I have been a political campaigner in Derry over a period of 40 years. I believe this is the election in which socialists can take a seat.

It's widely assumed Foyle will return five Nationalists and Willie Hay. The main question is seen as whether the SDLP will take three seats



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and Sinn Fein two, or the other way round.

But there's always been a streak in Derry that's gone against conventional wisdom. I want the voters of Foyle to put me in the Assembly to speak up for all those who are being left behind or who can't find hope in the present political situation. If elected, I will not register at the Assembly as either Nationalist or Unionist, but as "Other."

I need you to put Number 1 next to my name.

Eamonn Mccann, 63, has been active in socialist politics since the anti-Vietnam War movement of the 1960s and '70s. He is now a leading campaigner against the occupation of Iraq and the oppression of Palestine. He was a strong socialist voice in the early civil rights movement and continues to take a stand against the abuse of State power. He is chairman of the Bloody Sunday Trust and of the Derry and NW branch of the NUJ and vice-chairman of Derry Trades Union Council. He is a member of the Socialist Workers' Party and one of the Raytheon 9. He is father of Kitty, Luke and Matty and grandfather of Rosie and lives in Derry with his partner, Goretti Horgan.

The Socialist Environmental Alliance has been to the fore in Derry in actively fighting sectarianism, racism, homophobia and all other forms of inequality. Our members are activists in the Derry Anti-War Coalition, the Into the West Rail campaign, Love Music Hate Racism, supporting the Donnybrewer residents, standing on picket lines when workers are in struggle. We see a seat in the Assembly not as an end in itself but mainly as a means of providing a voice for and building grass-roots campaigns.



Election Communication - Foyle Constituency







DON'T PAY WATER CHARGES

The Assembly will have the power to throw out water charges. But none of the mainstream parties pledges to do this. Our water and sewerage service can and should be kept within the public sector and funded through general taxation. I will argue for a strategy of standing up to the Treasury and refusing to privatise or impose charges. I will use the Assembly to defend and help build a non-payment campaign that neither Stormont nor Westminister can ignore.

NO TO WAR AND THE ARMS TRADE THAT FEEDS IT

The New Labour Government says we can't afford to keep water in public hands or provide proper health and education. But there's no shortage of money for war. Billions have been poured into the occupation of Iraq - costing hundreds of thousands of lives. Arms companies like Raytheon rake in massive profits from this bloody enterprise. I will use the Assembly as a platform to express the anger and mobilise opposition to these cruel and immoral priorities.



Derry has felt the impact of New Labour's drive for privatisation, in job losses and the decline in services. Many wait months for health care. Schools are threatened with closure. Children and adults with special needs are pushed to the margins. We need a voice in the Assembly to shout out about this and encourage resistance. Trade unionists need an elected representative to champion their cause.

RESPECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people get a bad deal. They are accused of anti-social behaviour for hanging around street corners, when there is nowhere for them to go. Most who cause serious problems have serious problems themselves. Like all young people, they need a sense of hope and of involvement in society. In the Assembly, I will argue for the minimum wage to apply to all age groups equally, and for funding for the kind of facilities young people themselves say they want.

A WELCOME FOR

The face of Derry is changing. People from all over the world are beginning to make their home here - as Derry people did around the globe for generations. But with a shortage of decent jobs and good affordable housing, they can be used as scapegoats. I will represent everyone, wherever they come from, who needs a job and a place to live that they can afford.

POVERTY IS THE ISSUE, NOT POLICING

The SEA, like most people, has always taken a common-sense attitude to policing. There should be no holding back in reporting crimes like rape, child abuse, assaults on the elderly. But it's also the case that young people, of whatever religion, are constantly hassled by the police. And adults can't depend on the police in situations where they are told to rely on them. The worst law and order problems arise in the most disadvantaged areas. The solution is to tackle disadvantage. I won't be in the Assembly to "support the police", but to "police the police." The SEA endorses NO role for MI5, a sinister anti-democratic organisation.

RAISE BENEFITS AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

Making ends meet is getting harder for most people. For those on low wages or benefits, it's impossible. The minimum wage has come to be seen in Derry as the going rate. I will continue to campaign, in the Assembly and through the unions and the community, to have it raised. £55 a week for single jobless people is a scandal. Pensioners are frightened that water and rates rises more than off-set the increases they have seen. We need much higher spending on benefits and public services, much less on "defence."

DON'T LET COMMERCE CHOKE THE PLANET

Nobody now denies that the planet is in peril. The biggest polluters are major companies which put profit before the environment. But this isn't a factor in the thinking of the main parties. The result is that you can get from Derry to London in an hour but not to a job in Belfast. I will use an Assembly seat to boost the campaign for a fast, modern rail service, extended to Dublin and down through Donegal, rather than huge subsidies to air and road transport. I will make the protection of the environment a main priority.

WOMEN

I am very aware that all the issues I am raising affect women even more than men - housing, pay, health, education, making ends meet. I hope my record shows that I can be counted on to stand up in the Assembly for women's rights.