**Freedom For All Ireland – Dolores Desch – 19 July 2021**

**Christmas Appeal:** The 2020-2021 Christmas Appealfunds will be distributed soon. We are working on setting up a webinar to meet the recipients virtually and disburse the funds. I will send out the details once I have them. I was notified by that there are some Christmas Appeal groups who have either not reapplied or requested that the funds be given to other groups. The LAOH FFAI Committee has met to determine the redistribution of funds in these cases. As a reminder, we collect funds all year round; all funds collected since April 30 of this year will be applied to the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal. Send your donations directly to me at: 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please include the check payable to**:** LAOH, Inc., the full name of your State, County, Division making the donation and a contact name with email address.

**LAOH Webinar:** In June, I had the honor of hosting the LAOH webinar: *A Conversation with Geraldine Finucane*. As many of you know, Geraldine’s husband Pat was a solicitor in Belfast and was murdered in 1989 in his home in front of Geraldine and their three children. Their daughter Katherine Finucane and Andree Murphy from Relatives for Justice were also on the panel. Although multiple investigations and reports commissioned by the British government have documented evidence of State collusion, Brandon Lewis announced last November that he would not order a full public inquiry. The family continue their fight for truth and justice for Pat. You can watch the Webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5uTpdXYs3w&t=332s>

**News from the North of Ireland:** The recent announcement byNI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis to deny inquests, inquiries and prosecution of those responsible for conflict related murderers has been met with protest. Hundreds of families on both sides who have been working for decades to uncover the truth behind the killings of their loved ones during the conflict have responded overwhelmingly against this proposal. This is the latest of many attempts by the British government to hide the truth which as we have seen in many cases, most recently the Ballymurphy verdict, exposes the brutality of state agents and the fact that they have operated under the cloak of impunity for decades. SOS Lewis is also proposing granting amnesty to those responsible for conflict related murders. This comes a week after the PPS announced that they would not proceed with prosecution of “Soldier F”, the only soldier charged with two of the murders on Bloody Sunday.

On July 17, I attended the Hibernian Webinar which addressed the Legacy Justice issue. Jacqueline Butler, daughter of Paddy Butler, a Springhill/Westrock Massacre victim, Steven Travers a survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre, and Martin Mallon, whose aunt Roseann Mallon was one of 17 collusion murder victims killed with the same weapons were the guest speakers. They all told their personal and painful story, the lack of investigation by the police and subsequent investigative teams and the evidence of collusion and coverup by British state agents. Also attending were members of the Irish and Irish American Community as well as political Leaders from America, Ireland and the UK. The families still seeking justice and truth are looking for our help to stop British moves to shut down legacy truth. You can watch the Webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHK7ARh9o4U>

**Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee** who willreceive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which contains updated information as well as FFAI news. If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at laohnationalffai@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.