

Public benefits

The Iona Institute Northern Ireland's public benefit requirement is met through the advancement of Christian religion by offering public comment, participating in public debate and organising conferences in order to foster and propagate the Catholic and Christian faith. These contribute to the moral improvement in society which religion encourages. These benefits can be demonstrated by public participation in conferences and other events, media appearances and contributions from members of Iona Institute Northern Ireland as well as feedback from conference participants and other interested parties. There is no identifiable harm flowing from our purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are the general public, but especially those who profess the Christian religion, in particular its expression in Roman Catholicism. The only incidental private benefits flowing from our purposes are occasional honorariums paid to conference speakers, and occasional payments made to an administrative assistant

What your organisation does

We organise conferences on specific themes related to the right to life, the place of marriage in society, the benefits of religious belief and practice and the right to freedom of conscience. We also provide commentary and analysis on current ethical issues through our website and social media, as well as in traditional media outlets.

The charity's classifications

- The advancement of religion

Who the charity helps

- General public
- Men
- Older people
- Women

How the charity works

- Education/training
- Human rights/equality
- Religious activities

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Media engagement

The Iona Institute NI continues to respond to regular invitations from broadcast media to contribute to discussions on a range of relevant ethical, social and religious issues. Our spokespersons continue to highlight the importance of upholding human rights and safeguarding our vulnerable citizens in law, policy and practice. Taking part in these popular programmes provide an important opportunity to respectfully comment and scrutinise existing and proposed legislation in relation to compatibility with human rights, particularly the right to life and freedom of religion and conscience ..

Programmes have included;

BBC Talkback, Good Morning Ulster, Evening Extra, Sunday Sequence.

Recent topics included; assisted suicide, buffer zones, faith based education, relationships and sexuality education , parental rights, the rise of atheism, the benefits of religious practice, the impact of ‘no fault’ divorce and more.

Conference

From our initial launch our annual conferences have remained an important highlight of our year. These have provided important opportunities for members and guests to come together to hear expert speakers explore relevant issues in a welcoming environment. Following covid, we moved our conference online with a tremendous response. Over 500 participants took part in our first zoom conference “Is Catholic education worth keeping in N.Ireland” . This topic continues to garner much interest online with regular requests for copies of the talks given by our expert panel of speakers. We look forward to commencing our tradition of an annual conference soon.

Social Media

We continue to share relevant news and provide insight and commentary on a range of issues for our followers across our digital platforms, facebook and X.

E-Newsletter

Press releases and news round up on relevant stories are shared regularly with our newsletter subscribers.

Schools Outreach

The study of ‘ethics’ continues to be an important aspect of the current GSCE and ‘A Level’ curriculum. As such we continue to respond to requests for information from RE students and teachers on a range of ethical issues .

