**Freedom For All Ireland** – Dolores Desch

7/27/2020

Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) is an integral program which helps bring the issues and challenges faced by the those living in the North of Ireland to our membership. At the forefront is the issue of justice for hundreds of families impacted by the death of loved ones during the Troubles, particularly those killed by the British Army or by paramilitaries where collusion with the State has been alleged or uncovered by independent research.

Victim advocacy groups that we support through the FFAI Christmas Appeal, such as Relatives for Justice and the Pat Finucane Center help families deal with this trauma. Their only hope is to work to get justice for their loved ones. To this day, families continue to push for inquests and justice in the courts which show little compassion for their loss they must live with every day of their lives. We support these families and continue to shine the light on this injustice.

Christmas Appeal recipients such as the Cairde Strabane Museum, the Omagh Thunder Basketball Club, The Houben Center in Ardoyne and the St.Patrick’s Center in Downpatrick as well as several others work to provide programs to support their communities with peace and reconciliation programs, education and sport. I look forward to bringing you news from these groups on their current and future programs as well as the impact of Brexit on these programs and their communities in general.

The FFAI Committee will work to review and address the resolutions passed at the convention, develop a plan to highlight the work that the LAOH does for FFAI and continue to keep all of you informed. In addition, I will be scheduling quarterly virtual meetings with the State FFAI Chairs, so I ask that all State Presidents who have not appointed a FFAI Chairperson to please do so and send me their information.

We need all your involvement and we need your support, whether it is by keeping Divisions informed at regular meetings, fundraising for the Christmas Appeal or attending events virtually and in person when it is safe to do so. I encourage all of you to stay informed and to follow the news from the North of Ireland. You can find newspapers on the web or Facebook such as the Belfast Telegraph, Belfast Live, Derry Journal, Irish News and follow the Facebook pages of Christmas Appeal recipients.

We now have a National FFAI Facebook Page, Please Like our Page and Follow us. I will be posting the latest FFAI News. Go raibh maith agat.

