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# UP OFF THEIR KNEES

This is the story of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement from the first stirrings of protest in 1963 to the fall of the power-sharing Executive ten years later. UP OFF THEIR KNEES is written by the man who, with his wife Patricia, can be said to have started it all in Dungannon.

From this modest beginning came a movement which challenged the injustice and inequality of the Northern Ireland system of government. The early days of idealism, the marches, police and unionist violence against peaceful demonstrators seen on the world's TV screens are recounted here by the man who played a key role and witnessed it all. British Government policy and indeed Northern Ireland itself were changed forever by it.

Divisions later emerged in the Civil Rights leadership and a non-party political group was diverted from its original aims. As the Movement began to change direction Conn McCluskey withdrew, finding it impossible to reconcile the new policy with the early goal of jobs, houses and votes for all irrespective of religion or politics.

Despite his departure Conn McCluskey feels little bitterness towards his former colleagues, rather a pride in the achievements of the Movement's early days and a sadness for what might have been.

## **THE AUTHOR**

Conn McCluskey has been a doctor all his working life and with his wife founded the Civil Rights Movement. In his spare time he is a sculptor and likes best to work with iron.

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