

## 1) VOTES

Catholics felt **discriminated** against. Protestants had an in built majority in N.Ireland. They made up **65%** of the population so would always have **MAJORITY RULE**

More votes were also allocated for wealthier voters / business owners. They could claim up to **7 votes!** As most businesses were run by Protestants this gave them a lot more votes.

## 2) GERRYMANDERING

In areas of Northern Ireland the electoral boundaries were **unfairly manipulated** so that unionists would always win power. Therefore in **Derry City**, a mostly catholic city, the electoral boundaries were drawn in such a way that the unionist maintained a majority!

## 3) HOUSING

In the 1960's most housing was allocated by the councils. As many of these were unionist controlled the allocation tended to be unfairly given to mostly Protestants. Catholic families were left in **poor overcrowded housing**. Protestant councils were aware that a house meant a vote in local elections. They therefore arranged to accommodate Protestants first.

## 4) JOBS

Job **discrimination** was also widespread in N. Ireland. Most business owners tended to be Protestant and the council jobs were also allocated to mainly Protestants. **Unemployment** was **very high** in mostly catholic areas especially west of the river Bann

## 5) SECURITY

The police in N.Ireland were the **RUC**. They were almost entirely Protestant and weren't trusted by Catholics. They were supported by the part time **B Specials** who were mostly staunch protestants The **SPECIAL POWERS ACT** allowed the police to **arrest without trial**. Many Catholics felt this power was abused by the police



**NICRA**  
Northern  
Ireland Civil  
Rights  
Association.

**DISCRIMINATION  
IN N. IRELAND**

**NICRA DEMANDS**

**NICRA TACTICS**

## 1) CALEDON SQUAT

CALEDON was a small Co. Tyrone town. The unionist Dungannon council had allocated a council house in the village to a **19 year old Protestant girl** instead of a catholic family of five. The **nationalist MP Austin Currie** aimed to bring attention to this by **squatting in the house**. This story was covered throughout the UK bringing attention to it



## 2) COALISLAND to DUNGANNON MARCH

In order to keep the pressure on and the story in the news a march was organised from COALISLAND to Dungannon. This was **stopped** from entering Dungannon centre by the RUC but **passed peacefully**. It didn't gain m...

## 3) DERRY MARCH OCTOBER 1968

A March was organised for Derry to publicise the **housing** issue there This March was **BANNED** from entering the city centre by the **GOVERNMENT** who were afraid of an attack by Protestant **apprentice boys** On the day of the March a relatively small crowd of **400** turned up BUT they were accompanied by **4 Members of Parliament AND an RTE TV crew** The March started peacefully but then came to an area where it was banned. The RUC used **violence** to disperse the March. The scenes were **broadcast around the world causing publicity and anger**

## NEWRY 1968

Further marches were planned by NICRA . However, the March in NEWRY in 1968 **broke down into violence** with protestors losing their cool for the first time.

## 1) ONE MAN ONE VOTE

NICRA demanded that **1 vote** should be given to **all citizens of N. Ireland** over the age of 18 They wanted the **allocation of business votes** to stop

## 2) AN END TO GERRYMANDERING

NICRA demanded that gerrymandering be stopped

## 3) FAIR ALLOCATION OF HOUSING

NICRA believed housing should be allocated on **need not creed** ( religion/ background)

## 4) AN END TO JOB DISCRIMINATION

Jobs should be allocated fairly based on merit

**5) NICRA DEMANDED AN END TO THE SPECIAL POWERS ACT AND THE B SPECIALS**



## NICRA USE OF TACTICS

- They took their tactics from the **American civil rights movement** which was based on the concepts of **non violence and peaceful protest**

- they used **placards** with statements like **One Man One Vote**

- They sang protest songs like '**We shall overcome**'

- they cleverly used the media especially **TV** to promote their message. The Derry March of 1968 for example only had 400 protestors but it **was enough to 'fill a TV screen'** the images went round the world.

