



IRELAND TO APPLY TO STRASBOURG COURT TO CHALLENGE UK LEGACY ACT 2023

STATEMENT OF KRW LAW 20 December 2023 (Revised 21 December 2023)

On 20 December 2023 the Irish government announced that it would lodge an application with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) at Strasbourg to challenge the compatibility of the UK's Legacy Act 2023 with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

Ireland and UK are both signatories of the ECHR. The Court of the ECHR is the ECtHR, which is a tribunal of the Council of Europe, of which Ireland and the UK are members.

KRW LAW (KRW) represents hundreds of relatives of victims and survivors of the Conflict in Ireland. KRW has made being making representations and submissions to the Irish government since the UK introduced the Legacy Bill in 2022.

Kevin Winters, Senior Partner, Solicitor of KRW LAW said:

"The announcement by the Irish government that it will lodge an inter-state application against the British government with the ECtHR is the right decision politically, morally, and legally.

It is a massive fillip to all those who have been agitating for decades to get access to the truth in unresolved killings. In terms of timing this development could not be any more important. It comes at a time when the judiciary in Belfast are adjudicating on a series of Conflict-related challenges taken on behalf of six families opposed to the new Legacy Act 2023.

The Irish State application will have an immediate impact on those cases. We expect the courts in Northern Ireland to take cognizance of this significant development.

The news sends a resounding message that Ireland as a nation will not be found wanting when it comes to upholding the human rights of thousands of people affected by the violence of the Troubles.

KRW first approached the Irish Government in 2022 by way of submissions and on behalf of the hundreds of relatives of victims and survivors of the Conflict, on both sides of the Irish border. KRW has continued to press for this intervention by the Irish government.

It comes as a huge relief to know that Ireland will pursue this application before the ECtHR. Today is a resoundingly important one for human rights in this country.”

ENDS

Contact

KEVIN WINTERS

kevin@kevinrinters.com

NIALL MURPHY

niallm@kevinrinters.com

CHRISTOPHER STANLEY

Christopher.Stanley@kevinrinters.com

**KRW LAW LLP 3rd Floor, The Sturgen Building 9-15 Queen Street Belfast
Co Antrim BT1 6EA**

Tel: 028 9024 1888

Fax: 028 9024 4804