint as trained guides from the political ex-prisoner community take tourists on an in-depth journey of their area" – already claims that they can "pre-arrange Political Education Itineraries, South Armagh, Derry Political and Maze Prison Tours"

"What on earth do people think Republican former terrorist prisoners are telling people during their "Maze Prison Tours"? Would Jeffrey

Donaldson claim that they don't mention Bobby Sands as he has claimed will be the case once the so-called "conflict transformation centre" is built?

"This is already a site controlled by OFMdFM. I have therefore tabled a question to co-First Ministers McGuinness and Robinson asking how many such tours have taken place, why are they permitted and since the organisation imposes a charge what financial arrangement exists.

"I have also tabled questions to tourism Minister Arlene Foster asking why the Belfast Welcome Centre is facilitating Republican tours of the Maze prison by giving out the phone number of Coiste Political Tours and why the Tourist Board is promoting them on its

website

"The DUP keep insisting they have a veto on what happens on the Maze site so why have they not vetoed what is already happening there? The more about the Maze one hears the more preposterous their claims appear. It is obvious that the Maze is already drawing terror tourists. The number will only grow when millions of pounds are spent on a centre on the site."

Jim Allister concluded:

"I would call on all who oppose this politically and morally toxic project to sign our "Raze the Maze" petition.

"Further I would ask you to attend the public rallies that will be held, the next being on 20th June meeting at Lisburn Orange Hall at 8pm."

## Minister Must Protect Children's Heart Surgery in NI

TUV Leader Jim Allister has called on the Health Minister to roundly reject the recommendation from the Health and Social Care Board that children's heart surgery provision should be lost to Belfast and transferred to Dublin.

"This would be a most retrograde step for the Northern Ireland children now, and in the future, relying on this life-saving service. Belfast must continue to provide the

necessary core service. There is no justification for its removal. It seems the urge by some for an all-Ireland context for everything knows no bounds, even when it disadvantages and inconveniences local families. It is now up to the Minister to repudiate this proposal."

Jim Allister continued:

"I am delighted to have been given the opportunity

to sign this pledge and I will do everything within my power to make sure the voice of those children who so desperately need this help are heard within the Assembly.

"These are the stories that must be told, and the Minister needs to pay attention as he will be judged on key issues like this and the care home fiasco.

"He needs to step up".



Jim Allister MLA signing the pledge to support the retention of Children's Heart Surgery in Northern Ireland

## Will Union Flag Be Flown at World Police and Fire Games?

Commenting on an answer he received from Culture Minister Carol Cullan TUV leader Jim Allister said:

"It would be expected for the Union Flag to be flown at the World Police and Fire games to represent Northern Ireland."

"However, knowing the bigoted Republicanism which Minister Cullan has displayed in the past I thought it prudent to seek an assurance that this would be the case.

"I am alarmed that the Minister has failed to give a straight answer but has instead said that the World Police and Fire Games Company are working closely with her officials "to ensure the Opening Ceremony is inclusive and agreed".

"Going on past form we know that when Sinn Fein start talking about inclusion it all too often means that they are trying to strip any elements of Britishness away.

"I have therefore written to the World Police and Fire Games Company to argue strongly that there should be no question of the Northern Ireland team not being represented by the Union Flag.

"Any attempt to politicise the event by trying to deny the reality of Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom would be totally unacceptable."

## End Discrimination in teaching—Allister

Speaking in favour of ending the discrimination in teaching created by the requirement to have a Catholic Teaching Certificate, Jim Allister MLA stated:

"For decades, it was peddled around the world that Northern Ireland was this place of rampant discrimination, particularly against Catholics. Of course, we have had legislation on this very topic of discrimination since 1976. The supreme irony — and the fact — is that, since 1976, the only lawful

discrimination that has been permitted in Northern Ireland has been against Protestants, first of all in respect of the 50:50 discriminatory rule in police recruitment and, for decades now, this overtly discriminatory requirement for a certificate of Catholic education if you want to teach in the maintained sector.

