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## A Promotional Video for Women in Sandy Row

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## A Promotional Video for Women in Sandy Row

Emily Cañas

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### **Abstract**

Women's activism and contributions in Northern Ireland have often been over looked in many accounts of history. Today, women are very active in the community of Sandy Row in Belfast. I want to work with them to create a promotional video. The video will include information about the women, their work, their impact on the community and the positive opportunities Sandy Row has to offer for residents as well as visitors. It is important to create spaces for women to tell their stories. This video would give women activists in the Sandy Row community a chance to tell their stories and promote their cause.

## **Introduction**

The period between 1968 to 1998 in Northern Ireland is known as the Troubles (Devenport). These thirty years were marked by violent conflict between Unionists and Loyalists, who wanted to remain a part of the United Kingdom, and Nationalists and Republicans who wanted a united Ireland separate from the United Kingdom (Wolff, 163). Within both sides of the conflict, there were splits among parties—some groups more violent than others (Devenport). Several attempts were made to settle the conflict—the final being the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998 (Wolff, 163). Though not perfect, it restored relative peace to Northern Ireland (Wolff, 169).

The role women played in the conflict in Northern Ireland is often overlooked. Many women fought alongside men, carried guns and were thrown in jail (Wahidin, 17). They defied the stereotypes of peaceful women in the domestic sphere. Because they challenged gender norms, many people were uncomfortable acknowledging their participation in the politics, violence and the peace agreement (Wahidin, 14). Today, women are still active in politics and activism in Northern Ireland.

Located in Belfast, the neighborhood of Sandy Row experienced decline in recent years but according to the Historic Sandy Row website it is now being revitalized. Many women are playing a key role in this revitalization. They are participating in activism and developing the community.

## **Motivation**

Failure to acknowledge women's roles in politics and activism is a failure to tell the full story of the conflict and resolution in Northern Ireland. Too often women are excluded from

history, or are poorly or inaccurately represented. This contributes to the inequity of genders in society. And where there is inequity of people, social justice and peace cannot thrive. It is necessary not only to tell the stories of women, but to let women tell their own stories. The daily efforts of women in Sandy Row today shape the community in vital ways. They inspire future generations to strive for peace and equality. They continue to work with the community to better society. Their voices must be heard.

## **Methods**

I will work with women in the community of Sandy Row to create a promotional video about their activism and contributions to the neighborhood. The video will consist of interviews with each woman and will provide a platform for her to tell story. I will work with her to figure out what kind of information she would like to share. Questions could be about her personal background, how she became active in the community, ambitions for the future of Sandy Row. I will gather footage of the women doing their work to demonstrate their activism in the community. I will film locations around Sandy Row to show examples of what the community has to offer. I will interview some people who have been positively affected by the women of Sandy Row. I will include footage from around the community to promote Sandy Row and encourage people to visit.

## **Results**

This video will be an excellent, informative addition the the Sandy Row website. It would make the efforts of the women of Sandy Row known. It would spark people's interest the history of Sandy Row as well as what it has to offer today.

## **Conclusion**

Women play important roles in history and activism, but their efforts are often overlooked. I would love to create a space for women to tell their stories. I would work closely with them to truly reflect what they want to say. I would do my best to fulfill their creative vision. It is important to give women a voice. Media made by women about women is an important part of achieving positive representation, gender equity and a peaceful community.

**Budget**

\$2,000 stipend to expenses incurred during trip.

## Works Cited

1. Devenport, Mark. "Politics in the Troubles." *History*. BBC. February, 2013.
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4. Wolff, Stephan. "The Road to Peace? The Good Friday Agreement and the Conflict in Northern Ireland." *World Affairs*, Vol. 163, No. 4 (Spring 2001), pp. 163-170.