

**THE RIGHT TO PARADE ALONG THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY
AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER**

In the late 1960s the Civil Rights Movement campaigned for the right of members of the Nationalist tradition to proceed along a number of routes which had traditionally been banned to such parades. One recalls the demand for access to the Market Square in Dungannon.

Now in 1996 the Orange Order is pursuing the same Civil Rights in respect of traditional parades, particularly on the Ormeau Road and along the Garvaghey Road from Drumcree to Portadown.

- A. THE RIGHT OF BOTH TRADITIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO PARADE ALONG ARTERIAL ROADS WITHOUT FEAR OR HINDRANCE AND WITH THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE LAW SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AND AGREED AS INVIOLEATE. IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO IMPEDE SUCH A PARADE OR TO INCITE OTHERS TO DO SO.

There are, of course, different types of parades and, hence, there may be the need for some variations in the manner in which these are dealt with.

Those of a traditional/cultural/religious nature include the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Apprentice Boys of Derry, the Irish National Foresters, the Loyal Orange Institution and the Royal Black Preceptory.

- B PARADES OF AN ESTABLISHED CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS NATURE SHALL BE REGISTERED AND PERMITTED ON THE BASIS OF (i) TRADITIONAL ROUTES (ii) ACCESS TO AND FROM PLACES OF WORSHIP AND THEIR BASE LOCATION (halls) (iii) ACCESS TO AND ALONG THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE WITHIN THE LOCAL TOWN OR VILLAGE (even where such access has not previously been established).

It would be incumbent on those organising and responsible for stewarding such parades to take all possible measures to ensure that good order and proper conduct was maintained.

- C. ANY PERSON OR PERSONS ON PARADE WHO, BY IMPROPER BEHAVIOUR OR OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE, KNOWINGLY OR UNREASONABLY GIVES OFFENCE TO ANOTHER PERSON OR PERSONS, WILL BE LIABLE TO BE CHARGED WITH THE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCE AND, IF CONVICTED, WILL BE BANNED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THAT OR ANY OTHER PARADE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 3 YEARS.
- D. NO ORGANISATION REGISTERED (see B above) AS HAVING THE RIGHT TO PARADE IN OR THROUGH A SPECIFIED AREA SHALL CONTRAVENE ITS REGISTRATION BY SEEKING TO ENLARGE THAT PARADE EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES(e.g. centenary celebration; dedication of a new hall or regalia etc.). SUCH AN ENLARGEMENT WILL BE BY AGREEMENT OF THE POLICE OR THE PERMISSION OF THE COURTS

AND SHALL NOT, NORMALLY, OCCUR MORE THAN ONCE IN ANY 10 YEAR PERIOD.

Non-traditional parades of a party political nature (possibly taking the form of protests or demonstrations) may occur from time to time.

- E. NON-TRADITIONAL PARADES, ARRANGED FOR PARTY POLITICAL REASONS, MAY, AFTER APPLICATION BY THE ORGANISERS, BE PERMITTED EITHER BY THE POLICE OR BY THE COURTS, CONDITIONAL UPON THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY BEING SATISFIED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE ORGANISERS IS NOT MERELY TO PROVOKE PUBLIC RESENTMENT OR DISORDER AND THAT SUCH A PARADE WILL NOT UNDULY INTERFERE WITH THE NORMAL AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THAT AREA. THE SAME RULES AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO BEHAVIOUR AND LANGUAGE IN TRADITIONAL PARADES (see C above) WILL BE APPLIED.
- F. PARTY-POLITICAL PARADES WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED EITHER ALONG THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF A TOWN/VILLAGE FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE, OR IN SUCH OTHER PLACE WHICH THE POLICE OR COURTS MAY AGREE TO BE REASONABLE ON THE BASIS OF LIKELY SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.
- G. TO ASSIST POLICING, PARTY-POLITICAL PARADES WILL NORMALLY BE PERMITTED ON A LOCAL BASIS ONLY AND MAY NOT, EXCEPT WHERE A COURT MAY DECIDE OTHERWISE, BE ORGANISED TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE "BUSSED IN".
- H. ONCE PERMISSION FOR A PARTY-POLITICAL PARADE IS GRANTED BY THE POLICE OR THE COURTS IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO INTERFERE WITH, IMPEDE OR UNLAWFULLY DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SUCH AN EVENT.
- I. PARTY-POLITICAL PARADES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE PLACE WHEN THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY CONSIDERS IT IS INTENDED TO, OR MAY, CONFLICT WITH A TRADITIONAL PARADE.

Band parades are a comparatively recent phenomena and are already catered for under a registration system managed by the police. Any Loyalist band guilty of improper behaviour is reported by the police to the Orange Order and is then "blacklisted" in respect of traditional parades. It would not be inappropriate to review this system and also to ensure that there is consistency within the system.

Cross-community processions are usually organised by district councils in connection with festivals or involve protests on a general community issue like the closure of a hospital etc. These present no difficulty and do not require to be considered at this time.

IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE PARADES ISSUE CANNOT BE RESOLVED THE BASIS OF THE "DIVIDED COMMUNITY" ARGUMENT. THE REMEDY HAS TO ACHIEVED

THROUGH RECIPROCAL RESPECT BETWEEN THE TWO MAIN TRADITIONS WITHIN
OUR SOCIETY. ON THIS FOUNDATION, THOSE PROMOTING SECTARIAN
HATRED CAN BE FRUSTRATED AND "GHETTO" ATTITUDES CAN BE OVERCOME.

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