A comment on sources

In the age of the Internet it has become much easier and cheaper for the activist and academic to access sources of information. In writing this book we have tried, where possible, to use sources that are freely available online. Many of the sources cited in the notes and select bibliography sections are available online. All of these online sources were available during August and September 2016. Two factors, however, mean that there is little value in providing the web address for every source.

First, the Internet is not free. It costs to host sites, and people have to be employed to produce the content for sites. In some cases, this work is a labour of love. (The many thousands of hours of work involved in translating, checking and uploading the content for the Marxists.org site, for example, were offered voluntarily because the people involved believe that it is important to make the writings of Marx, Engels and other Marxists readily available to readers around the world.) In most cases, however, the creation of content and its maintenance online is undertaken as wage-labour for an employer. Consequently, the material that was freely available in 2016 may be behind a paywall at the time you are reading this book. Or it may no longer be available on the Internet. If it is not available because the site has gone out of business, you may still be able to access it at the Wayback machine (http://archive.org/web/).

Secondly, websites are continually evolving. For various reasons many websites change as they develop. This can be because their ownership changes hands and the new owner has a different idea of purpose or layout for the site. Or it can be because the volume of content necessitates a reorganisation of the allocation of URLs for the materials, or for a variety of other reasons. Consequently, the web addresses of individual articles often date quickly. Hence, there is little value in providing the full web address because the use of an Internet search engine can often lead to the article more quickly than typing the full URL into the address bar of an Internet browser.

In the rest of this section we provide some brief information on useful sources on sectarianism and other racisms in Northern Ireland that are available online.
Research on Northern Ireland archive (ARK)
Anyone wanting to read and learn more about Northern Ireland is fortunate to have ARK as a repository of information and knowledge. The site, which is co-hosted by Northern Ireland’s two universities (Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University), contains a huge and ever-growing number of materials. During the writing of this book one particular resource – the Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN) –www.ark.ac.uk/cain – proved particularly useful.

Accounts of the Conflict archive
The Accounts of the Conflict archive is hosted by Ulster University. It contains information about a range of personal accounts of the conflict – many of which were gathered by community-based organisations across Northern Ireland. The site also contains some audio and audio-visual accounts that have been made publicly available. At the time of writing it was available at accounts.ulster.ac.uk/repo24

News sources
There are a number of useful news sources on Northern Ireland, all of which have a web presence, but not all of which are free to access. Of the local news outlets, I found the following most useful: the *Belfast Telegraph*, BBC Northern Ireland, the *Irish News*, the *Belfast News Letter* and the *Derry Journal*. The two main newspapers in the Republic of Ireland – the *Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent* – are also often useful sources. Of all the London-based newspapers I have always found the *Guardian* (and its Sunday version, the *Observer*) most consistently to have extensive and informative coverage of Northern Ireland. The *Times* and the *Independent* have had good coverage, but in the case of these newspapers, since the early 1990s, it was often due to the work of a single journalist – Liam Clarke and David McKittrick, respectively.

Official sources on Northern Ireland
The UK government, at a national and regional level, gathers a lot of data. Much of this is now publicly available on the web. A lot of this is particularly useful for anyone who wants to examine the issue of racisms in Northern Ireland. Since the signing of the Agreement in 1998 both the Westminster-based Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Executive have commissioned or conducted research and gathered official statistics.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the main source of official statistics on Northern Ireland. NISRA holds and provides reports on a range of relevant data including demography, spatial deprivation and equality. At the time of writing the website was at /www.nisra.gov.uk/

The main departments of the Northern Ireland Executive that have useful resources are the Executive Office (formerly the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister) and the Department of Justice.
The Executive Office has a wide remit and at the time of writing was accessible at www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk. The Executive Office has main responsibility for the policy area of good relations. It also works with, and has web links to, a number of relevant quasi-autonomous government bodies including the Equality Commission Northern Ireland, the Community Relations Council and the Commission for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland. At the time of writing the good relations policy area was primarily being pursued through the programme Together: Building a United Community, which was accessible at www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/together-building-united-community.

The Department of Justice oversees the criminal justice system and at the time of writing was accessible at www.justice-ni.gov.uk. The Department of Justice works with, and has web links to, a range of official criminal justice bodies including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Victim Support Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Office supports the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Cabinet minister who mediates between the interests of Westminster and the government of Northern Ireland. It also works with, and has web links to, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Parades Commission. At the time of writing its website was at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/northern-ireland-office.

Advocacy, activism and other non-profit organisations

There are a wide range of non-profit organisations working in areas related to racisms in Northern Ireland. Some of these are small outfits that are dependent on a few dedicated individuals, and all are dependent on the vagaries of funding for what is known locally as the voluntary and community sector. Only a few of them have the resources and remit to gather data and/or conduct research. The following organisations are the main ones that have resources that are publicly available on the web.

The Institute for Conflict Research has built up a significant body of research on aspects of ‘post-conflict’ peacebuilding and conflict in Northern Ireland, on migration, and on ‘hate crime’. At the time of writing its website was at http://conflictresearch.org.uk/

The Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities is the longest-running organisation dedicated to improving ‘race relations’ and eliminating racisms in Northern Ireland. The organisation has played a role in maintaining a clear distinction between sectarianism and other racisms. It has also avoided, many would say for good reason, engaging in issues around sectarianism. NICEM has built up a body of research and position papers over the years and they can be accessed on the organisation’s website, which at the time of writing was at http://nicem.org.uk/
The PSNI collects and publishes data on ‘hate crime’, but at the time of writing there was no organisation that attempted to flesh this data out in any systematic way. The London-based Institute of Race Relations attempts to collate newspaper reports of racist incidents across the UK, including Northern Ireland. At the time of writing its coverage of Northern Ireland could be accessed at www.irr.org.uk/search/?q=%22Northern+ireland%22

**Marxists Internet Archive**
The Marxists Internet Archive is a huge archive of original works by Karl Marx and post-Marx Marxists (primarily in English, but with many works also available in other languages). It also includes an encyclopaedia and a history of Marx and Marxism. All of the material is freely available under a Creative Commons licence. This publishing arrangement makes a vast array of works available to a wide audience, but it also means that the archive has gaps and the freely available versions are not always the most authoritative. The page/section references in the notes section of this book are to the .pdf versions of the relevant book cited that were available on the MIA at the time of writing.

**Select bibliography**


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