

Attitudes of Protestant community in Laggan area of East Donegal (and their family members in Northern Ireland) on their acceptance within the Republic of Ireland since the partition of Ireland and Northern Ireland related issues, including the constitutional question.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author would like to thank all the individuals who participated in the different strands of our fieldwork. In addition, he would like to pass on his gratitude to Gerard Deane and colleagues at the Holywell Trust for their support and guidance as this project developed.

We hope that the content of this Report offers a valuable and timely insight into how people living in the Laggan area of East Donegal and who identify as Protestant feel about a range of issues associated with the constitutional futures of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## INTRODUCTION

This Report forms part of the Future Relationship Conversations series, which is being developed by the Holywell Trust. This body of work intends to engage the whole community about possible future relationships and constitutional arrangements in Ireland and Northern Ireland, with a specific focus on engaging those from a Protestant, Unionist or Loyalist background.

Holywell Trust created the series due a belief that the there is a fundamental need to support the growing desire across all communities to have such discussions. The Trust believes that the conversation needs to be broad and cover all possibilities. Moreover, the Trust wants to engage relevant topics in a manner that will support the discussion to move beyond the normal identity focused assumptions.

The Holywell Trust, and the authors working on their behalf, take only a facilitative role in these discussions. They do not have a preferred outcome on the constitutional issue. Instead, the intention is to facilitate an informed discussion, via the provision of accurate information and evidence-based observations.

In this Report, the focus is on reviewing how individuals who identify as Protestant and live in the Laggan area of County Donegal, feel about a range of relevant issues. These discussion points are grouped under the following headings:

Relationship with Area.

Culture.

Community Voice.

Future Relationship Conversations.

Having displayed the findings under each of these headings, the author will identify key emerging issues in the concluding Discussion Section.

## **METHODOLOGY**

A mixed-methods approach was adopted to develop the fieldwork that supports this Report.

Quantitative data was obtained from a Survey, which took place in the towns of Convoy and Raphoe. The survey was administered by a market research company, Perceptive Insight. There were 100 participants, all of whom identified as Protestant and confirmed that County Donegal was their location of residence.

Of the 100 Survey participants, 51% were Female, 48% were Male and 1% identified as Other – see Table 1.

Table 1: Gender of Participants	
Male	48%
Female	51%
Other	1%

32% were aged between 33 and 54, 27% were aged 65 or over, 25% were aged 18-34 and 16% were aged 55-64 – see Table 2.

Table 2: Age of Participants	
65 or over	27%
55-64	16%
33-54	32%
18-34	25%

95% were White, 3% identified as Mixed Ethnic, 1% were Black African and 1% designated as Other – see Table 3.

Table 3: Ethnic background of Participants	
White	95%
Black African	1%
Mixed Ethnic	3%
Other	1%

In-depth qualitative interviews were also carried out with 32 participants. This sample was made up of 15 individuals who had agreed during the Survey fieldwork to participate in a follow-up interview. The remaining participants were engaged via preliminary discussions that occurred in the area before the Survey fieldwork commenced. Five participants were based in Northern Ireland and identified as family members of a participant from Donegal.

Of those interviewed, 18 were Female and 14 were Male. The majority (15 participants) were aged between 33 and 53 and all identified as being White.

### CHAPTER 1: RELATIONSHIP WITH AREA

In this Section, we seek to probe the way in which our participants relate to their local environment. This includes looking at the duration of time they and their family have lived in the area and considers the extent of support and belonging they draw from the local community and affiliated social networks.

The majority of Survey respondents were long-term residents of County Donegal – 54% indicated that their family had lived in the area for more than 10 years. Almost another fifth (19%) of those surveyed (18%) indicated that their family had lived in the area 5 to 10 years. Only 5% of our respondents noted that their family had lived in the area for less than 12 months – see Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4: How long has your family lived in this area?	
More than 10 years	54%
5 to 10 years	19%
3 to 4 years	13%
1 to 2 years	8%
6 to 12 months	2%
Less than 6 months	3%
Not sure	1%

Table 5: How long have you lived in this area?	
More than 10 years	54%
5 to 10 years	18%
3 to 4 years	14%
1 to 2 years	8%
6 to 12 months	2%
Less than 6 months	3%
Not sure	1%

Those who participated in more in-depth Interviews also explained that they had a long-term relationship with the area. In some instances, their family had lived in the area for a number of generations.

'I've been here... well the family has been here for a very long time. My grandmother would have been here... maybe her parents as well. But... it's not a big issue. This is where we have always lived. Our entire existence has been here. It's not something I really think about.'

