Campaign Achievements

Survivors secure backing of the following institutions against the LB:

Northern Ireland political parties at the **NI Assembly Parliament** (often called 'Stormont' which is the neighborhood in Belfast where it's located.)

Stormont’s main parties denounce the proposed Leacy Bill as amnesty for killers and have called for the barring of this bill as it acts as de facto amnesty for the perpetrators of the Troubles conflicts. As groups in Northern Ireland call for the stop of this bill, a leading voice against the passing of this bill is Northern Ireland’s first Police Ombudsman Baroness O’Loan. O’Loan is acting as an independent crossbencher with the intention of halting the passage of the Legacy bill and contributing the detailed line of scrutiny against the bill. Agents of change in Northern Ireland, including O’Loan have proposed that the House of Lords halt the bill at the committee stage until the assembly agrees to a legislative consent motion.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/bill-northern-ireland-westminster-irish-government-government-b2268439.html>

[NI Troubles: Call to shelve legacy bill rejected - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-64063077)

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**European Union**

With the consistent disapproval of the Legacy Bill from external sources, the British political heads have made efforts to amend the proposed Bill. This act to modify and amend the bill has been seen as a manner to appease external stakeholders, but the main element of the bill and its impact remains. Minor adjustments were made to the bill in January, 2023 as the Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris claimed to alter the bill in compliance with the concerns of interested parties. Within the same months Heaton-Harris announced the public inquiry into the 1998 Omagh Bombing. While politicians such as Heaton-Harris are demonstrating an effort to account for public concerns, politicians such as Defense Secretary Ben Wallace continues to support the Legacy Bill and claims that the bill would put an end to the “merry-do-round of legacy inquests, and constant reopening and re-trials”.

[Government introduces changes to controversial legacy Bill | Central Fife Times](https://www.centralfifetimes.com/news/national/23258123.government-introduces-changes-controversial-legacy-bill/)

[EU urged to ‘stand up’ to UK on Troubles legacy laws - Offaly Live (offalyexpress.ie)](https://www.offalyexpress.ie/news/national-news/1024753/eu-urged-to-stand-up-to-uk-on-troubles-legacy-laws.html)

[EU urged to ‘stand up’ to UK on Troubles legacy bill by campaigners – The Irish Times](https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/2023/01/31/eu-urged-to-stand-up-to-uk-on-troubles-legacy-bill-by-campaigners/)

[Legacy Bill ‘not the way to address Northern Ireland’s past’ | BelfastTelegraph.co.uk](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/legacy-bill-not-the-way-to-address-northern-irelands-past/1085021284.html)

[Defence sec: Legacy Bill will end ‘merry-go-round’ of Troubles cases | News | Independent TV](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/northern-ireland-legacy-bill-ben-wallace-b2265277.html)

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**The United Nations**

**V**oiced concerns over the threat of the Legacy Bill failing to comply with the State’s obligation to investigate and address human rights violations

urged authorities to withdraw the bill and redraft it to address the international and regional human rights standards

warns it would “thwart victims’ rights to truth and justice, undermine the country’s rule of law, and place UK in flagrant contravention of international human rights obligations”.

Mr. Turk, the High Commissioner, further says that this conditional immunity works against the UK responsibility to investigate, prosecute, and punish accordingly for serious human rights violations

attempted to make contact with officials but has not received responses. Generally, government officials have 60 days to respond to allegation letters, and this reduces to 30 days when suspected ongoing human rights violations

accused UK Government of “stonewalling” while SoS blames an administrative error for 6 month silence

Dunja Mijatović, HRts Commissioner for Council of Europe (CoE), demanded that the UKG reaffirm 2014 Stormont House Agreement Principles for truth-finding system with less delays.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/12/uk-flawed-northern-ireland-troubles-bill-flagrantly-contravenes-rights>

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2023/02/03/news/uk_government_accused_of_stonewalling_un_over_legacy_bill_concerns-3036896/>

<https://www.irishlegal.com/articles/un-human-rights-chief-urges-uk-rethink-on-troubles-plan>

[UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concerned at proposed NI legacy Bill | BelfastTelegraph.co.uk](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/un-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-concerned-at-proposed-ni-legacy-bill/42299506.html)

[UN High Commissioner concerned over NI legacy bill (rte.ie)](https://www.rte.ie/news/ulster/2023/0119/1349666-legacy-bill/)

