



Human Rights Implementation Centre

Maggie Beirne has spent all her working life as a human rights "practitioner". For some 17 years, she worked with Amnesty International's International Secretariat and had a variety of functions in research and campaigning posts. She served for several years as a member of the organisation's senior management team as Head of their Campaign and Membership Department and, in that function, had extensive opportunities to travel and work alongside AI's campaigning membership in different parts of the globe.

After a short period of a return to study, and work as an independent consultant in the human rights field, Ms Beirne then took on permanent work with the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), the leading human rights group in Northern Ireland. As a volunteer, staff member, and finally as Director of the organisation, Ms Beirne was actively involved in the work to counter human rights abuses and then, as the peace process evolved, in seeking to build human rights protections into the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement (1998). The organisation was honoured with the Council of Europe Human Rights Prize to mark the centrality accorded to human rights and equality in the peace accord. For the next ten years, Ms Beirne worked with CAJ colleagues to embed the human rights gains made.

Since returning to London, Ms Beirne has been involved in occasional consultancy projects, and writes and talks about the conflict in Northern Ireland. Her particular interest lies in exploring the important role that human rights abuses can play in fuelling conflict, and how human rights advances (in terms of policing, criminal justice, equality measures, socio-economic protections etc) are crucial to long term peace-building.

Ms Beirne has a BA (Hons) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Balliol, Oxford, and an MSc in Irish Politics from Queens University, Belfast.