Participant 1

Nearly three quarters (74%) of our Survey respondents worked in the area and around two thirds (66%) indicated that the majority of their family and friends lived in Ireland – see Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6: Do you work in this area?	
Yes	74%
No	26%

Table 7: Do most of family and friends live in Ireland?	
Yes	66%
No	34%

These findings correlated with the qualitative Interviews, where the majority of participants indicated that they worked in the area. Moreover, so did most of their friends and family. Participants also explained that they were well connected in the area, and many volunteered in community associations, church groups and sports clubs.

'Of course... of course, this is where I have my work and friends. We spend most of our time in this area. My two sons... this is where they go to school. All of their friends are also here. So, at the weekends... we're not driving all over the place to see people. My husband and I would be involved in local church and community events... and our boys play for the local football team. We do a lot of work for the school... so, the connections are very strong.' Participant 2

Well over half of our Survey participants (61%) indicated that they had never considered moving to Northern Ireland – see Table 8.

Table 8: Have you ever considered moving to Northern Ireland	
Yes	38%
No	61%
Prefer not to say	1%

Again, there was significant overlap between the Survey findings and the feedback offered by our Interview participants. Most indicated that they had never made any plans to move to Northern Ireland. In-fact where people had previously thought about leaving the area it was to move away from Ireland and Northern Ireland completely.

'No, there's not... there's not a particular place that I would feel directly connected to. My family... and my friends have lived in this area for a long time, so moving to the North... just wouldn't be an option. It wouldn't really interest me. I think I'd be more inclined to move away... abroad... my husband got offered the chance to move to the (United) States (of America) with work in the past... that would be more appealing... more exciting.' Participant 3

'No, I don't think so – maybe for the healthcare, but no... it's never really came up. Not really.' Participant 4

'I can't see that we would move... there... no. I think work wise, it was an option we discussed in the past. My wife works for a company... there. But after Covid, we can all just work from home. So, we may as well stay as we are.' Participant 5

#### Overview

In this section, we find a very settled community across both strands of our methodology. In every instance, our participants project the type of sentiment that we might expect from long-term residents. They have deep social and family connections that help bind them to the area. Moreover, participation in community associations, church group and sports clubs gave our participants further social networks and support structures.

## **CHAPTER 2: CULTURE**

In this Section, we review the ways in which our participants celebrate their culture and traditions. We also assess the extent to which they feel as though these celebrations are respected and we ask if having different traditions from the dominant social groups that exist in Ireland, make them feel 'out of place'.

Although the majority of our Survey respondents (54%) agreed that their culture and celebration events were respected in the area where they lived, a significant portion of those interviewed (38%), disagreed. A smaller number of participants (8%) did not agree or disagree – see Table 9.

Table 9: Do you feel that your culture and celebration events are respected in this area?	
Yes	54%
No	38%
Prefer not to say	8%

Participants in our Interviews also provided mixed feedback about this matter. Responses could largely be categorised under one of the following headlines:

Around a third of participants felt very comfortable expressing their traditions and celebrating their culture. They were unaware of any particular opposition to this.

'Yes, no issue... I can't see why there would be. This town is largely, probably completely Protestant. I mean... I don't think there should be any issues anyway, but there's no real risk.' Participant 6

Another group of participants felt comfortable celebrating their traditions, but felt that they should do so, without drawing too much attention to the celebrations.

'I'm not sure. No. I think it probably surprises people... visitors seeing Union Jack flags over the Border. I think we... my family... my friends we'll celebrate well... here, but there's definitely other parts of Donegal where I'd definitely be unsure and I suppose that makes you think... we'll have it here, but we'll not make too much noise about it.' Participant 7

A smaller number of participants felt as though there was very little respect for culture and traditions.

'I don't think there's very much space for it (the celebration of the participants' respective culture and tradition). I sort of think... we're ok to do it here, but they don't really like it. You know we're... it's hard to say... an 'inside-outsider. Does that make sense?' Participant 8

When asked to consider whether their culture and celebration events were celebrated in Ireland more generally, a sizeable majority (64%) of Survey Respondents disagreed with this suggestion. Only 28% agreed, while a further 8% were undecided – see Table 10.

Table 10: Do you feel your culture and celebration events are respected in Ireland more generally?	
Yes	28%
No	64%
Prefer not to say	8%

Again, these findings correlated with the discussions that took place in the Interviews. Most participants felt largely comfortable and safe living in Ireland. However, they felt less comfortable and safe about celebrating their culture and tradition.