[Northern Ireland: UK ‘immunity’ legislation could hamper victims’ rights, warns Türk | UN News](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132622)

[UK: Rights of victims and survivors should be at centre of legislative efforts to address legacy of Northern Ireland Troubles – Türk | OHCHR](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/01/uk-rights-victims-and-survivors-should-be-centre-legislative-efforts-address)

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**British Labour Party** (formal opposition party in UK, likely to win next election to government and repeal the LB if it becomes law)

In contrast to the current political party in the UK in power, the Conservative Party, the Labour Party members have voiced their concerns over the shortcomings of the Legacy Bill. Key members of the Labour Party, including Keir Starmer, have openly declared that a future Labour government would repeal any law similar to the Legacy Bill. Additionally, Simon Coveney reported in one of his final interviews as foreign affairs minister that the Republic's government would not support the Legacy Bill.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/eastwood-welcomes-labour-commitment-to-repeal-toxic-troubles-legacy-bill/42283955.html>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/uk-government-northern-ireland-government-cabinet-dublin-b2098279.html>

<https://republican-news.org/current/news/2023/01/if_passed_legacy_bill_could_be.html>

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2023/01/14/news/welcome_for_keir_starmer_pledge_to_repeal_tory_s_controversial_legacy_legislation-2997860/>

<https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/tearing-up-northern-ireland-legacy-bill-risks-five-year-delay-minister-warns-1423577.html>

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**Amnesty International**

Amnesty International has taken a direct and strong stance against the Legacy Bill, supporting the work to halt the Bill. Grainne Teggart, deputy director for Northern Ireland at Amnesty International UK, supported the United Nations speaking out against the Bill and asserted that it is crucial to listen to reports against the Bill. She further says that the Government must “recognise and understand the scale of international concern about this Bill, which betrays victims of the Troubles and also diminishes any claims by the Government that they stand for human rights.” With the urge to reconsider the Legacy Bill, Teggart also claims that altering the Bill is not sufficient and that the amendments have not addressed the fundamental issues and flaws of the Bill.

<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-01-19/un-expresses-concern-over-proposed-legacy-bill>

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/press-centre/press-releases/20221109-good-friday-committee-to-discuss-the-northern-ireland-troubles-legacy-and-reconciliation-bill-and-the-uk-government-s-plans-around-the-human-rights-act-with-amnesty-international-uk/>

[UN calls on UK to ‘reconsider its approach’ to Troubles legacy Bill – The Irish Times](https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2023/01/19/un-calls-on-uk-to-reconsider-its-approach-to-troubles-legacy-bill/)

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**United States angle**: support issued by CFI ('Congressional Friends of Ireland' [aka] 'Friends of Ireland Caucus') Congress Members on Capitol Hill. Statements issued by Rep Brendan Boyle, Rep. Bill Keating, Rep Richard Neal.

From within the US political system, 27 members of Congress wrote a letter to express grave concerns for the Legacy Bill and explicitly called the Bill dangerous. The Congress members implored that the Bill would create significant negative intervention to justice and would directly and unilaterally impact the peace and stability across Ireland. This letter to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak voices the strong concern and disappointment that implementing this Bill would bring, such as concealing the truth of the past and denying justice to thousands of families. Led by Representative Brendan Boyle and a bipartisan group of representatives, this letter expressed concern that the Bill would “undermine the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the bedrock of peace in Northern Ireland” and disrupt the peace process. As a response, Heaton-Harris met with several senior US politicians to discuss this scrutiny.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2023/01/26/uk-considering-further-changes-to-planned-northern-ireland-legacy-bill/>

<https://www.irishecho.com/2023/2/calls-to-halt-passage-of-legacy-bill>

[Bipartisan Congressional Letter Sent to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Regarding Legacy Legislation (friendsofsinnfein.com)](https://www.friendsofsinnfein.com/post/bipartisan-congressional-letter-sent-to-prime-minister-rishi-sunak-regarding-legacy-legislation)

[NI Troubles: Michelle O'Neill welcomes US letter opposing legacy bill - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-64360398)

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-63915198> (EUR)

<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/national/23273015.victims-protest-outside-nio-calling-controversial-legacy-bill-ditched/> (FinucaneMP)