

JUL 96

BOGSIDE RESIDENTS' GROUP  
LOWER ORMEAU CONCERNED COMMUNITY  
GARVAGHY ROAD RESIDENTS' COALITION

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This press conference has been called to point out that negotiations in Derry are not just about the Derry walls, nor even about Derry city centre. They are about coming to an overall agreement between concerned residents' groups across the North and the Loyal Orders who march in those areas.

The Bogside Residents' Group commits itself, along with the Lower Ormeau Road Concerned Community and the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition to support each other and to work together to achieve the following six principles:

- (1) The Public Order legislation is a totally inadequate way of dealing with the issue of parades.
- (2) People have the right to march, but that right is not unconditional and must be exercised with consideration for the rights and sensitivities of others
- (3) The residents of areas through which parades intend to pass have the right to withhold their consent to parades if they feel the parades are offensive. If that consent is not given, then march organisers must seek alternative routes.
- (4) In general, people should have the right to parade in the commercial centres of villages, towns and cities. However, loyalist parades should avoid villages and towns which are overwhelmingly nationalist and nationalist parades should avoid villages and towns which are overwhelmingly loyalist or unionist.
- (5) Traditional march routes can and will change over time to take into account demographic changes in the population living along those routes.
- (6) March organiser must give assurances about the behaviour of marchers, and must ensure that sectarian provocation is avoided. Permission for future marches should be dependent on those assurances being fulfilled.