'I would say that we (participant and family) feel very comfortable and safe here, but there are sometimes moments... wee moments when you feel a little out of place. You know.. nothing major... just that sense that there's a gap.' Participant 9

Almost three quarters (72%) of our Survey respondents indicated that they did not feel that their culture and celebration events were treated with the same degree of respect as other examples of cultural expression that occur throughout Ireland. Around a fifth (22%) did feel that their culture and celebration events were treated in a comparable way to other examples of cultural expression and 6% did not agree or disagree – see Table 11.

Table 11: Do you feel your culture and celebration events are treated with the same level of respect as other examples of cultural expression that occur in Ireland?	
Yes	22%
No	72%
Prefer not to say	6%

Interview participants also felt largely uncomfortable that their culture and traditions received very little attention in Ireland.

'Yeah, I'm not sure if I should say misplaced... displaced? but yeah, that's... there's definitely not a space on a national level (to celebrate the participants' respective culture and tradition).' Participant 10

Despite this apparent lack of respect for some of their key traditions and events, our participants still felt more significantly aligned with people from other cultures living in Ireland than they did with Protestants from Northern Ireland.

Nearly a half (45%) of our Survey participants noted that they felt most culturally aligned

with people from other backgrounds living in Ireland. Just under a quarter (23%) felt more aligned with Protestant in Northern Ireland. Around a fifth (19%) were not sure 7% did not feel culturally aligned with either group – see Table 12.

Table 12: Do you feel more culturally aligned with Protestants living in Northern Ireland than you do with people from backgrounds in Ireland?	
I feel more culturally aligned with Protestants living in Northern Ireland	23%
I feel more culturally aligned with people from other backgrounds in Ireland	45%
I do not feel culturally aligned with either of these groups	7%
Not sure	19%
Prefer not to say	6%

Interview participants emphasized a feeling that their community lives in social isolation from other parts of Ireland and Protestants living in Northern Ireland.

'I think we're quite different. Like, you might think that... people would put us with Protestants in Northern Ireland, but we're very different. Even the way they might celebrate (traditions/culture)... that's quite different. I think theirs is much more political... you know what I mean? But then I think... people probably don't think we fit in with the rest of Ireland.' Participant 11

#### Overview

In this Section of the Report, we find further evidence to demonstrate that we are engaging with a very settled and identifiable community identity group, as was indicated in Chapter 1. In this Chapter, we also develop evidence to indicate that this strong sense of community exists in isolation to both other Protestants living in Northern Ireland and other identity groups living throughout Ireland.

## **CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY VOICE**

In this Section, we explore to what extent this relatively small community feels represented, especially in relation to key political and social debates.

The vast majority of our Survey respondents (81%) did not feel properly represented by the political system in Ireland. Only 14% felt that they were well represented – see Table 13.

Table 13: Do you feel properly represented by the political system in Ireland?	
Yes	14%
No	81%
Prefer not to say	1%
Not sure	4%

Interview participants largely concurred with the feedback given by the Survey respondents – the majority indicated that they did not feel well represented by the political system in Ireland. This led to two significant outcomes for the interview participants: one was the fact that they rarely decided to vote, and the other was they were unlikely to approach an elected political representative if they had a problem in their area.

'I don't vote, no... why? I just don't see an individual who fully represents me... or my needs. I think there were some independents in the past that I may have went with, but not now... you also asked if I would go to them with a problem... I don't think so. You know, there is a really good community network here... I think that's where I would go if I had community-based problem.' Participant 12

Around a third (30%) felt that they would be better represented if they lived in Northern Ireland. Half (50%) disagreed with this suggestion and around half (18%) were unsure – see Table 14.

Table 14: Do you feel as though you would be better represented if you lived in Northern Ireland	
Yes	30%
No	50%
Not sure	18%
Prefer not to say	2%

Interview participants were more likely to suggest that they would be better represented in Northern Ireland. They indicated that while they were not ideologically aligned with any political party completely, they were more likely to see public commitments to tackling issues that they cared about.

'I think, yeah, I think... I would probably see some elections there (Northern Ireland) and see certain issues that I care about being addressed. Maybe I don't see that in my area... I'm not completely sure, but I think there one, two or maybe three parties that I might vote for there. Locally I don't think I would have those options. Does that make sense?' Participant 13

Half of participants (50%) did not think they were well represented in the debate regarding the future constitutional status of Ireland. Around a third (30%) indicated that they were well represented – see Table 15.

