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Michelle O'Neill accused of 'ignoring rule of law' and in court for opposing sodomite 'marriage'!

Below are two reports which are of interest to any who follow events in Northern Ireland with prayerful concern.

Is it not wonderful to see a Judge who seems to be awake on his bench!! One, Mr Justice McAlinden, is the judge in question!

What he said about Sinn Fein Stormont leader is noteworthy in that it is the nearest that I can recall Sinn Feiner Michelle O'Neill being given her rightful pedigree!

How could one who leads a party that most of us believe is the IRA wearing political garb, which has supported, endorsed, sanctioned, eulogised, approved of and celebrated its every act of terrorism and murder, ever be anything other than one who ignores the law!

When brought to court, when charged with every form of terrorism, Sinn Fein/IRA activists have universally stated that they 'do not recognise the authority of the court'!

This has been the essence of Irish Republicanism. It explains the intransigent attitude of Sinn Fein toward all that is 'Northern Ireland'.

They choose to ignore the lawful existence of our country which is recognised in international law, even by the Irish Republic!

But not by Michelle O'Neill and her ilk, of whom it has now been belatedly announced that the deputy first minister is deliberately choosing to ignore the rule of law.

Perhaps this man of judicial acuteness could explain why the DUP continues to politically walk hand in hand with such, while claiming to be such an 'upholder of law and order'!!!!

Then there is a report on a forthcoming television documentary in which a leading lawyer claims that changes to the law here in Northern Ireland could well lead to a situation where any who reject 'same-sex marriage' could be brought before the court on a 'hate crime charge'!

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is quoted as being fearful that the changes would result in "quoting the Bible could become illegal."

Sadly, there is no quote from the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster!!!!

Judge accuses minister of 'ignoring rule of law'

By Julian O'Neill BBC News NI Home Affairs Correspondent, 17 August 2020



Jennifer McNern (centre) outside Belfast High Court On Monday

A judge has accused NI deputy first minister Michelle O'Neill of deliberately choosing to ignore the rule of law by delaying a compensation scheme for Troubles victims.

He said her stance in not nominating a department to administer the scheme was "inappropriate".

He said this at the outset of a legal challenge.

It has been taken by Jennifer McNern who lost both legs in a Troubles bombing.



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"I see it as one element within the Executive Office deliberately choosing to ignore the requirement to comply with the rule of law to express a political advantage," Mr Justice McAlinden told Belfast High Court.

"That is a fundamentally inappropriate stance to take and it is a stance that this court will have no hesitation in describing in the bluntest terms and in requiring a remedy to be provided in the shortest timeframe."

He said having read the arguments put forward by Ms McNern's legal team and the Executive Office, his "initial view" of the issue was unlikely to change as a result of hearing the case in full.

Ms McNern is seeking a judicial review of the Executive Office's failure to introduce the scheme, which should have been open to applications at the start of May.



"Who, Me??!!!!!"

Ms O'Neill has declined to progress the scheme by refusing to allow the Executive Office, of which she is jointly in charge, to nominate a department to administer pension payments.

Sinn Féin has claimed that the criteria for those who are eligible to apply potentially discriminates against some republicans with convictions from the Troubles.

Mr Justice McAlinden adjourned the judicial review hearing for a short period on Monday morning and asked the legal parties to discuss whether they wished to proceed.

The High Court Judge has accused NI deputy first minister Michelle O'Neill of deliberately choosing to ignore the rule of law

Mr Justice McAlinden said he would hear the case in full, if the legal parties adopted "entrenched positions" and wished to proceed.

"What I see here is there has been significant and unjustifiable delay, that delay cannot be allowed to continue and this scheme, which is a scheme enacted by the Westminster parliament by primary legislation, followed up by regulations, this scheme is overdue and it needs to be brought forward and brought into operation as soon as possible for the benefit of those individuals, like Ms McNern and many others, who quite clearly have suffered for long enough without their suffering being appropriately recognised by our society.

"That is the initial view I take upon this case having carefully considered the papers."

Ms McNern sustained life-changing injuries in the Abercorn restaurant bombing in Belfast in 1972.

Hate crime: Dissent over gay marriage 'could see you before NI criminal court'

A top UK barrister has issued a stark warning over the proposed expansion of "hate crime" law in the Province.

By Adam Kula, 'Belfast Newsletter', Tuesday, 18th August 2020, 7:00 am

Thomas Leonard Ross QC said beefing up powers to prosecute people for alleged "hatred" offenses could result in people being brought before the courts because they reject same-sex marriage.

He also envisaged a situation where public debate on issues like transgenderism could basically end.



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Mr Ross was president of the Scottish Criminal Bar Association in 2015/16, among other distinctions.

His face may be familiar to readers from the recent two-part BBC documentary 'Murder Trial: The Disappearance Of Margaret Fleming'.



Thomas Leonard Ross QC (centre), in a promo image for the BBC documentary 'Murder Trial: The Disappearance Of Margaret Fleming'.

It followed the trial of Edward Cairney and Avril Jones, who were convicted of murdering 19-year-old Miss Fleming (and pretending she was still alive to claim her benefits).

It was Mr Ross' responsibility to represent Cairney.

A review into revamping hate crime law in Northern Ireland began last summer, led by judge Desmond Marrinan.

The News Letter approached Mr Ross about it because he is among many figures who are objecting to current efforts to extend "hate crime" law in Scotland.

Regarding the proposed changes to both Scottish and Northern Irish law, he said "there doesn't seem be much difference between them at first sight".

Under the 'Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987', freedom of speech does get some explicit protection.

It states: "Any discussion or criticism of marriage which concerns the sex of the parties to marriage is not to be taken of itself to be – (A) threatening, abusive or insulting or (B) intended to stir up hatred or arouse fear."

But the NI review is considering whether to scrap this clause. Mr Ross said: "It does seem that the clear purpose of the amendment is to expose people who criticise 'same-sex' marriage to prosecution.

"The withdrawal of the defence would not automatically turn such discussion into an offence. But it'd certainly give the prosecution authority the green light to have a crack at obtaining a conviction for it."

The push by the SNP to introduce a new Scottish hate crime bill has been attacked on the grounds it may drastically curtail free speech.

Among Mr Ross' objections is that "the complexity of the language used makes it almost impossible" for people to know if they are breaking the new Scottish law. And he believes the same complexity bedevils the NI "hate crime" review too.

"The point that the whole subject of 'hate speech' is so complicated as to make it almost impossible to draft a suitable criminal provision is made for me by the fact that the NI consultation paper runs to 310 pages," he said.

"The 'non-technical guide intended for the general reader with no specialist legal knowledge' runs to 165 pages!"

He suggested that, faced with such complexity, "which citizen will run the risk of a conviction?" Instead they may "simply avoid any debate of such difficult issues".

Transgenderism A Main Point Of Contention:

Mr Ross said there are "legitimate areas which require further discussion" on transgenderism – but that this could be at risk of being stifled.

These include issues like whether biologically male convicts who "identify" as female should be housed in a



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women's prison.

He was personally reluctant to voice views on transgender matters in case he "caused offence".

Judge Marrinan says: "Discussing gender involves examining the spectrum of gender identities which include cisgender, transgender and non-binary gender identities."

And as part of his review, Judge Marrinan will consider whether or not the 'Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987' should be expanded to cover "gender identity".

Currently it outlaws things which are "likely" to "stir up hatred or arouse fear" based on religion, race, nationality, or colour.

It is a defence under the Northern Ireland order if a person did not intend to be "threatening, abusive or insulting" (unlike in Scotland, where it appears that a lack of intent will not be a defence).

Mr Ross said that, in circumstances where someone would stand to be judged merely "on the likelihood of it stirring up hatred etc... most sensible people will simply [avoid] the debate entirely leaving the way clear to special interest groups to advocate an unpopular opinion without fear of contradiction".

Hypothetically this could mean an activist group putting forth a view like "there is no such thing as male and female," which people would be fearful of then challenging.

This is not the first time that the issue of the "hate crime" review has hit the headlines; the News Letter has covered concerns voiced by NI legal figures and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland – the latter of which is so fearful of the changes that they believe quoting the Bible could become illegal.

The News Letter is the only media outlet which is covering these concerns in any degree of detail.