

# **CAW 2000**

## **Submission to the Bill of Rights**

### **1. Introduction & Background Information**

In order to understand where the Bill of Rights might impact positively on the Caw/Nelson Drive area and to appreciate the nature of this submission and its proposals, it is important to understand where this area is coming from in terms of the problems it faces and the needs it is trying to meet. Information relating to this is included in Appendix I. Caw has just been listed as an “Area at Risk” by the Department for Social Development.

### **2. Context of the Consultation**

CAW 2000 is one of CFNI’s Training and Support Groups. In the course of this Consultation project we have undertaken training, attended conferences and held seminars around human rights issues and have succeeded in raising our levels of understanding about what the Bill of Rights is and what it will achieve. We are currently in the process of carrying out a Community Audit which includes a Bill of Rights section. In carrying out a Community Audit, CAW 2000 faces problems linked to low levels of literacy in the community and high levels of apathy brought about by years of neglect from statutory bodies. However, through the Community Audit we have at least managed to flag up the issues surrounding the Bill of Rights and have given each member of the community the opportunity to make their contribution to the Consultation process.

During the course of the Consultation project and the discussions that took place among CAW 2000 Committee members and members of the community, various other issues were raised and considered from a rights perspective. These are listed below.

### **3. CAW 2000 Community Audit Bill of Rights Section**

A copy of the Bill of Rights section is appended to this submission. The following breakdown has been put together on a per capita basis by focusing on what might be considered the main point of a response in cases where what is actually written might cover multiple issues. The breakdown is based on returns at the time of compilation.

Question 1 was: **What rights do you or the community need?** (The more specific the better.) eg: health, education, equality, identity & culture, young people, social, economic, women's rights etc.

37.5% of Respondents specified the right to access to an adequate health service.

25% of Respondents specified the young people's right to have their social development facilitated and resourced in the community by access to sport, education and care programmes.

17.5% of Respondents specified the right to access adult education and training as their key issue

5% of Respondents specified the right to equality and respect.

4% of Respondents specified the right to community services, training and resources.

2.5% Respondent specified increased rights for old people to protect them from annoyance and provide resources.

Question 2 was: **What structures of support / resources would you require to realise those rights?** Eg training, facilities, funding etc.

40% of Respondents suggested that more adult education courses be made available in the community including basic literacy.

27.5% of Respondents suggested that increased youth resources such as a sports facility or multi-use games area (MUGA) would be beneficial.

12.5% of Respondents suggested that training in rights education would be beneficial.

7.5% of Respondents suggested the formation of a community-based rights promotion panel.

7.5% of Respondents suggested a health advice service.

Question 3 was: **Does Northern Ireland need a Bill of Rights?** If so why / why not?

2.5% of Respondents said no.

90.25% of Respondents said “yes”.

12.5% of Respondents specified why they were in favour of the Bill of Rights and this included the following reasons:

- more equality,
- increased accountability from government,
- increased transparency,
- more empowerment for communities,
- to teach respect to young people.

Question 4 was: **What special circumstances in Northern Ireland would help support a Bill of Rights or create a barrier to a Bill of Rights ?**

35% of responded to this question. The barriers identified were:

- bureaucracy
- lack of funding
- fear of intimidation
- paramilitary control
- ignorance of rights
- low capacity
- lack of ownership.

Possible sources of particular support were identified as:

- attempts to build good relations
- the need for equality
- will to build a new society
- the need for Protestant working-class communities to empower themselves

#### **4. Issues raised by the Committee and Community Members during the Consultation**

##### **Youth Issues**

- Anti-social behaviour: The community has a right to live in safety and peace.
- The elderly in particular have a right to freedom from annoyance.
- Under-age drinking: This could be challenged by the right of the community to live in safety and peace.
- Drugs problems: The community should have a right to be protected from drugs and the gangs who deal them.
- 'Boy racers': This is also an issue that could be challenged by a community right to live in safety and peace.
- Young people have a right to be heard, not just told what to do.
- Many of these young people leave school with low academic achievement levels. They are sometimes discouraged from working because benefits might be affected. The right to continuing, life-long or adult education and training would be of benefit.
- Need for sexual health education among young people. This should be viewed as part of a right to healthy living.
- High rates of teenage pregnancy: This should be dealt with by giving educators, youth workers and social workers the adequate resources to raise awareness – right to community care for young people.