Table 15: Do you currently feel well represented in the debate regarding the future constitutional status in Ireland?	
Yes	30%
No	50%
Not sure	18%
Prefer not to say	2%

Interview participants largely agreed with what had been suggested in the Survey – there were few participants who felt well represented in the constitutional debate.

'No. I don't think anyone in the South of Ireland are really... connected or represented in the debate.' Participant 14

Only 3% of respondents felt that people living throughout the UK were right to vote in favour of Brexit, while 89% felt they were wrong to have voted in this way – see Table 16.

Table 16: Do you feel that people living throughout the UK were right to vote in favour of Brexit?	
Yes	3%
No	89%
Not sure	8%
Prefer not to say	0%

Interview participants indicated that they were both 'surprised' and 'disappointed' by the Brexit outcome.

Participants were also concerned the Brexit outcome may offer risks to their way of life and the means by which they celebrate their culture. Around two thirds (66%) of our respondents felt like this. Only 5% felt it offered no obvious risk – see Table 17.

Table 17: Do you feel the Brexit outcome offers any risks to the way you live your life and celebrate your culture?	
Yes	66%
No	5%
Not sure	29%
Prefer not to say	0%

Interview participants explained that some of the risks associated with the Brexit outcome included an increasing and persistent discussion about a Border Poll, which could cause tension about their geographical and cultural position.

#### Overview

In this section, we again find a well-established community identity group that has a clear sense of relevant challenges that it faces. There is little variation between the Interview and Survey responses, and both form a strong impression of the existing narrative in the local area toward a variety of issues. We found that the vast majority of our participants, across both strands of the methodology, felt under-represented in both political and social terms. This created some basic negative outcomes, such as a large number of individuals indicating they do not vote in political elections. It also creates another more serious issue, as they feel like a community without a voice during significant moments of change or contention.

# CHAPTER 4: FUTURE RELATIONSHIP CONVERSATIONS

In this Section, we present an analysis of how participants in both strands of our methodology feel about a range of potential future scenarios related to the constitutional futures of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

When asked to consider if they would support future constitutional change in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the majority (65%) of Survey respondents wanted things to remain the same – Table 18.

Table 18: To what extent do you support no change/constitutional position remains the same? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')	
5 (Fully support)	65%
4	15%
3	13%
2	0%
1 (Do not support)	6%
Prefer not to say	1%

Interview participants largely agreed with this position. Some indicated that they were absolutely clear that they did not want change and were concerned about what any future alterations to the constitutional situation may have on their family and community.

'Yes... leave it as it is... don't change. I think for me... change leads to uncertainty and that creates tension. I think it also asks questions of our community, which I don't think is really fair. I think the majority of people here are happy, we didn't ask for change, but we might get dragged into it.' Participant 15

Furthermore, 80% of those who completed our Survey did not support the idea of a United Ireland- see Table 19.

Table 19: To what extent do you support a United Ireland? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')	
5 (Fully support)	8%
4	2%
3	9%
2	1%
1 (Do not support)	80%
Prefer not to say	0%

Participants were more mixed when asked whether they would support an independent Northern Ireland – 43% did not support the idea, while 37% fully supported the suggestion – see Table 20.

Table 20: To what extent do you support an Independent Northern Ireland? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')	
5 (Fully support)	37%
4	8%
3	7%
2	3%
1 (Do not support)	43%
Prefer not to say	2%

Interview participants reinforced the message obtained from our Survey findings. Most stressed their desire for things to stay the same and indicated that they did not feel it was the right time to contemplate change.

'Honestly... I'm fundamentally against the idea of change... I wouldn't want things to change at all. Also, I just don't think that now is the right time to discuss the issue. You know? I mean look at Brexit – they tore into getting that done and people voted... not for... you know, they didn't know what they were voting for. I think the same in Scotland (Independence Referendum). If you're going to decide to commit to having the conversation, you've got to get everyone involved... you've got to educate them... over a long period of time, of what might happen, what might not and what the disadvantages and advantages would be. Then maybe let people know. But it can't be rushed or politicised. You need to be fair to people. Let them know what they'd be committing to.' Participant 16

#### Overview

In both strands of our methodology, it is clear that the majority of our participants do not support any form of constitutional change. Furthermore, when asked to consider if they support a United Ireland at some point in the future, our participants were explicit in their opposition of this proposal. Moreover, there was no clear support for the idea of an independent Northern Ireland.

