



## **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing**

### **Panelist Bios**

#### **Alice Wyss, Researcher, European Union Team, Amnesty International**

Alice Wyss works as a researcher at Amnesty International for the European Union team. She has carried out extensive research in Northern Ireland, focusing on accountability for past human rights violations and abuses that were perpetrated during the decades of political violence. She authored the Amnesty International report *Northern Ireland: Time to Deal with the Past*, which was released in September 2013. Alongside her work on Northern Ireland, Alice carries out research on a number of human rights issues in Europe, primarily in relation to the United Kingdom, and has represented Amnesty International in the media and other public forums, including at the United Nations and before UK parliamentary committees. Prior to working at Amnesty she was a researcher at the School of Public Policy at University College London.

#### **Brian Gormally, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice; Member of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Consortium**

Brian Gormally is the Director of Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ). CAJ is an independent human rights organization with cross-community membership in Northern Ireland and beyond. Established in 1981, it lobbies and campaigns on a broad range of human rights issues. CAJ seeks to secure the highest standards in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland by ensuring that the Government complies with its obligations in international human rights law. Brian is also the Director of the Human Rights Consortium, a broad-based coalition of civic society groups campaigning for a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights, in fulfillment of a commitment in the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement. Prior to taking up his position at CAJ, Brian Gormally worked as a human rights consultant for a wide range of civil society organizations and worked at the Northern Ireland Association of the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NIACRO).

#### **Sean Pender, Relatives for Justice (RFJ), USA advisory board; State President for the New Jersey Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH); Member of the National Board of the AOH**

Relatives for Justice was founded in April 1991, when a number of bereaved families affected by the conflict came together to support one another. It is a globally recognized NGO working with and providing support to relatives of people bereaved and injured by the conflict across the North of Ireland, including border regions in 26 counties. RFJ identifies and attempts to address the needs of those who have suffered loss and injury; this is achieved through one to one contacts, self-help, group support, outreach and befriending, counseling support and therapy work, welfare and legal advocacy.

Sean Pender has been instrumental in assisting RFJ's coordinated activities in the United States including congressional hearings and briefings; he is a yearly visitor to Belfast to meet with the families that RFJ represents.

**Anne Cadwallader, Caseworker, Pat Finucane Centre, author of the 2013 book "Lethal Allies: British collusion in Ireland"**

After 32 years of working as a journalist in Northern Ireland (BBC, Irish Press, RTE, Reuters, etc.), Anne Cadwallader joined the Pat Finucane Centre as a caseworker, investigating claims of collusion between British state forces and loyalist paramilitaries. In 2013, she published the best-selling "Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland," which argues for a comprehensive truth-recovery process with equality for all victims regardless of who they were or where they were killed. The Pat Finucane Centre believes in the importance of an accurate, comprehensive, transparent and impartial data-recovery process including full access to all police intelligence files compliant with Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Leah Wing, Ed.D., Dispute Resolution Faculty (Legal Studies/Political Science Department), University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Member, Healing Through Remembering, Belfast.**

Dr. Leah Wing is dispute resolution faculty in the Legal Studies Program in the Political Science Department at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Areas of concentration for her teaching and research include the impact of identity and power imbalances on mediation, reconciliation, truth recovery, and online dispute resolution. She is co-director of the National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution and is founding director of the Social Justice Mediation Institute. Since 1985, Leah has been a mediator and trainer for educational institutions, government agencies, and non-profits; served two terms on the Association of Conflict Resolution Board of Directors; and serves on the Conflict Resolution Quarterly editorial board (2002- present). Leah directs the Art of Conflict Transformation Project that serves as an education and exhibition platform for artists, conflict resolvers, educators, and students to explore and promote the transition to peace and justice on the island of Ireland. She is a member of Healing Through Remembering in Belfast, a cross community organization for dealing with the legacy of the past.