We Shall Overcome

Bloody Sunday was a local event. All of the 28 dead and wounded came from the general Bogside/Creggan quarter of Derry, population around 35,000. There was no one in the area who didn’t know the family of at least one of the victims. The massacre was experienced as a communal wound, the pain of which still throbs and won’t ease until all of the families can feel that truth has been told and justice done.

It is this which, 46 years later, drives the annual march and commemorative programme.

Bloody Sunday differs from the other massacres in the North which stand like grave-stones marking the passing of the years of conflict. The killing took place in bright daylight, watched at close quarters by hundreds of local people who had earlier marched for civil rights, stunned by horror, outrage and grief inflicted by men uniformed to represent the British State.

Bloody Sunday cannot be put down to ancient Irish hatreds. It was rooted in imperial history, in the scorn of Empire for the lives of plain people and the ferocious rage of the ruling class at any uprising of the lower orders. Hence the Tory Government’s sigh of relief in 2010 when the Inquiry under Lord Saville pointed the finger of blame at a bunch of squaddies and one undisciplined officer.

We want the shooters charged and tried – and the politicians and top brass who gave the go-ahead brought to book.

As always we use the commemoration to give focus to other local, national and international events that resonate with the cause of justice.

We welcome debate on all these topics during the week. Everyone, irrespective of their political views, is invited to come to the events and offer their different views on how best to mark Bloody Sunday and on the connections between it and other State atrocities worldwide.

We stand in solidarity with all who face lies and intimidation from the State and its propagandists as they continue the trek towards truth. Ballymurphy, Kingsmills, Loughinisland, Birmingham, Black Lives Matter, Grenfell Tower. Syria, Yemen, Kenya. And, always, Palestine.

We urge everyone who seeks justice to come out and show their support and solidarity with this years programme, march and rally. Together we shall overcome.

More details of events are available online at: BloodySundayMarch.org
Mon 22nd Jan 2018
Panel Discussion
7.30pm: Imprisonment without Trial.
This event will explore the corruption of democracy in Ireland, Catalonia, and Palestine, by the use of various forms of imprisonment without trial.
Speakers include: Francie McGuiggan, former Long Kesh internee and one of ‘The Hooded Men’, Omar Merino, Catalan activist, Fadl Mustapha Palestinian activist
Chair: Francie McGuiggan
Venue: Corned Beef Tin

Tue 23rd Jan 2018
Panel Discussion
7.30pm: Fools Gold
This event will explore the toxic nature of development the will unfold if not resisted.
A £12million factory farm, the will unfold if not resisted.
Speakers include: William Allen, journalist, Shaun Roddy, lecturer in social work, John Lindsay, writer & campaigner, Deaglán Ó Donghaile, lecturer and writer
Chair: Jim Keys
Venue: Playhouse, Artillery Street.

Thur 25th Jan 2018
Panel Discussion
7.30pm: The Past Is Present
We are honoured to be co-hosting this legacy of the conflict event with the Truth & Reconciliation Platform. It will consist of a series of testimonies from the victims / survivors including: Stephen Travers survivor of the UVF’s Miami Showband Massacre (1975), Eugene Reavey whose three brothers were also killed by the UVF (1976), Alan McBride who lost his wife Sharon in the IRA’s Shankill bomb (1993), and Ann Morgan sister of Seamus Ruddy (one of ‘The Disappeared) who was shot and killed by the INLA.
Chair: Goretti Morgan
Venue: The Guildhall

Sat 27th Jan 2018
Radical Book Fair
12 to 5pm: Stalls & Talks
Due to the outstanding success of Derry’s first ever Radical Book Fair last year, this will now be an annual event in the programme.
Venue: Big Hall, Pilots Row Community Centre

Panel Discussion
12 noon: Due Process & Accountability?
Why, 20 years on after the signing of Good Friday agreement do relatives of victims of the conflict continue to demand due process and accountability in pursuit of justice for their murdered loved ones?
Why, rather seeing British Paratroopers standing in the dock for their role in the events of Bloody Sunday must the relatives of the dead suffer the procrastination of the legal process without any perceivable end in sight?

Public Lecture
7.30pm: Yanis Varoufakis - Bloody Sunday, Brexit & The Democratic Process
Yanis Varoufakis is the former Greek Finance Minister who resigned when his Syriza government capitulated to EU demands. In 2016 he launched the democracy in Europe 2025 movement (DiEM25). An acclaimed writer and economist, his lecture will link ‘Brexit’, the democratic process and the lessons to be drawn from Bloody Sunday, for the future we are facing into. It will be followed by an ‘In Conversation’ with Bernadette McAliskey before opening to a Q & A with the assembled audience.
Host: Bernadette McAliskey
Venue: The Guildhall

Sun 28th Jan 2018
March And Rally
230 pm: We Shall Overcome
We are honoured that the speakers at this year’s rally will be Eileen McKeown, Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, daughter of Joseph Corr murdered by paratroopers & Joe Delaney of Justice for Grenfell, who lost friends & neighbours.

Details available online at: BloodySundayMarch.org
Lunch will be available In Pilot’s Row on the Saturday