



Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 41

PART 1

THE TROUBLES

1 Meaning of “the Troubles” and other key expressions

- (1) In this Act “the Troubles” means the events and conduct that related to Northern Ireland affairs and occurred during the period—
 - (a) beginning with 1 January 1966, and
 - (b) ending with 10 April 1998.
- (2) That includes any event or conduct during that period which was connected with—
 - (a) preventing,
 - (b) investigating, or
 - (c) otherwise dealing with the consequences of,any other event or conduct relating to Northern Ireland affairs.
- (3) Accordingly, in this Act an event or conduct “forming part of the Troubles” is an event or conduct that falls within subsection (1) (including any of a kind described in subsection (2)).
- (4) In this Act “other harmful conduct forming part of the Troubles” means any conduct forming part of the Troubles which caused a person to suffer physical or mental harm of any kind (excluding death).
- (5) For the purposes of this Act—
 - (a) an offence is “Troubles-related” if—
 - (i) it is an offence under the law of Northern Ireland, England and Wales or Scotland, and

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (ii) the conduct which constitutes the offence was to any extent conduct forming part of the Troubles;
 - (b) a Troubles-related offence is “serious” if the offence—
 - (i) is murder, manslaughter or culpable homicide,
 - (ii) is another offence that was committed by causing the death of a person, or
 - (iii) was committed by causing a person to suffer serious physical or mental harm;
 - (c) a Troubles-related offence is “connected” if the offence—
 - (i) relates to, or is otherwise connected with, a serious Troubles-related offence (whether it and the serious offence were committed by the same person or different persons), but
 - (ii) is not itself a serious Troubles-related offence;and for this purpose, one offence is to be regarded as connected with another offence, in particular, if both offences formed part of the same event.
- (6) In this Act—
- “conduct” includes an act or an omission;
 - “Northern Ireland affairs” means—
 - (a) the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, or
 - (b) political or sectarian hostility between people in Northern Ireland;
 - “serious physical or mental harm” means—
 - (a) paraplegia;
 - (b) quadriplegia;
 - (c) severe brain injury or damage;
 - (d) severe psychiatric damage;
 - (e) total blindness;
 - (f) total deafness;
 - (g) loss of one or more limbs;
 - (h) severe scarring or disfigurement.
- (7) For the purposes of this section it does not matter if an event or conduct occurred in Northern Ireland, in another part of the United Kingdom, or elsewhere.