



WILLIAM DAVID TRIMBLE



for being a strident negotiator for peace, displaying exemplary political courage, leadership and acumen, building consensus and support for the Belfast Agreement as a leading architect of the Northern Ireland Peace Process, and for engendering a peaceful resolution to a violent conflict.

“FOR WHOM PEACE IS THE ONLY PRIORITY”

For anyone growing-up in the United Kingdom in the decades between the 1970's and 1990's, this very name would have a special resonance. In this period, two of Northern Ireland's leading politicians, Mr, Durkan, who we will have the honour of meeting later, and the redoubtable Lord Trimble, who whilst coming from different sides of the Unionist/Nationalist divide, worked together to bring about the Northern Ireland Peace Process and eventually served together as Deputy First Minister and First Minister of Northern Ireland.

David (Lord) Trimble, Barrister, former Professor of Law, Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party from 1995 – 2005, Member of Parliament, Member of the NI Legislative Assembly, First Minister of Northern Ireland from 2001-2002 and now Member

of the House of Lords, has gone from the fringes of Protestant resistance to Nationalism in the 1970's to becoming one of the most recognized advocates of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland through the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his political courage in advocating solutions which lead to the Belfast Agreement. The Good Friday agreement entailed extended self-government for Northern Ireland under which a reasonable degree of influence was secured for both population groups. The penal code would be reviewed, imprisoned terrorists would be released, and unlawful weapons would be destroyed.

The Peace Prize encouraged Trimble to take further steps in the peace process after he had taken over as

First Minister in Northern Ireland's coalition government in November 1999.

Once a target for **Irish Republican Army**

(IRA) death-squads, Lord Trimble was one of a group of community leaders central to brokering the deal, which lead to the decommissioning of IRA weapons and the normalization of politics in the province and bringing the Unionist and Nationalist Communities together in pursuit of peace.

William David Trimble was born into a Protestant family in the town of Bangor, Northern Ireland on October 15, 1944, which by that time was already sharply divided along religious and political lines. Trimble attended Bangor Grammar School as a youth, and then went on to study law at Queen's University of Belfast, from which he graduated with honors in 1968. After passing the bar the following year, Trimble returned to his alma mater to teach, eventually becoming head of its Commercial and Property Law department. He entered politics in 1975 and ever since then, there was no looking back. His personal interests are classical music, opera, history and reading.