## **DISCUSSION**

Throughout the main four Chapters of this Report, we are able to identify a well-established sense of community belonging amongst the participants, across both strands of our methodology. A consistent narrative appears in both the household Survey and in-depth Interviews – we are able to plot key themes and emerging issues. These key themes and important issues include:

Despite feeling largely separate from the rest of Ireland in cultural and political terms, participants indicate that they have strong social networks and important community attachments in the small towns where they live. Many participate in local community groups, volunteer in schools and are members of local sports clubs.

Participants are largely happy living in this 'contained' environment. While they are somewhat divided regarding how much support there is for their traditions and culture throughout Ireland, they are happy to celebrate both within the local environment that they believe belongs to them.

Participants generally indicated that they were happy to exist in this environment and seen future discussions regarding the constitutional status of Ireland and Northern Ireland as a threat to this community dynamic.

Furthermore, participants felt they and their community would be poorly represented if discussions around the issue of constitutional change began to become more significant. Consequently, most of our participants did not support any significant constitutional change in the future.

Few participants supported the idea of a United Ireland and only a minority supported the concept of an independent Northern Ireland.

We can conclude that this well-defined and strongly inter-linked minority community grouping has a very clear sense of its own identity. It is a group that appears content to exist in isolation from Protestants living in Northern Ireland and other identity groups based throughout Ireland. Potential constitutional change across the island of Ireland is viewed as a threat to this 'contained' way of life, which one participant defined as being an 'inside-outsider'.

#### APPENDIX 1: SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

#### **Demographics (Prefixed responses will be provided)**

- 1. Age
- Gender
- 3. Ethnic Group
- 4. Religion
- 5. Community background

#### Relationship with Area (Prefixed responses will be provided)

- 6. How long have your family lived in this area?
- 7. How long have you lived in this area?
- 8. Do you work in this area?
- 9. Do most of your family and friends live in the Republic of Ireland?
- 10. Do you ever consider moving to Northern Ireland?

#### **Culture (Prefixed responses will be provided)**

- 11. Do you feel that your culture and celebration events are respected in this area?
- Do you feel that your culture and celebration events are respected in the Republic of Ireland more generally?
- 13. Do you feel that your culture and celebrations events are treated with the same degree of respect as other examples of cultural expression that occur in the Republic of Ireland?
- Do you feel more culturally aligned with Protestants living in Northern Ireland than you do with people from other backgrounds living in the Republic of Ireland?

#### Community Voice (Prefixed responses will be provided)

- 15. Do you feel properly represented by the political system in the Republic of Ireland?
- 16. Do you feel as though you would be better represented if you lived in Northern Ireland?
- 17. Do you currently feel well represented in the debate regarding the future constitutional status in Ireland?
- 18. Did you feel that people living throughout the UK were right to vote in favour of Brexit?
- 19. Do you feel the Brexit outcome offers any risks to the way you live your life and celebrate your culture?

#### **Future Relationship Conversations (Prefixed responses will be provided)**

- 20. Consider the following constitutional possibilities and indicate your level of support for each option:
  - Status Quo no change/constitutional position remains the same
  - United Ireland
  - · Independent Northern Ireland
  - Break-up of United Kingdom
  - Federalised United Kingdom
  - Renegotiated United Kingdom
  - Joint sovereignty/authority of Northern Ireland Dublin and London
  - · Power-sharing arrangement

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses will be treated in confidence and stored securely. Any information used in relevant publications will be carefully anonymised.

In order to further explore some of your views in more detail, would you be willing to participate in a short follow-up interview with the lead researcher on this project, Dr Brendan Sturgeon of Queen's University Belfast?

The follow-up interview could be done over the phone or in person, depending on your preference.

Thanks again for your time.

#### APPENDIX 2: LIST OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

#### **Relationship with Area**

- 1. Can you explain how you came to live in your area?
- 2. Do most of your family and friends live in the area?
- 3. Do you feel well connected other people in your surrounding area?
- 4. Do you spend much time in Northern Ireland? If so, why?

#### **Culture**

- 5. Can you explain how you celebrate your culture and traditions in your area?
- 6. Can you explain if you think that your culture and traditions are respected throughout the South of Ireland?
- 7. If you ever encountered any negativity when you have sought to celebrate your culture and traditions? If so, can you explain the situation?

#### **Community Voice**

- 8. Can you explain if you represented by the political system in the South of Ireland?
- 9. Do you think you would be represented in a different way if you lived in Northern Ireland?
- 10. What were your thoughts on the ways in which the Brexit referendum was discussed?
- 11. What was your reaction to the outcome of the Brexit referendum?
- 12. Do you think the Brexit outcome will have any notable impact on your way of life?

