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MCDERMOTT WITHDRAWS FROM OGRA SHINN FEIN EVENT

[Back to Latest News](#)

The SDLP's youngest Councillor Matthew McDermott has today withdrawn from an Ogra Shinn Fein event to be held at the weekend in Newcastle, Co. Down.

Cllr McDermott was due to take part in a panel discussion on Saturday 10th January but has stated that he will not be involved in an event in which the main aim is not dialogue and discussion but rather to indoctrinate young people.

As part of the weekend, Ogra Shinn Fein will visit the Narrow Water site, a site of mass murder during the troubles.

Commenting Cllr McDermott said: ‘ While I always welcome the opportunity to debate anti social behaviour on a panel, this weekend is not the time or the place to do it – a weekend which will include the glorification of mass murder.

‘ It is preposterous for OSF to claim that the Provisional IRA fought a justifiable war. The people of Ireland year after year democratically rejected the IRA. IRA terrorism divided not united the people of Ireland and IRA violence killed over half of all those dead over the years of violence by the state and terror groups.

‘ To now grotesquely promote that terror by a visit to a site of mass murder is equivalent to the British Army Cadets visiting the site of the Massacre at Ballymurphy in 1971 – it's deplorable.

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» Events

» Key Speeches

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