



**How long are
you prepared
to wait for
benefits for our
community?**

2003

ELECTION MANIFESTO

PROGRESSIVE
UNIONIST PARTY

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*“Old style traditional politics isn’t
working for the people of
Northern Ireland.
It’s time to make a change.”*



PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY

Introduction



Introduction by David Ervine. Leader of the Progressive Unionist Party.

For the past four years Unionism has been riven by disagreement on our future and the success or failure of the Good Friday Agreement.

Division over Pro and Anti Agreement views has left our community with nothing but low morale. Today those divisions should be behind us. The position of the Progressive Unionist Party is as ever Pro Union. We have a clear vision for the future of Northern Ireland within the Union and a definitive strategy to drive that vision.

We demand real outcomes for our people. Grandstanding has continually failed us bringing with it only empty victories, division and apathy.

The Progressive Unionist Party believes in accepting realities, telling the truth and providing leadership in these difficult times. In the present atmosphere a doom and gloom assessment may be popular but it will achieve nothing for our community. We will be left

in the hands of legislators, far removed from the hopes and fears of the Unionist populace. That does not amount to effective political leadership.

A politician should bring principle into practice. Everyone in society can see what's wrong; people elect their politicians to right those wrongs.

To create a positive and progressive future in Northern Ireland I believe we need to focus on the two core issues of respect for our different national, political and cultural identities and the political legacy we will pass onto future generations.

The issue of respect is especially pertinent to the Unionist population at present. They feel that the Unionist identity is not being given the respect that it deserves. I believe they are right. As a committed Unionist myself I have always been proud of my community. Our national, political and cultural character is the result of centuries of experience and thought and thus, as I respect the identities of others, so I expect it in return. In the Progressive Unionist Party we believe that our future will be brighter when all politicians recognise and respect our differences. And it is my conviction that diverse identities will become a positive feature of a truly multicultural Northern Ireland.

The political legacy we leave future generations is something we all need to be aware of. I believe that we need to focus our energies on making politics work for all sections of the Northern Ireland population. To achieve this goal we need to:

1. Reform our education system to ensure every child gets equality of access and opportunity to succeed.
2. Build our communities as a means of creating a strong civil society.
And
3. Support and encourage individuals, families and communities as they seek to fulfil their potential.

I believe that the job of a politician is to work to achieve a better future for all the people. Thus in this election the Progressive Unionist Party advocates a platform of enlightened policies all of which seek to improve the lives of present and future generations in Northern Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ervine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Manifesto

THE UNION

The Progressive Unionist Party is fully committed to maintaining and strengthening the present constitutional position of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom. The Party shall work by all democratic means to ensure that there will be no change to the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland's place within it.

The Party is fully committed to the development of a new era of peace and stability in Northern Ireland. This peace should be based upon the principle of consent and mutual respect.

DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT

The Progressive Unionist Party believes that the form of government for Northern Ireland should be a complete partnership of devolved government. Our party has promoted the concept of 'Sharing Responsibility' since 1979. It is our belief that a peaceful future can be achieved through the concept of shared responsibility in an honourable partnership.

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

The Progressive Unionist Party is committed to a comprehensive programme of conflict transformation. If we are to achieve a fully functioning devolved democracy all parties will have to embrace the process of transformation. We advocate transformation rather than resolution, as unionism and nationalism are diametrically opposed political philosophies. The manner of how these competing political ideals engage can be transformed to a non-violent one.

Manifesto

COMMUNITY POLITICS

The Progressive Unionist Party is committed to working for the reconstruction of our society. To achieve this goal we advocate participative community action. We encourage our members to work at local level for the development of community education and training programmes, which discover, draw out and develop the strengths and potential of the whole community. We will campaign for increased levels of core funding for community-based projects that enable capacity building and the promotion of “good relations”.

CULTURE, ARTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Progressive Unionist Party believes that community development must go hand in hand with cultural expression. We believe that community based arts projects can strengthen the confidence of a neighbourhood. Thus we support increased funding for locally based arts and cultural projects.

