

Curriculum link: Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993 - the Civil Rights Movement

RTÉ Archives, Online exhibition: Civil Rights in Northern Ireland - Derry 5 October 1968

Access the online exhibition [here](#).

A civil rights march in Derry on 5 October 1968 is considered the key event that started 'the Troubles' in Northern Ireland. By completing the activities below you should understand the background to the march and how events unfolded.



Activity 1

Listen carefully to the audio clip, "Policemen to the Front of Us, Policemen to the back of us...No Way Out" (1968) and answer the questions that follow.

1. When did the Civil Rights Association inform the RUC of a planned march through Derry?

2. What did the Apprentice Boys tell the police five days before the planned march of the Civil Rights protestors?

3. What decision did William Craig, Minister for Home Affairs, take on 3 October 1968?

4. According to the report, what was the likely reason for the Apprentice Boys organising their own parade?

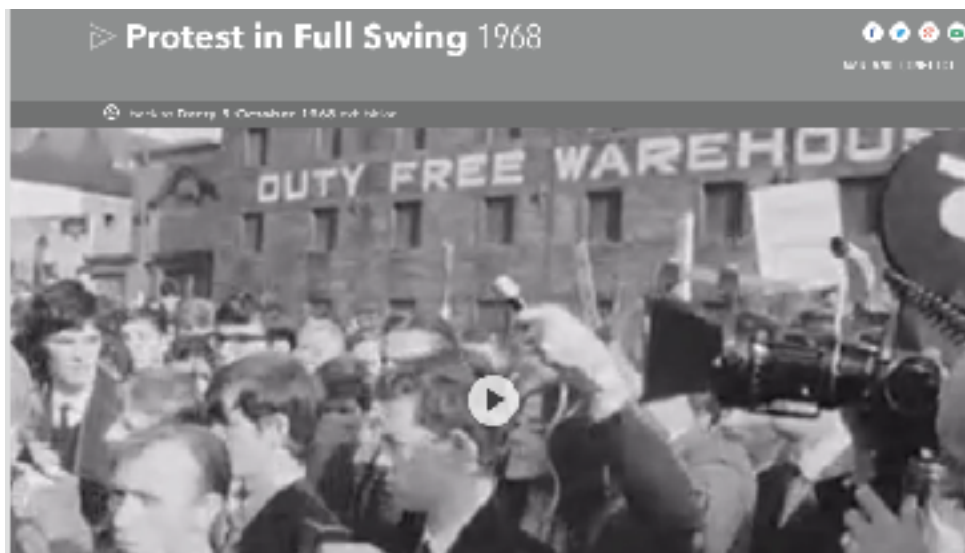
5. According to Austin Currie, what was the intention of the protestors at the outset of the march?

6. Based on Austin Currie's account, how do you know the police were determined to stop the march?

7. Name the two organisations formed shortly after the protest march in Derry.

8. What was the consequence of the press coverage of the protest march?

Activity 2



Study the video clip 'Protest in Full Swing' (1968). In the box below, write down any observations you have about this footage.

Share your observations in small groups of three to four students and feedback your findings to the class.