



ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

WITH LAWYERS
IN 23 COUNTRIES

EJDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen & Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt

EJDH Asociación Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo

EJDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie & les Droits de l'Homme

EGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

Equality Privacy Social Rights
No Racism Peace No Torture No War
Self-Determination of Peoples Democracy
Human Rights Rights of Migrants

Bologna, Donostia, Düsseldorf, Vienna, 15/03/2026

ELDH Statement in Support of Gerry Adams and in Defence of the Good Friday Agreement Framework

The European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH) expresses its serious concern regarding the civil proceedings currently being brought before the London High Court against Gerry Adams.

Mr. Adams is a central figure in the Irish peace process and played an essential role in the negotiations that led to the historic Good Friday Agreement. This agreement marked a decisive step toward ending decades of conflict and established a framework grounded in democratic participation, human rights protections, and peaceful political engagement.

Mr. Adams has categorically rejected the allegations made against him in the current civil action and has stated that he had neither direct nor indirect involvement in the bombings referenced by the claimants. While ELDH expresses its sincere sympathy for all victims of the conflict and acknowledges the suffering of those injured and bereaved, the pursuit of accountability must respect the principles of fairness, due process, and credible evidence.

The case against Mr. Adams must also be understood within a wider political and legal context. ELDH notes with concern that certain legal initiatives risk contributing to a broader narrative that

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selectively attributes responsibility for the conflict while diverting attention from the documented role of state actors. Investigations led by figures such as John Stevens and Peter Cory, as well as numerous inquests and official reports, have revealed significant evidence of collusion, unlawful killings, and cover-ups involving elements of the British security apparatus.

ELDH further recalls the findings and conclusions contained in its report “The Crisis of the Human Rights Framework of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.” That report documented serious concerns regarding the approach of the Government of the United Kingdom to the legacy of the conflict and the protection of human rights in Northern Ireland. In particular, the report concluded that the UK Government should cease legal and political actions that undermine the framework of the Good Friday Agreement and should act in good faith as a guarantor of that agreement.

Addressing the legacy of the conflict requires inclusive, transparent and balanced mechanisms capable of delivering truth and accountability for all victims. Such an approach was envisaged in the Stormont House Agreement, negotiated by the parties and both governments as a framework to deal with the past in a human-rights compliant manner.

Civil litigation concerning events that occurred several decades ago cannot substitute for a comprehensive truth and reconciliation process capable of addressing the responsibilities of all actors involved in the conflict. Mr. Adams has repeatedly supported the establishment of such mechanisms and participated in negotiations aimed at creating processes that would allow victims from all communities to obtain truth and recognition.

The achievements of the Irish peace process remain one of the most significant examples of conflict resolution in modern Europe. They must not be undermined by legal or political actions that risk reopening divisions or distorting the historical record.

ELDH therefore calls on the UK Government to reaffirm its commitment to the principles of the Good Friday Agreement, to protect the human rights framework that underpins it, and to support credible and balanced mechanisms for addressing the legacy of the past.

The organisation also reiterates its solidarity with all victims of the conflict and with those who continue to work for peace, justice, and reconciliation on the island of Ireland