NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY





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UUP belated confession on victim definition welcome

The DUP's North Down MLA Peter Weir said,

"The UUP's confession that it was responsible for first using the current abhorrent definition of a victim in Stormont is welcome even though belated. However, the idea that they protested at the time flies in the face of what the then UUP Junior Minister said when in the document's foreword he stated that he was "delighted to endorse" the document and all its contents.



When Tom was in the mood for confession he should have went the full distance and laid all his cards on the table rather than still trying to shift the blame. The facts are clear the UUP tried to blame the DUP for the definition when all the time it was one of their own Ministers who first used it in Stormont and even went as far as saying he was "delighted to endorse" it. It was the UUP who "endorsed" terrorists being treated the same as the innocent victim!

The other falsehood peddled by the UUP is that the DUP voted against amending the definition. This could not be further from the truth. At no time did the DUP ever vote on the amendment as it never even made it onto the Order Paper. This is a complete

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lie by the UUP. The UUP should stop engaging in Party political stunts on this matter. The DUP is absolutely committed to changing the definition but it must be done in the appropriate way at the correct time.

Furthermore, I would challenge Tom Elliott and the Ulster Unionist Party to apologise to the innocent victims for the UUP's part in their hurt when his Party agreed to the release of all terrorist prisoners under the Belfast Agreement. It is utter hypocrisy for the UUP to speak as one with clean hands when it was that very Party which allowed the most ruthless and brutal of murderers to walk free from prison.

Tom mentions policing – he must forget that it was his Party which instigated and supported the destruction of the RUC under Patten and it was his Party which set the wheels in motion for the RIR to be stood down. It was also his Party which had agreed to devolve policing, in all likelihood, to a Sinn Fein Justice Minister by 2005 prior to Sinn Fein even hinting at giving its support to the Police. We will not take any lectures on policing from the UUP!

Tom, like many Ulster Unionists, seems to forget that the DUP had to sweep up an enormous mess, created by weak UUP negotiators, when it became the largest Party at Stormont. He seems to forget the shambles which his Party had made of representing the unionist people. It was a concession-a-day to republicans. Under DUP leadership unionism is setting the agenda and it is republicans who are on the back foot."

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