In Northern Ireland as a whole we believe that support for the arts can provide a dynamic for increased respect and understanding. Thus we support the development of single and multi identity projects.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

The Progressive Unionist Party supports the work of both the Human Rights and Equality Commissions. We recognise that in a post conflict society their work is essential to building a fully functional society. It is paramount that we see the delivery of the “Single Equality Act” and the “Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland”. We seek the wider acknowledgement that equality issues are linked to the promotion of New TSN and PSI and as such must clearly be addressed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and its members.

We strongly advocate the development of pro-active initiatives that lead to more representative participation of women and ethnic minorities in public and private institutions.

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ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Progressive Unionist Party supports a multiple strategy approach, which should include both medium and long-term goals across the following sectors:

- I Selective intervention to retain and expand the local economic base.
- I Target setting for inward investment in disadvantaged areas.
- I Establishment of local capital finance funds.
- I Increased financial support for local research and development projects.
- I Creation of secure social economy employment. This should include poverty support teams, environmental task forces and sports development.

This party will hold at its core the belief that any economic strategy should primarily focus on alleviating the sources of all poverty.

EDUCATION

The Progressive Unionist Party believes that education is the key to a successful peace process. If society is to be rebuilt everyone must have access to quality education. At present this is not the case. Thus we support:

- I Reform of post-primary education leading to a system of modern schools.
- I Reintroduction of student grants.
- I Increased pre-school provision with emphasis in disadvantaged areas.
- I A radical reform of the school curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of all children.
- I A radical reform of administrative structures within the education system.

Manifesto

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Progressive Unionist Party believes in environmentalism, which is based on a fundamental understanding of the interaction between human beings and the world they live in. The issue is about more than conserving natural resources; it also involves enhancing the world around us.

The party believes that the environment is a natural and common resource for which we are all collectively responsible. We are calling for:

- I Environmental issues to be incorporated into all economic planning and policy-making.
- I Legislation to take control of all dumping and pollution issues.
- I Well-financed schemes to maximise the use of inner city areas. These programmes should seek to ensure that present brown field provision is fully utilised.
- I Support for all international deals on the environment.

HOUSING

The Progressive Unionist Party believes that housing policy is integral to successfully tackling poverty and environmental issues. We call for:

- I Well-funded programmes to tackle homelessness, disrepair and overcrowding.
- I A fund to rehabilitate uninhabitable rural housing.
- I An interface rehabilitation fund.
- I An end to green field development when much of the inner city lies derelict.
- I Development of proper housing management structures in conjunction with the “Review of Public Administration”.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Progressive Unionist Party repudiates the values and ethos of the new right who seek to privatise the welfare state. We oppose the handing over of our future to PPP/PFI and unaccountable 'Trusts'. We do not trust these bodies and thus we call for:

- I Properly funded services directly governed by elected local authorities.
- I Services that are geared to facilitate community needs and not limited to the needs of stigmatised individuals.
- I Local community social work teams and Family Centres as the main base for social welfare activity.
- I Social policies that are geared towards equipping families and individuals with the resources and information to enable them to take control of their lives.
- I An end to managerial social work and the overthrow of contract culture.
- I An increase in the benefits for lone parents.

POLICING

The Progressive Unionist Party acknowledges the need for an effective and representative police service to uphold law, defend peace and protect the innocent. To achieve this goal a police force needs to have respect for the communities it serves. This respect must be two-way and can only be built through partnership. In the absence of armed conflict the police service must be given time to adjust to the new environment. Thus the party supports the process of change and will seek to help and facilitate as we can.

Our Principles



Introducing the five core principles of Progressive Unionism.

In the Progressive Unionist Party we believe that respect for all cultures is the best way to build a peaceful and prosperous future for everyone in Northern Ireland. Thus we have agreed five core principles as our platform in this election. It is my conviction that a political future based on these principles will deliver a legacy of peace and prosperity for all our people.

David Rose
Deputy Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rose." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Five Core Principles Of Progressive Unionism

- ☐ Respect for Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom.
- ☐ The material well being of the Northern Ireland People.
- ☐ Equal access to education.
- ☐ Civil, religious and cultural liberty for all.
- ☐ The right to peaceful opposition and protest.

