



June 25, 2016

Dear Friends:

I wish I could be with you today as you celebrate those who labored and sacrificed to bring about peace in Northern Ireland – and recommit yourselves to sustaining that peace. I am delighted that my dear friend, Melanne Vermeer, is with you for this important commemoration, and am sending my best wishes.

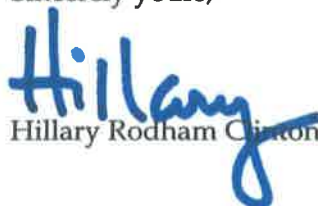
The progress Northern Ireland has made since my first visit to Belfast in 1995 is remarkable, and a credit to all those whose determination to bring an end to violence made them true peacemakers. You remain an inspiration and a shining example that peace, even against the strongest of odds, is possible.

On this occasion, I want to especially recognize the courage and strength of the women of Northern Ireland, who have led the united campaign for peace since long before the Good Friday Agreement. In my visits to Northern Ireland, I met women who set aside community differences – around kitchen tables, at markets, in community centers, and on peace marches – to ensure that the promise of peace and a better future for their children would one day become a reality. Indeed, women around the world bear the burden of keeping their families safe and worrying about day-to-day life in conflict zones, and they are often the ones who finally transcend divisions and find a way to work together. They, and you, continue to be a model to the world.

You know better than anyone that immense challenges still remain, but there is no doubt in my mind that they will continue to be addressed through the daily commitment, resolve, faith, and fortitude of the people of Northern Ireland to ensure a durable peace. I am proud to stand with you in your continued efforts to build a prosperous and secure future.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

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