



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE ARTS & LEISURE  
**PRESS** releases

McGimpsey hears concerns of Ulster's chinese community 22/11/00

Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister, Michael McGimpsey MLA, this morning emphasised the important contribution which all cultures can make to the future prosperity of Northern Ireland.

The Minister had called at the Chinese Welfare Association in University Street, Belfast, to learn at first hand more about the current safety concerns of the Chinese community.

Commenting on his visit, Mr McGimpsey said: **"As Minister for Culture, I have gone on record to underline the importance of nurturing and projecting the rich cultural diversity which is our legacy here in Northern Ireland.**

**"This is an aspiration which is non-exclusive. It applies to all cultures and traditions, irrespective of religion, colour or creed.**

**"As a Minister in our newly devolved Government, I consider it very important to show this community that I share their concerns. No-one should be living in fear of physical attack and I abhor any violence directed at any section of society in Northern Ireland. A simple desire to live in peace, while contributing to the overall economic well-being of our society, is entirely honourable and one which I fully support.**

**"I also know that the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland will continue to extend goodwill and friendship to all in our community."**

The Minister was welcomed to the Chinese Welfare Association by its Director, Mrs Anna Manwah Watson.

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