Candidates



Cllr. David Ervine - East Belfast

David Ervine was born on the 21st July 1953, the son of a Naval Officer he has lived in East Belfast throughout his life.

Acutely aware of the gross mis-representation and under-representation of the Loyalist Working Class. A dedicated and hard working member of the Party, he was instrumental in securing the Loyalist cease-fire of 13th October 1994 and continues to support the virtues of peace and reconciliation for Northern Ireland.

David was elected as a Talks Delegate at the Forum Elections in May 1996 and in the subsequent Multi-Party Talks, which led to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, David served as the Progressive Unionist Party senior negotiator.

David was elected as a local councillor for the Pottinger Ward of East Belfast in May 1997 and sits on a number of committees in Belfast City Council. In June 1998 he was successful in gaining a seat in the new Northern Ireland Assembly for East Belfast constituency and subsequently assumed roles on a number of important Assembly Committees.

As a proponent of conflict transformation, David has been widely recognised as a positive and valuable influence within the community.



Cllr. Billy Hutchinson - North Belfast

“As a marathon runner I know all about commitment, determination and reaching my goals. In my political career I have displayed those qualities as one of the most hard working, accessible, accountable and effective members of the Assembly. In the Social Development and Audit Committees, I have worked tirelessly scrutinising the Executive to bring the best possible governance to the people of North Belfast.”

A member of the Northern Ireland Forum, Multi Party Negotiations and Belfast City Council, Billy Hutchinson has firmly established his place in the political framework of Northern Ireland over the last decade. “My passion for local politics and yearning for an honourable settlement in this society ensures I will remain a powerful force for the future of politics in Northern Ireland.”



Cllr. Hugh Smyth, OBE - West Belfast

“I have been involved in Unionist politics for 30 years and in that time I have faithfully and consistently represented all my constituents. Having been a member of the 1974 Northern Ireland Assembly and the Northern Ireland Convention, the experience gained from these terms of office will be used to ensure that the interests of the people in West Belfast are advanced. During my political career I was privileged to be elected Lord Mayor of Belfast and shortly afterwards I had the added distinction of receiving an O.B.E. from Her Majesty the Queen.”

“I have been happily married to my wife, Ellen, for 40 years and I still live on the Shankill Road where I was born. In my time I have met and had dialogue with John Major, Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and George Bush with the welfare of Ulster and her people always being my first priority.”

Candidates



Tom Morrow - South Belfast

“I was born in the Donegall Road area, and have lived there all my life. I have been involved in many consumer associations and community groups, including 20 years as an active Trade Unionist. In recent years, I served as Chairman of Greater Village Regeneration Trust, which is an umbrella organisation that was established to instigate and oversee the social, economic and physical rejuvenation of the area. The Trust’s primary aim is to improve the quality of life for local people.”

“I strongly advocate for the right of each individual to have a voice in the plans and policies which affect us all.”



Andy Park - Lagan Valley

“I am a married man with four children and live in the Derriaghy area of Lisburn. I am a member of both the Orange Order and the Apprentice Boys of Derry. I have been involved in community and Ulster politics for over 25 years. In that time I have been Chairman of the Ulster Clubs and a member of the Ulster Unionist Party. I was a member of the Ulster Unionist Council; I have also stood as a candidate in the Local elections. At present I am Chief Electoral Officer and a member of the Executive of the Progressive Unionist Party.”

“I have played a major role in community development in the Lisburn area being both Chairman and Treasurer, at various times over the last 15 years of Lisburn Community Forum. I also served on Lisburn Peace and Reconciliation Partnership from its inception in 1996 until 2001, serving a period as Treasurer. I was also Treasurer of the Lisburn Citizens Advice Bureau. I have also served on committees relating to housing and health. I was a founder member of CAG (Community Advisory Group), an advisory committee to the NIHE board. I was also Chairman of the S.E. area CAG also a member of Lisburn customer Panel NIHE. I was also a board member of NITAP (Northern Ireland Tenants Action Project). In the matters relating to health I was a member of the Down Lisburn Trust Locality Board (Dunmurry Patch) At present I am a board member of Community Dialogue, with interests in peace making and conflict transformation.”



