Sinn Fein's actions contradictory

Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party Sir Reg Empey hit out at a Sinn Fein today, as it emerged that the republican party has been distributing flyers around parts of Belfast asking members of the public to come forward and protest at the Home coming parade for service men and women this weekend.

Speaking today, Sir Reg said: "I am appalled by the sheer gall of Sinn Fein in producing these leaflets blatantly attacking the armed forces and delving into sectarian, political, point scoring."

"I find the contradictory measures they are taking inexcusable. On one hand, they are claiming that their protest will be dignified and silent and on the other they are encouraging people to come along to the protest using sectarian and offensive language."

"The leaflets in themselves are worrying - Sinn Fein should be ashamed of themselves for using this parade to promote their own anti-political agenda."

"This parade has simply been organised to acknowledge the safe return of service personnel from a dangerous combat zone: as well as a quiet, simple tribute to those who died or were injured - it is not a parade to glorify war. It is a simple thank-you to the men and women who dare to fight for their country and it's that sense of service, dedication and physical courage that is being acknowledged at it. It is also worth noting that this parade will include service men and woman from both communities in Northern Ireland and from both sides of the border."

"Our service personnel deserve a homecoming parade. They deserve to have their courage, dedication and patriotism recognised. They don’t have the luxury of picking and choosing which wars they will fight. They go where they are sent and do what they are asked to do."

"As Sunday approaches I once again urge calm from members of the public. Do not respond to the provocations of Sinn Fein. - Belfast and Northern Ireland rightly wishes to honour our armed forces and welcome them home."