

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1056

By: Bastin

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution expressing the sense of the Oklahoma House of Representatives that the new Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly guarantees human and civil rights to all the people of Northern Ireland; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, all Americans of goodwill, of Irish and non-Irish descent alike, want to see a permanent, just, and lasting peace in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the United States has been to help facilitate a just and lasting peace based on a guarantee of human rights, fair employment, and housing opportunities for participants on all sides of the conflict; and

WHEREAS, all the people of Northern Ireland are entitled to receive full parity of esteem and equality of treatment with one another; and

WHEREAS, human rights groups, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and others, urge that human and civil rights be guaranteed to all in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, the denial of human rights has been at the heart of the violence and conflict in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 people have died and thousands more have been injured as a result of the political violence in Northern Ireland since 1969.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns the violence committed on all sides of the conflict in Northern Ireland as illegal, unjust, and inhumane.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commends and praises the legislative and political leaders, in particular, David Trimble, leader of the ULSTER Unionist Party (UUP) and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein party leader, for publicly supporting a policy of peaceful change - a policy of "taking and keeping the gun out of Irish politics".

THAT it is the sense of the Oklahoma House of Representatives that the new Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly should, as soon as possible, enact legislation which supports the time-honored democratic principle of "majority rule and minority rights", legislation which protects the human and civil rights of all citizens.

THAT the new Assembly, when elected, will be the governing, lawmaking body of Northern Ireland. As such, it should build confidence in the peace process by taking immediate action to change past abusive human rights policies.

THAT the Assembly should consider the report and recommendations of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR).

THAT the Assembly should heed the words of Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient: "Why do we wait so long? Now I believe therefore that it is an imperative to intervene whenever mass violations of human rights occur."

THAT a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Right Honorable Dr. Marjorie Mowlam, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

