



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS

#### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 24 September 2020**

**Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

Present, Room 30:	Emma Sheerin MLA (Chairperson) Mike Nesbitt MLA (Deputy Chairperson) Paula Bradshaw MLA Michelle McIlveen MLA
Present, via StarLeaf:	Mark Durkan MLA John O'Dowd MLA (deputising for Carál Ní Chuilín MLA)
Apologies:	Christopher Stalford MLA
In Attendance:	Caroline Perry (Assembly Clerk) Gareth Cross (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced in open session at 2.02 p.m.*

#### **1. Apologies**

As noted above.

#### **2. Briefing on the Human Rights and Peacebuilding by Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley**

Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley, Senior Lecturer in Law at the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool and Visiting Professor in International Human Rights Law at the University of Bergen, Norway, joined the meeting via StarLeaf at 2:02 p.m.

Her briefing outlined the role of economic, social and cultural rights in efforts to address peacebuilding. She made the case for including these rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland to deal with the cumulative impact of the conflict, austerity and Brexit.

Dr Cahill- Ripley also provided an overview of her research on human rights and peacebuilding within the Protestant, Unionist and Loyalist communities in the border areas of Northern Ireland and emphasised the need to engage all sections of society, including those communities who have traditionally been wary of human rights.

*Mark Durkan joined the meeting at 2:05pm.*

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked Amanda for her time and evidence.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

### **3. Chairperson's business**

No Chairperson's business.

### **4. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Ad Hoc Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2020.

### **5. Matters arising**

No matters arising.

### **6. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

### **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson referred Members to the draft Forward Work Programme.

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

**8. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1 October 2020 at 2pm.

*The meeting adjourned at 2.53 p.m.*

**Ms Emma Sheerin MLA**

**Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights**