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Bloody Sunday March Programme 2021

Bloody Sunday March For Justice Events Go Virtual & Global

This week sees the 49th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

The theme for this year's commemorative march and programme of events is: "It's never too late for the truth!"

This year's events include talks, panel discussions, films and once again within the programme, Derry's annual Radical Book Fair, which itself will have book launches and film screenings.

Because of the Covid restrictions, everything takes place online, so no one will have to leave their home and can safely participate. Each event description on the website will include its Zoom link, each will be live ten minutes in advance of the scheduled time, providing simple direct access into the event.

Jim Keys, who is organising the technology, said: *"It's unfortunate that the online solution may exclude some locals who lack internet access, but we've been careful to make it as simple as possible for everyone who does, even those usually bamboozled with, 'Where did the link go?'. Our website, bloodySundayMarch.org acts as a 'one stop source' for access to every event. On the positive side, events can now include people not present in the city. We have gone global!"*

A global reach seems fitting as we approach the 50th anniversary of the day. Bloody Sunday in Derry has a resonance with oppressed peoples across the world. We understand it as such. It is emblematic of injustices across a global order structured by unaccountable power. The rich continue to get richer, the poor die, and when movements for progressive change emerge they are met with the ungloved fist of the state.

Programme of Events

The opening event on **Monday**, *'Where To Now For Justice?'*, connects Bloody Sunday to the state murder of 13 Palestinian citizens by Israeli Security Forces in October 2000, and how engaging with that story opened the eyes of a group of Black Lives Matter activists to a wider understanding of the challenges we all face.

Then on **Tuesday** *'Spy Cops – Making Scapegoats in Craigavon'* we examine the case of the Craigavon Two and how the state continues to weaponise the judicial system here with spies and agent provocateurs to leave those who fit the bill for 'fitting up' languishing, innocent in jail for a crime they didn't commit. **Wednesday** and the film *'Mangrove'*, directed by Steve McQueen, takes us again to a system pitted against a community, in this case London's West Indian community.

Friday's event *'Spies on the March'* will be a panel discussion with Eamonn McCann and Jason Kirkpatrick to examine the implications for our understanding of Bloody Sunday given the revelations at the 'SpyCops' inquiry in London. Speaking about the event McCann said:

"Jason Kirkpatrick was hunted and harried across these islands and farther afield by British undercover police because of his involvement in campaigns for justice, equality and the environment."

"Jason is one of the key witnesses at the 'SpyCops' Inquiry, now under way in London. He will tell how he was targeted by police attached to Britain's National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU), who shadowed him in Ireland North and South, and in Scotland and continental Europe"

"They didn't suspect him of crime or terrorism. But they knew that he was a dedicated activist for decent causes. That was enough for them to put him in the crosshairs of their pursuit."

"The parallels with repression in the North are clear."

Saturday afternoon's event, 'The State We Are In', will be chaired by Bernadette McAliskey she will ask *"Has the UK State got a case to answer for its deliberate actions in Northern Ireland, in violation of its UN obligations? Do the victims of the UK State collectively have a route to the Court of International Justice in the Hague to make them answer?"*

In **Saturday** evening's event, 'Creating Justice', Jim Keys, in conversation with Helen Henderson, will draw on his experiences in the fields of social and environmental justice, to present the case for 'a possibility'. Commenting on that he said: *"I have a sense that the work of Zero Waste North West with our District Council can be a model for how we build an inclusive movement for justice that might give us, as a species, a future on our fragile planet. There are vital connections between environmental and social justice."*

A potential event for Thursday is awaiting final confirmation. Please check the website for details.

The Virtual March on Sunday 31/01/2021

Commenting on this year's virtual march on **Sunday**, Kate Nash of the committee said:

"Each year the march is led by 14 crosses symbolising those murdered on the day. It has also provided a platform for others seeking justice. This year we are inviting those struggling for justice across the world to join the virtual march and walk with us on Sunday. Then afterwards to post a photo, or short video of themselves 'on the march' that explains their grief and search for justice. We have already had pledges of participation from groups around the world. From Derry to Dublin; from Palestine to Seattle; addressing issues from Black Lives Matter to Mother and Baby homes"

Fourteen such stories will lead this virtual march. A short film featuring those stories, will go live on the March website at 3pm. The committee invites all who want to contribute to post their contribution on our Facebook page: facebook.com/BloodySundayMarch/ after 3:00 on Sunday.

Details about the virtual march and all events are available on the website:

bloodySundaymarch.org