

Patrick Corrigan said that he was motivated by the Troubles and abuse of power. Amnesty holds governments and other to account on matters of human rights. In Northern Ireland It was seeking justice for Victims of Clerical Child Abuse. Nothing has been done since the Executive collapsed.

AI was also looking for justice for those who suffered in Mother and Baby homes. Victims suffered harsh treatment and the adoption of their children without their consent in church and state collusion. 12 Homes operated across NI, and the last one only closed in 1990.

Patrick talked about the problems of getting NI into the present and get it to deal with Abortion Rights and Equal Marriage. The NI law on abortion is underpinned by the 'Offences Against the Person Act, 1861, meaning that women have to travel to the rest of the UK to access abortions which they have to pay for. The NI Attorney General has fought to stop women doing this on the NHS. This is prohibitive and discriminatory on poorer women. AI is acting as 'intervenor' (his word) in a Breach of Human Rights court case, and is also helping Sarah Ewart. Judgement is due next Thursday. NI Life and Times Survey shows a clear majority in favour of abortion law reform. AI is pushing for the issue to be decriminalised and seen as a healthcare matter. International Human Rights standards says that the rights of the child do not extend to inside the womb, but also states 'reasonable gestational limits'. It should be up to the courts and circumstances to decide on individual cases.

On Equal Marriage, NI is last part in the UK to have it. AI says it's a matter of discrimination and equality and is campaigning for civil Equal Marriage too - the Love Equality Campaign. It is helping to organise a march from Writer's Square July 1 at 2.30. The DUP vetoed a bill to allow Equal Marriage although a

majority are in favour. The DUP has now lost the 'Petition of Concern' so this is one to watch. PC believes victory is certain as the DUP can't stand its ground for long now it is in the spotlight.

Dealing with the past is a running sore. Despite the Historical Enquiries teams, Inquests and Inquiries and Police Ombudsman many cases have still not been investigated. Despite the Eames Bradley Report vested interests have made them all fail.

Shelley Leggett, June 2017