Colin Neill - Strangford

“I am 40 years old and married to Esther. I have four daughters aged from 17 to 23 years old and have two granddaughters. I am presently employed by Bombardier Shorts having previously spent nine and a half years in a management position in the hospitality trade.”

“For the last six years I have been involved in community development and economic regeneration in the Dundonald area.”

Candidates



David Rose - North Down

“I have lived and worked in North Down all my life. Working as a schoolteacher in a local integrated High school, the PUP is my natural political home. I was education spokesperson from 1997 to 2001. In 2001 I was elected Deputy Leader.”

“In this election I am, along with my party colleagues advocating a programme of long term solutions to Northern Ireland's problems. They may not be what we all want. I believe they are what we all need.”



Billy McCaughey - North Antrim

“I was born and reared in the Ballymena area. I am self-employed, married to Angela and have three grown-up children. I have a B.A. Degree in Politics and Education.”

“I have been a Unionist political activist for over 35 years. I am a member of the Executive of the Progressive Unionist Party and last year I represented the party together with the party leader, David Ervine, at a cross-party Unionist Convention in South Africa. I constantly make representations to statutory agencies on behalf of my community on housing, policing, racism and many other issues. I am active in voluntary community work in the Ballymena area and I am an advocate of the principle of participative democracy.”



Carolyn Howarth - East Antrim

“I am a thirty-eight year old mother of three daughters. I am currently working on a part-time basis as a teacher of history, in the secondary sector. I have been a member of the party for eight years and have been a candidate in the previous 2 local council elections. I have lived in the East Antrim area for eighteen years and have been engaged in community work for the last eight years. I am a founder member of the Mediation Resource Centre in Carrickfergus and have served as chairperson of its management committee. As a trainer, mediator, and as someone who has worked closely with the local community I have gained much experience in the resolution of conflict situations. I have played a pivotal role in the setting up of the Carrickfergus Community Telephone Network which was largely responsible for controlling rumours and dispelling tension around the Drumcree period in previous years.”

“I have served as a member of the Carrickfergus Community Police Liaison committee, and have recently been appointed as an independent member of the newly created District Policing Partnership. I am committed to working for all of the people of the East Antrim area and as a teacher I have a particular interest in the education of young people and acknowledge the problems they face in today's society.”

Candidates



Ken Wilkinson - South Antrim

“I have worked for and served the South Antrim community for many years, standing in both Assembly and Local Council elections. I am a former member of the UDR. I have been very active in highlighting the illegal drug trade in the area and the risks that poses for the young of the area, I will continue to be an outspoken activist for the creation of a Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Northern Ireland. I have played a leading role in securing funding to open the Drug Awareness Centre (Future 2000). I am also a member of the Antrim Community Safety Committee. In 2002 I graduated from the International School of Belgium as a ‘Fellow of Messines’.”



Roy Reid - West Tyrone

“I am a married man with 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. I live in the West Tyrone border town of Castlederg. I am a member of Loyal Orange Lodge no 1272 and also a member of the Royal Black Preceptory No 416. I have been involved in community politics for quite sometime. I have helped in the development of community organisations in many working class unionist areas, areas that have been failed by mainstream political unionism.”

“I have played a major role in community development in the Castlederg area, and I am chairperson of a local initiative to help develop a new and fully inclusive approach to meals on wheels in the Castlederg area. I am also vice- chair of the local Mournderg Partnership, a banner organisation for local community groups, I am also a member of Strabane Local Strategic Partnership and am a member of the N.I.H.E District Consumer Panel the N.I.H.E West Area Community Advisory group and N.I.H.E Central Community Advisory Group, a member of Castlederg Community Police Liaison Committee, as well as being a committee member of Strabane & District Community Network.”

“I have been to the forefront of bringing a better future to the loyalist/unionist areas of West Tyrone.”

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Dedicated to an
Anti-Sectarian, Pluralist
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