"This is a basic issue of equality. It is a matter of regret that the Department with responsibility for equality, OFMDFM, is absent

here today. Indeed, in response to a variety of questions on this very topic, some from me and some from others, the Department indicated that it had no inclination or intention to ever address this inequality."

Jim Allister concluded:

"The reality is that the only lawful discrimination permitted here has indeed been against Protestants.

"The removal of the Catholic Teaching Certificate would remove a discriminatory practice."



"Raze the Maze"  
Public Rally  
20th June at  
Lisburn Orange Hall



Ann Travers pictured after Jim Allister's Special Advisors Bill is passed

## Allister Pledges Support for Charter for Innocent Victims



TUV leader Jim Allister has pledged his full support for the Charter for Innocent Victims which was launched at Stormont.

Commenting after signing the Charter Mr Allister said:

“This document touches upon a number of issues which are of great concern to the innocent victims of terrorism including the perverse definition of vic-

tim which equates the innocent with the guilty, the attempts of Republicans with the help of various government agencies to re-write the Troubles by the use of words like “conflict” and “combatant” and the failure of the Republic of Ireland to face up to its role in the terrorist campaign.

“It is, however, understandable that the attention of many commenters will be drawn to point 3 of the Charter which calls for “a halt to the Maze “Conflict Transformation Centre” Project”. While the Charter has been taking shape for a period of time it is timely that the large number of victims represented by this

umbrella group should make their opposition to the terror shrine absolutely clear.

“How can Mr Donaldson and others in the DUP claim that the Centre will contain a balanced and truthful account of the Troubles when innocent victims of Republican violence are united in their opposition to the plan and will have nothing to do with it?

“Understandably the Charter makes it clear that a project which will “provide the means for terrorists to return to the Maze as “victims”, educationalists and quite possibly tour guides – self-cleansing them of their heinous crimes” is

totally unacceptable to innocent victims.

“This isn’t the claim of TUV or the political opponents of the DUP but rather the innocent victims of Republican terrorism.

“The DUP claim they have a veto on anything that goes on at the Maze. Today’s event makes it clear that innocent victims of the IRA campaign want them to use that veto to put a halt to the “Conflict Transformation Centre”.

“With the passage of Ann’s Law, it clearly shows the power that innocent victims rightly should have in shaping policy. Long may that continue.”

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## TUV, UUP and UKIP Launch “Raze the Maze” Petition

TUV has joined with UUP and UKIP to unite against the proposed Maze plans.

A joint statement sets out why:

“We call upon Sinn Fein and the DUP to put an immediate halt to the project which sites a ‘Conflict Transformation Centre’ at the Maze. We also call upon Sinn Fein and the DUP to de-list and demolish the prison buildings.

“Over the course of a number of months we met and listened to innocent victims groups right across Northern Ireland. It is clear

that there is significant opposition within these groups, the RUC George Cross Association, the Prison Officers Association and other organisations to the “Conflict Transformation Centre” being built at the Maze and the retention of the hospital and H-Blocks. It is time for the DUP and Sinn Fein to start listening to the innocent victims of terrorism.

“The Maze site is the wrong location for a “Peace Centre” where the whole focus will be on the prison and what happened within its walls. The DUP

and Sinn Fein should move the Centre to another site so that the Maze redevelopment can go ahead unhindered by the toxic legacy of our past.

“OFMDFM will not publish the business case, although they admit it could cost the taxpayer £2 million in the first 3 years. OFMDFM will not publish their research, commissioned through Colliers and there is no openness or transparency regarding the level of public support for this venue.

“If they won’t listen to us,

then the DUP and Sinn Fein should listen to the innocent victims.”

Jim Allister added:

“It is with deep regret that the DUP have bent over backwards to accommodate Sinn Fein.

“Unionist views on the Maze site have been long documented and articulated by all sections of the unionist community, and in a blink of an eye the DUP have succumb to Sinn Fein.

“The DUP need to wake up.”