

Boycott Stormont



SINN FEIN
ALTERNATIVE TO
STORMONT
ELECTIONS

ISSUED BY

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The machinery of Government by which laws have been enacted and administered in Ireland since 1922, was designed by Britain to prevent the free exercise by the Irish people of their right to self-determination and to the unfettered control of the affairs of the Irish nation. Six counties were cut off from the rest of Ireland to serve as a military bridgehead. This area became one of a chain of outposts fashioned by Britain to secure and defend her Imperial interests.

The bridgehead is occupied by British armed forces. Eighty to eighty-five per cent of its administration is reserved to Britain. A local Parliament at Stormont, fashioned and maintained by Britain, provides the camouflage needed to sustain the fiction that the area is a self-governing entity.

The aim of the Republican Movement is to end British occupation of Irish soil thus replacing the present machinery of Partition Government by a National Parliament which will exercise full and free jurisdiction over the entire national territory. To fulfil its part of the national task of bringing freedom to Ireland, Sinn Fein asks support for its policy by availing itself of election machinery to seek for its representatives the support of the electorate.

Since members of the Republican Movement oppose compromise they will not resort to tactics that impinge on truth and honesty. In the Six Counties, Stormont makes it obligatory for all candidates to sign a declaration that if elected they will take their seats. This Sinn Fein will NOT do.

Stormont elections are thus restricted to party and sectarian politicians who are prepared to recognise partition institutions. In certain cases they repudiate their solemn declaration to take their seats if elected. In such circumstances those who seek a free Irish nation are deprived of the opportunity to record their disapproval of party and sectarian feuds. Nor can they register their opposition to a continuation of the evils stemming from British occupation.

To provide the Irish people of the Six County area with :—

(1) an alternative to voting for the nominees of party and/or sectarian interests,

(2) an opportunity to reject those prepared to take part in one or other of the partition institutions of Government;

(3) an opportunity to support standard-bearers of the Republican Movement pledged to the service of Ireland a Nation and to promoting the welfare of all her citizens;

(4) an opportunity of placing on record their determination to end British rule in Ireland, and interference by rulers of Britain in the internal affairs of the Irish nation.

(5) an opportunity of selecting, without any equivocation, representatives to a National Parliament constituted in accordance with the Sinn Fein Unity and Independence Programme.

The following plan will be put into operation in all 49 Constituencies at the next Stormont elections.

Sinn Fein emphasises one proposition : This must not be construed as an attempt to obtain a plebiscite on the fundamental right of the Irish People to self-determination. That right is inalienable and must never be made an issue in a vote of a section, or a generation of Irish men and women.

Neither is it a purpose of the plan to reform partition institutions of government. Its purpose is to provide a means whereby they may be abolished and the National Government of the Irish Republic enthroned.

OPERATING THE PLAN

(1) The purpose of the scheme and its implementation, will be widely publicised through the Press, public meetings, etc.

(2) Representatives will be nominated at duly convened Constituency Conventions. Delegates to these conventions will be confined to delegates from the Republican Movement.

(3) **Selecting Representatives :** Forms containing an undertaking signed by the nominated Representative, will be made available. As an alternative to casting their votes in the elections, members of the electorate will append their signatures to these.

These forms will also contain a declaration and those signing will agree to the selection of the Representative nominated. They will pledge themselves not to otherwise record a vote in the elections.

(4) Constituency committees will be set up comprising five persons. These committees can be formed at the Constituency Conventions. They will (a) Form sub-committees in each Parish area within the Constituency; (b) Arrange for the distribution of publicity material; (c) Supervise and co-ordinate the work of the Parish committees; (d) Make provision to cover a Parish or Church area, where sufficient local workers are not available; (e) Arrange for the raising of funds to cover expenditure incurred within the Constituency.

(5) The Central Election Committee, in existence since the Elections 1955, will act as the central co-ordinating body between the Constituency committees. It will arrange for general publicity and general purchases as required.

In addition, where Parish or Church areas straddle the boundaries of two, or more Constituencies, the Central co-ordinating body will

be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate Constituency forms will be available for signature by the electors of the respective Constituencies.

(6) The Parish Committees will be responsible for the organisation of Church area committees where there are two, or more Churches in a Parish.

(7) The Parish Committee, or the Church Area Committee will be responsible for making the necessary arrangements to have sufficient forms available for signing at points and at times that are considered best for local conditions.

(8) As far as it may be feasible or considered prudent, facilities to be provided for electors irrespective of class or creed, to append their signatures.

(9) The forms for signing will be made available for a period of days prior to, and including the two Sundays preceding the day of the elections. The times and the points at which the forms will be available for signing will be well publicised locally by posters. In addition, these posters will carry the full text of the undertaking given by the nominated Representative as well as that subscribed to by the voter.

(10) The following means may be employed, either singly or in combinations, to make the forms available for voters to append their signatures :—

(a) **On the approaches to Church gates, outdoor or indoor, prior to and after Church services.**

(b) **In private houses, or in Halls at specified times during the allotted period of days prior to the day of elections.**

(c) **Taken from house to house.**

(11) Every duly registered elector shall be entitled to sign a form once only in a Con-

stituency, and shall not be at liberty to sign in more than one Constituency.

It shall be permissible for a person to sign on behalf of a sick or absent relative, provided a written authorisation to sign on their behalf has been given to and is produced by the person authorised to sign on behalf of the sick or absent relative.

(12) The forms to which signatures have been appended will be collected by the Parish Committees and will be enclosed in a sealed envelope. Each Church area will be in a separate envelope. The envelopes will be returned by hand to the Constituency Committee.

(13) Having publicised the time and the venue at which the sealed envelopes will be opened and the forms scrutinised, the Constituency Committee will proceed to check the forms and declare the result. Representatives of the Press will be invited to attend the scrutiny and when a doubt exists as to the bona fides of a signature it will be checked with the current register.

DECLARATION

I..... of.....
having been nominated for selection as the Sinn Fein representative for the Constituency ofdo hereby pledge myself as follows :—

(1) That I will endeavour to bring to an end British occupation of Irish territory, British rule over any part of Ireland, and British interference in affairs that are the sole concern of the Irish people.

(2) That in substitution for Partition Institutions of Government in the proceedings of which I will take no part I will endeavour to enthrone the National Government of the Irish Republic, exercising jurisdiction over All-Ireland and

functioning in the interests of all Irish citizens, irrespective of class or creed.

(3) That I will, in conjunction with others selected or elected as Representatives to an All-Ireland Parliament, promote and foster unity among Irishmen to the end that the rightful demand of the Irish people to Sovereign independence will be made effective and the foregoing objectives realised in full measure.

I appeal to the electorate in the Constituency of to signify their approval of these objectives and their endorsement of this demand by appending their signatures hereunder.

Signed.....
Nominated Representative for the Constituency of

FOR ELECTORS

We, the undersigned, being duly registered electors in the Constituency of..... do hereby append our signatures as signifying :

(1) Our agreement with the nomination ofas the selected Representative for the Constituency of.....

(2) Our approval of the objectives to the achievement of which he has pledged himself.

(3) Our endorsement of the demand of the Irish people to the free and untrammelled exercise of their God given right to Sovereign Independence.

Having appended our signatures hereto, we pledge ourselves not to vote in the current elections for candidates who have signified their intention, if elected, to take their seats in Stormont, nor for candidates who, having signed a declaration that if elected they will take their seats, proclaim their intention to boycott Stormont.