##### **Health Issues**

- The Waterside Health Centre is almost 3 miles away. Old people, single parents and other residents often have to take taxis or public transport. There is a need for a mobile centre to at least treat basic needs.
- The GPs in the Waterside have opted out of after hours cover. At night, residents have to go to Great James's St on the City side. What can be done about getting after hours services? A right to adequate access of health care would be of benefit.
- Cancer services are going to be moved to Belfast: right of adequate access to health care.

## Social Issues

- Illegal loan-sharks are creating social problems and unregulated debts in the community. People are afraid or too proud to seek help. The right to freedom from exploitation need enforced.
- There is a high percentage of ‘displaced’ persons in the community, some because of paramilitary tensions. There should be a right to freedom from intimidation and violence.
- Many ex-paramilitaries and ex-prisoners are in danger of drifting rather than integrating. The Bill of Rights should take account of ex-paramilitary prisoners and try to give them protection eg ex-paramilitary prisoners have lost their right to compensation because of their past.
- There is a general lack of social facilities and sports amenities – the right of young people to access adequate resources and facilities to develop socially should be recognized.
- Water charges have been ‘parked’ but will probably become an issue again soon. There should be a right to free, clean water.
- No affordable crèche facility, play school not fully used because it’s too expensive, among other things. There should be a right to affordable and accessible childcare provision.
- Caw is a pocket of deprivation masked by more affluent areas. Can a Bill of Rights do something about this vis-à-vis the Noble Index etc?
- Illegal dumping is a problem. There should be a right to a clean environment.
- Lack of policing. This should be resourced as part of the community’s right to live in safety and in peace.
- The community should have a “right to be consulted” when developers move in to build on local land. The Caw area has no place of worship and land that could be used to build a church is being built upon by contractors.
- Caw has no place of worship, Christian or other. Many people would avail of a spiritual centre of some type. How can the Bill of Rights contribute to the spiritual development of our society?
- Community groups should have an explicit right to protection from political bias when applying for public funding. Some other groups with political connections seem to have an unfair advantage.
- Statutory bodies, among others, often exhibit a prejudicial attitude towards areas like Caw because they see it as ghettoized, and they

attach a stigma to people who come from the area. The origins of this phenomenon can be traced back directly to conflict related social tensions and politically motivated violence. Today it forms a particular circumstance Northern Irish society and is more concentrated in communities like Caw. A Bill of Rights should require statutory agencies and others to 'proof' their policies and methods on a rights basis. This might also require staff training both at the service delivery point and at management level.

## **5. Postscriptum**

Finally, we would like to thank CFNI and all those involved in the Bill of Rights Consultation for the opportunity to participate in the process, guided by our mentor. Our level of awareness around rights issues has increased significantly and we hope to use this knowledge and experience to build capacity and empower our community.

## **Appendix I**

Caw/Nelson Drive is an area that has suffered from weak community infrastructure. In Northern Ireland such areas face a great many difficult issues. These include: low capacity, lack of previous funding, lack of direction, lack of community groups or, sometimes, too many competing community groups. In Northern Ireland the problems facing areas of weak community infrastructure are frequently compounded by the fact that these areas suffer from high levels of deprivation and/or high levels of community tension.

Some data relating to the Caw/Nelson Drive area can be found in the 2001 Census. There follows a basic analysis of the results of Caw Ward/SOA for that census, adapted from publicly available administrative data on [www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk).

On Census day, 29th April 2001, the resident population of Caw SOA (the same geographical area as Caw Ward) was 2774. Of this population:

- 24.9% were under 16 years old and 22.0% were aged 60 and above;
- 45.3% of the population were male and 54.7% were female; and
- 16.8% were from a Catholic Community Background and 80.9% were from a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' Community Background.

