

Response ID ANON-2U4T-2J2G-4

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-25 00:05:12

Clause 1: Removal of flags or emblems in the public interest

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

Yes

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Public space should never be utilised for the hanging of flags. I live in East Belfast and on top of the Union Jack, which is everywhere, there are loyalist paramilitary flags flying like they didn't spend 40 years murdering innocent people. On top of that, Israeli flags are erected all across the east and not one person in authority has the guts to say "maybe we shouldn't be proclaiming ourselves as pro-genocide" and demand they're removed. We are creating a shameful history that will be studied in the future.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Yes

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

These spaces are to be utilised by all. They are paid for by all. They must remain neutral, welcoming spaces. This is a basic principle of a civilised society.

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Yes

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

If you are going to be erecting a flag you should have to announce and stand over it. There should also be a recourse for the citizens who have to live their lives near it to object. Territories change with time. The change in opinion that comes with how areas change must be taken into account. "Because we have always done it" is not a good enough excuse in 2026.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Yes

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Accountability, 100%. A code of practice will create accountability and rules for this action. At present, any thug with a step ladder can erect a genocidal ethnostate flag with impunity.

Clause 5: Offence of obstructing the Department in removal of flag or emblem

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

When it is a flag that carries hate/violent connotations the maximum penalty should be greater. It is a form of hate speech and intimidation and should therefore carry a custodial sentence.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Yes

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

100% the PSNI are ghosts when it comes to dealing with certain factions of the broader community. They should do their job, full stop, and if part of that job is to assist in the removal of flags then they must enact it or find other work.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

While the "interpretation" of clauses 1 to 6 will be abused by certain factions of society and certain political parties I understand the need for this.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The sooner the better but yes, I agree.

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agree with the short title.