

Loyalist Prisoners Welfare Association

LPWA

Over the past one-quarter of a century and more, thousands of men and women from the many Loyalist areas scattered throughout Ulster have sacrificed their liberty and their lives in defence of our country, our belief and our way of life. The LPWA was formed to meet the essential needs of prisoners and their families while they were incarcerated. From the early 1960s to the present day, it continues to provide assistance for Loyalist Prisoners and their families.

Over the years, the long arm of comfort of the L.P.W.A. has stretched over many countries and continents. From Magilligan to Crumlin Road, Barlinni to Liverpool, and from as far away as Canada to Long Kesh. The very basic needs of transportation to and from these prisoners and prison camps, food parcels, and little words of advice and encouragement have been the hallmark of the LPWA. We also help in assisting the families of the bereaved. Of course the LPWA could not have provided the facility without the support of the Loyalist people, who have continually, down through the years, supported generously like tonight, the many functions to raise funds. *But our job is not finished!*

Tonight we gather here in support of our fellow Loyalists in Prison, who still need our support and whose spirits still remain unbroken. It is our belief that there should be *NO* Loyalist prisoners incarcerated in Ulster and we will continue to campaign until every Loyalist prisoner is released. The message from our prisoners is quite simple, their principles are the same today as they were when they were arrested: 'The Constitutional position of Northern Ireland' comes first and they follow in honourable second.

Tonight you have demonstrated that Loyalist prisoners are not forgotten. Their plight is never far from our thoughts. The LPWA salutes our Prisoners and gratefully acknowledges the wonderful support over the years by you the Loyalist people.

*And hushed to rest on a Loyal breast
And rocked on a Loyal knee
For her dear sake no jail will break
This Loyal heart in me.*