

CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER NO 6, DECEMBER 2010

1. Platform for Change articulates dissatisfaction over CSI document

On October 29th, the Belfast Telegraph published our [open letter to the OFMDFM](#), challenging the proposed Cohesion, Sharing and Integration document. We spoke out against a strategy which 'holds out only a future of sustained segregation, defying the clear public aspiration that we live, work and are educated in common' and called for the document to be rewritten in dialogue with experienced community relations practitioners.

The letter was a great success, with over 160 signatories at the final count, including community workers, victims' campaigners, independent experts and lead figures from ethnic-minority communities. We received great coverage from local news media, including the Belfast Telegraph, BBC Northern Ireland and the Irish Times. Many thanks to everyone who lent us their support, and their signatures!

2. How we can influence the assembly election

Our next activity in our action plan is to engage the public and the parties in the run-up to the assembly election next May. We need elections to be fought on day-to-day policy issues and we need to have a power-sharing government that really works. So we're producing two papers which we hope will influence the pre-election debate and the party manifestoes. Building on our agreed platform, one will be on the next Programme for Government and the other on a more flexible power-sharing system.

We'll be discussing these issues at our **next public meeting**. This will take place from **10am to 1pm on Saturday, January 15th, in Queen's University Belfast** (Lanyon Building/Room G46). Please do come along to shape our argument. We hope to see as many of you there as possible – please notify our secretary, [Nuala McKeever](#), if you plan to attend.

3. Help us spread the word!

Meanwhile, we are trying to expand our presence online, and would be happy to hear from you on our [website forum](#) or [facebook page](#). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#).

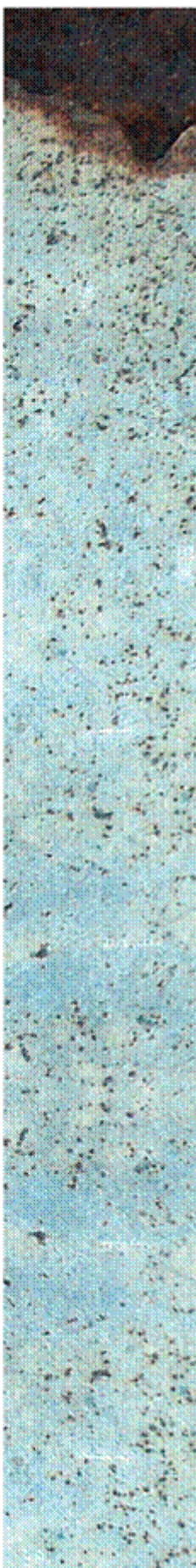
Please make an effort to tell others about Platform for Change and invite them to join in the discussions. You can do this by copying and pasting the following paragraphs into your email and sending them to your contacts:

Subject: Platform for Change, Please FWD

Dear friend

Platform for Change is a voice for those who feel that politics in Northern Ireland has become stuck in the past, and who want the next assembly to deliver an executive which is genuinely committed to a shared future, and to addressing key policy areas such as education, the economy, and the environment. We stand for:

- a politics focused on the public interest and the common good
- a cohesive government in which power is genuinely shared



- an assembly which gives the citizen a real voice
- a vision of a tolerant and inclusive society without dividing lines

In order to make a difference, we need the widest possible support. If you haven't already done so, you can help us in the following ways:

1. **Become a member of the platform** by joining us on our [website](#). This allows you to become an official signatory, have a say in our decisions, and receive a regular e-newsletter.
2. **Become a fan of our [Facebook page](#)**, allowing you to join in the discussion on political realignment and receive regular updates about our campaign.
3. **Follow us on [Twitter](#)** to receive important updates about our meetings and notices of media coverage.
4. **Come to our next public meeting**, which will take place on **January 15th, 2011, 10.00am - 1.00pm in Queen's University**, Lanyon building, Room G46. We'll be discussing how we will shape the assembly election debate.
5. **[Contact us](#)** if you would like to be more involved with the campaign, as an individual or a group representative.

Finally, Spread the word! Please take a moment to forward this email to as many people as you can – by helping us to get our message across, you can contribute to positive change in our society.

Many thanks for your support.

Kind regards, etc.

4. Feedback

If you want to discuss any of the issues in this newsletter, contact:

Robin Wilson (Chair)

Email: robin.wilson@platformforchange.net

Mobile: 07771607707

or

Nuala McKeever (Secretary)

Email: nuala.mckeever@platformforchange.net

... and enjoy your holiday break!

Yours sincerely