#### **Future Relationship Conversations**

- 13. Thinking about the future, do you have strong feelings about how the constitutional status of Ireland and Northern Ireland should be addressed?
- 14. Do you feel well represented in the public debate about this matter?
- 15. Do you have any concerns about the ways in which you are represented?
- 16. How do you think the public conversation regarding this matter should best be organised?
- 17. Do you think there should be a Border Poll at some point in the future? If so, when?
- 18. Consider the constitutional possibilities and indicate your level of support for each option:
  - Status Quo no change/constitutional position remains the same
  - United Ireland
  - Independent Northern Ireland
  - Break-up of United Kingdom
  - Federalised United Kingdom
  - Renegotiated United Kingdom
  - Joint sovereignty/authority of Northern Ireland Dublin and London
  - Power-sharing arrangement

## APPENDIX 3: FULL SURVEY FINDINGS

Table 1: Gender of Participants	
Male	48%
Female	51%
Other	1%

Table 2: Age of Participants	
65 or over	27%
55-64	16%
33-54	32%
18-34	25%

Table 3: Ethnic background of Participants	
White	95%
Black African	1%
Mixed Ethnic	3%
Other	1%

Table 4: How long has your family lived in this area?	
More than 10 years	54%
5 to 10 years	19%
3 to 4 years	13%
1 to 2 years	8%
6 to 12 months	2%
Less than 6 months	3%
Not sure	1%

Table 5: How long have you lived in this area?	
More than 10 years	54%
5 to 10 years	18%
3 to 4 years	14%
1 to 2 years	8%
6 to 12 months	2%
Less than 6 months	3%
Not sure	1%

Table 6: Do you work in this area?	
Yes	74%
No	26%

Table 7: Do most of family and friends live in Ireland?	
Yes	66%
No	34%

Table 8: Have you ever considered moving to Northern Ireland	
Yes	38%
No	61%
Prefer not to say	1%

Table 9: Do you feel that your culture and celebration events are respected in this area?	
Yes	54%
No	38%
Prefer not to say	8%

Table 10: Do you feel your culture and celebration events are respected in Ireland more generally?	
Yes	28%
No	64%
Prefer not to say	8%

Table 11: Do you feel your culture and celebration events are treated with the same level of respect as other examples of cultural expression that occur in Ireland?	
Yes	22%
No	72%
Prefer not to say	6%

Table 12: Do you feel more culturally aligned with Protestants living in Northern Ireland than you do with people from backgrounds in Ireland?	
I feel more culturally aligned with Protestants living in Northern Ireland	23%
I feel more culturally aligned with people from other backgrounds in Ireland	45%
I do not feel culturally aligned with either of these groups	7%
Not sure	19%
Prefer not to say	6%

Table 13: Do you feel properly represented by the political system in Ireland?	
Yes	14%
No	81%
Prefer not to say	1%
Not sure	4%

Table 14: Do you feel as though you would be better represented if you lived in Northern Ireland	
Yes	30%
No	50%
Not sure	18%
Prefer not to say	2%

Table 15: Do you currently feel well represented in the debate regarding the future constitutional status in Ireland?	
Yes	30%
No	50%
Not sure	18%
Prefer not to say	2%

Table 16: Do you feel that people living throughout the UK were right to vote in favour of Brexit?		
Yes	3%	
No	89%	
Not sure	8%	
Prefer not to say	0%	

Table 17: Do you feel the Brexit outcome offers any risks to the way you live your life and celebrate your culture?			
Yes	66%		
No	5%		
Not sure	29%		
Prefer not to say	0%		

Table 18: To what extent do you support no change/constitutional position remains the same? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')			
5 (Fully support)	65%		
4	15%		
3	13%		
2	0%		
1 (Do not support)	6%		
Prefer not to say	1%		

Table 19: To what extent do you support a United Ireland? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')		
5 (Fully support)	8%	
4	2%	
3	9%	
2	1%	
1 (Do not support)	80%	
Prefer not to say	0%	

Table 20: To what extent do you support an Independent Northern Ireland? (1 is 'Do not support' and 5 is 'Fully support')			
5 (Fully support)	37%		
4	8%		
3	7%		
2	3%		
1 (Do not support)	43%		
Prefer not to say	2%		

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The Future Relationship Conversations project has received support from the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade through their Reconciliation Fund. Holywell Trust receives core support through the Community Relations Council for Northern Ireland, Derry City & Strabane District Council and the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade.