The average age of population in Caw SOA was 37.6 years, in L'Derry LGD it was 32.8 years and for NI it was 35.8 years. The population density in Caw SOA was 22.33 persons per hectare, compared to 2.71 for L'Derry LGD and 1.19 for NI. In Caw SOA 30.6% of persons aged 16 and over were single (never married), in L'Derry LGD it was 37.9% and for NI 33.1%. In Caw SOA there were 16 births registered in 2004. In total 56.3% of births were to unmarried mothers.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (NIMDM 2005) was published in May 2005. The report identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. On the Multiple Deprivation Measure Caw SOA has an overall rank of 230 out of 890 Super Output Areas. All SOAs in Northern Ireland are ranked, 1 being the most deprived (Whiterock 2 in Belfast) and 890 the least deprived (Jordanstown 3 in Newtownabbey). Caw's rank of 230 is in the top 25.84% most deprived SOAs. Caw SOA lies in L'Derry LGD, which has 57 SOAs with ranks from Creggan Central 1 ( 11) to Culmore 5 ( 722).

On Census day 2001, in Caw SOA the population aged 16-74:

- 13.6% had degree level or higher qualifications;
- 54.3% were economically active, 45.7% were economically inactive; and
- 5.7% were unemployed, of these 41.1% were long-term unemployed.
- 24.8% of people had a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability;
- 9.5% of the population noted that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others; and
- 63.7% of people stated that their general health was good.

On Census Day 29th April 2001 there were 1172 households in Caw SOA. Of these households:

- 47.4% were owner occupied and 52.6% were rented;

- 20.3% were owned outright;
- 17.0% were lone pensioner households;
- 13.5% were lone parents households with dependent children; and
- 44.4% had one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness.

The average household size was 2.33 for Caw SOA, compared to 2.87 for L’Derry LGD and 2.65 for NI. On Census day in Caw SOA, 62.1% of households had access to a car or van, 71.1% of persons aged 16-74 in employment usually travelled to work by car or van. This compares to 69.5% in L’Derry LGD and 70.6% in NI. In 2005, 897 cars were licensed to addresses in Caw SOA.

CFNI and CENI carried out research on Social Capital, Community Capacity and Community Capability in 2005 and their sample included the Waterside. This research produced scores through the use of Nominal Group Technique on bonding social capital (intracommunity relations); bridging social capital (intercommunity relations) and linking social capital (how residents and groups in an area relate to decision makers), as well as scores for overall social capital based on the question “Would you want to live there?” The research also produced agreed scores for community capacity (the number and density of voluntary and community groups in an area) and community capability (how able these groups are at managing resources, drawing in funding, organising activities and projects, working with other groups and areas and being representative of the whole area). All scores were based on a 1 to 5 scale where 1=the weakest and 5=the strongest. The agreed scores for Caw SOA are presented in the chart below:

Bonding Social Capital	Bridging Social Capital	Linking Social Capital	Overall Social Capital	Community Capacity	Community Capability
2	3	3	3	2	3

(All data provided by CFNI/ CENI, “Mapping Social Capital: A Model for Investment”)

Caw has just been listed as an “Area at Risk” by the Department for Social Development.

Appendix II

## **Caw 2000 Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland Consultation**

**Caw 2000 has been invited to join 20 other groups in piloting a special consultation for the proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. We would like to invite you to have your say by filling in the following section. Thank you.**

- 1. What rights do you or the community need?** (The more specific the better.) eg: health, education, equality, identity & culture, young people, social, economic, women's rights etc

2. **What structures of support / resources would you require to realise those rights?** Eg training, facilities, funding etc.

3. **Does Northern Ireland need a Bill of Rights?** If so why / why not?

4. **What special circumstances in Northern Ireland would help support a Bill of Rights or create a barrier to a Bill of Rights?**