

NATIONAL IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Cumann na Saoirse Naisiunta

VISA DENIAL REPEAL CAMPAIGN

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The first and most important thing you can do to protest the U.S government's visa denial policy is to become familiar with the issues surrounding this policy. For more information contact the National Coordinator at the address shown below.

Contact your local, state and federal representatives, expressing your concern that this policy denies you exposure to competing schools of thought regarding ways of achieving a just and lasting peace in Ireland, therefore, deprives you of the opportunity to compare the merits of the Eire Nua peace formula to the Good Friday Agreement.

Get your friends involved by organizing informational sessions to discuss the repercussions of this U.S. government policy and to seek their support in repealing this damaging policy.

Join with other activists to organize awareness seminars, forums, letter-writing campaigns etc., aimed at informing targeted audiences as well as the public at large how this policy is detrimental to the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in Ireland.

Lend your financial support to our efforts to change this policy by contributing to the campaign. Your contribution will be used to publicize the denial of visas and the consequential damage to the public's right to know and to our cherished constitutional right to exercise free speech. Send your contribution to the New York address shown at the bottom of the page.

**National Irish Freedom Committee,
P.O. Box 771084,
Woodside, NY 11377
Email:**

Local Contact:

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THE ISSUE

Since 1974, the U.S. government has denied visas to Eire Nua proponents to enter the United States to promote the Eire Nua (New Ireland) peace formula.

Eire Nua is a comprehensive Irish formula for a just and lasting peace in Ireland in the context of a British withdrawal. More importantly Eire Nua is an Irish alternative to the faltering British-initiated Good Friday Agreement (GFA), an arrangement that after many years in existence is still ineffective.

Since 1974, the U.S. government has denied visas to Eire Nua representatives to enter the United States to promote the Eire Nua (New Ireland) program. The U.S. government has acquiesced to pressure by the British and the 26-county governments by summarily denying entry visas to Eire Nua spokespersons including Ruairi O' Bradaigh. The British consider O'Bradaigh and the other targeted individuals to be effective spokespersons for the Eire Nua program, and if granted access to the U. S would pose a serious threat to their own unopposed public relations campaign in the U.S., which seeks to legitimize British occupation of six of Irelands' thirty-two counties.

In 1978, the leaders of Irish organizations in New Jersey petitioned Peter Rodino, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to investigate the denial of visas to members of the Republican movement. The inquiry, which was led by Joshua Eilberg (D. PA) and Hamilton Fish (R.NY), took place in Ireland and England in September 1978 concluded, "that all those who applied for visas should be allowed into the United States and none excluded".

This damaging U.S. policy is a serious setback to the promotion of the Eire Nua peace formula in the United States. It deprives Irish-Americans and the American public at large of an opportunity to evaluate and compare competing schools of thought regarding a solution to the ongoing British presence in Ireland



Ruairi O'Bradaigh

NATIONAL IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE

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THE VISA PLOY

The U.S. government's visa policy as applied to Irish political activists is based on their support for the British initiated GFA. Activists who support the GFA are granted visas; those who oppose and offer competing solutions are denied visas. This U.S. government's visa ploy has been in effect for the past 25 years. Many more Eire Nua proponents have been added to the list since the unveiling of the GFA.

Eire Nua expert proponents, who have been denied entry visas include:

- Ruairi O'Bradaigh -- Sinn Fein
- Desmond Long -- Sinn Fein
- Joseph O'Neill -- Sinn Fein
- Michael McManus -- Sinn Fein

In 1974, Ruairi O'Bradaigh, co-author of Eire Nua, had his U.S. visitor's visa revoked. Prior to 1974 O'Bradaigh held a multiple entry visa. His last visit to the U. S. was in 1974 when he testified before the Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding the treatment of political prisoners in Ireland. Significantly, also in 1974, according to recently released 30-year Irish State papers, O'Bradaigh, as leader of the Irish Republican Movement presented the Eire Nua program at The Feakle (Co Clare) Peace Talks to the Protestant clergy who represented the British government. The Peace Talks were broken up by the 26-county Irish government, who were 'enraged' when the Protestant praised the Irish Republican movement for attempting to bring peace to Ireland. On numerous occasions since 1974, O'Bradaigh has been invited to the U.S. to explain details of the Eire Nua program. On each occasion, his visa application was denied for ever-changing political reasons.

Supporters of the British-arranged GFA who have been granted entry visas include:

- Gerry Adams -- Provisional Sinn Fein
- Martin McGuinness -- Provisional Sinn Fein
- Gary McMichael -- Unionist Democratic Party
- Joe English -- Ulster Defense Association
- David Irvine -- Ulster Volunteer Force
- Billy Hutchinson -- Ulster Volunteer Force

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THE CONSEQUENCES

The U.S. policy of visa denial to Eire Nua proponents means the American people are *DENIED* the right to hear informed spokespersons from Ireland present the Eire Nua peace formula, a comprehensive Irish formula for a just and lasting peace in Ireland.

It means that the American people are *DENIED* the right to compare the Eire Nua peace formula to the British-initiated Good Friday Agreement; an arrangement designed to maintain the status quo and rewards its supporters.

It means that the American people are *NOT TRUSTED* to support a U.S. government policy supportive of the British initiated Good Friday Agreement if exposed to information on the alternative Eire Nua peace formula.

It means that the American people are *FORCED-FED* another convoluted British arrangement that is doomed to failure because it does not include the re-unification of Ireland, in the context of a British withdrawal.

It means that the American people are denied exposure to competing schools of thought regarding ways of achieving a just and lasting peace in Ireland, therefore, deprives them of the opportunity to compare the merits of the Eire Nua peace formula to the Good Friday Agreement.

It means that on this particular issue, we, the supporters of the Eire Nua peace formula, are *TREATED UNFAIRLY*, and are therefore challenged to make our voices heard in seeking to repeal this unfair U.S. government policy.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT AND MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD
