

Thursday 28 October 1976

Máire Drumm, then Vice-President of Sinn Féin (SF), was shot dead by Loyalist paramilitaries while she was a patient in the Mater Hospital, Crumlin Road, Belfast.

Saturday 30 October 1976

Two Catholic civilians were abducted and shot dead by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) at Glenbank Place, Crumlin Road, Belfast.

November 1976**Wednesday 3 November 1976**

Two Protestant civilians were killed in separate shooting incidents carried out by Republican paramilitaries in Dundrod, County Antrim and Tiger's Bay, Belfast.

Saturday 6 November 1976

Two Catholic civilians died as a result of separate shooting incidents carried out by Loyalist paramilitaries in New Lodge, Belfast and Whiteabbey, Belfast.

Thursday 11 November 1976

The Ulster Loyalist Central Co-ordinating Committee (ULCCC) issued a plan, 'Ulster Can Survive Unfettered', for the setting up of an Independent Northern Ireland.

Friday 26 November 1976

Roy Mason, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that the region might be left behind by 'the tide of devolution'.

Saturday 27 November 1976

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) killed two Catholic civilians in separate booby-trap bomb attacks in Lurgan, County Armagh and Bogside, Derry. The bombs had been intended for the security forces.

The Peace People held a rally in London which was attended by approximately 30,000 people. Republican sympathisers held a small counter demonstration and chanted 'troops out'.

December 1976**Wednesday 1 December 1976****Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act**

The [Fair Employment \(Northern Ireland\) Act](#) came into effect. The Act was introduced to give effect to the anti-discrimination provisions contained in the [Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973](#). The Fair Employment Act established the Fair Employment Agency (FEA) which had two main functions: (i) the elimination of unlawful discrimination on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion, and (ii) the promotion of equality through 'affirmative action'. [The Act proved not to be strong enough and further legislation was introduced. A Command Paper was published in May 1988 entitled [Fair Employment in Northern Ireland](#), and this was followed by the Fair Employment Act in 1989. The Fair Employment Commission for Northern Ireland was subsequently incorporated into The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; see [web site](#) {[external link](#)} for further details.]

Friday 3 December 1976

Patrick Hillery became the President of the Republic of Ireland.

Saturday 4 December 1976

The annual conference of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) debated a motion calling on Britain to declare its intention of withdrawing from Northern Ireland. The motion was defeated by 158 votes to 111.

Sunday 5 December 1976

The Peace People organisation held a rally in Drogheda, County Louth, Republic of Ireland.

Thursday 9 December 1976

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) planted a series of fire-bombs in shops in Derry which caused an estimated £1 million in damages.

Sunday 12 December 1976

The Ulster Loyalist Central Co-ordinating Committee (ULCCC) claimed that some loyalist politicians had been involved in the past in the arrangements to purchase arms and explosives, and in choosing potential bomb targets.

Monday 20 December 1976

Thomas Easton (22), a member of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), was beaten to death by members of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) in Forthriver Road, Glencairn, Belfast. This killing was part of feud between the UDA and the UVF.

Saturday 25 December 1976

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) held a three day ceasefire over the Christmas period (25 to 27 December 1976).