



## 8 May 2017 First Diplomatic Gala Dinner in Northern Ireland is announced

**The Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) together with Co-operation Ireland our charity partner are pleased to announce the inaugural Diplomatic Gala Dinner to be held in Belfast later this year.**

Co-operation Ireland is delighted to have been nominated as the beneficiary charity for this first ever Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland Diplomatic Dinner, scheduled for 12 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast.

The dinner is an opportunity for CA-NI to officially bring Ambassadors, High Commissioners and senior Diplomats to Northern Ireland to celebrate the increasing multiculturalism and diversity of Northern Ireland society. Diplomats from across the world will be in attendance.

Established over 10 years ago CA-NI, has members representing 40 countries with Honorary Consuls and including the United States, China and the European Commission with a full Diplomatic presence here.



Launch at Barons Court with Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, Co-operation Ireland officials and CA-NI Members



Making the announcement CA-NI President Lord Rana said “I am pleased that our first Diplomatic Dinner is taking place in October and that it celebrates the progress made in the last 10 years. It also shows the progress that has been made in Northern Ireland from the dark days of the 1970s, 80s and 90s and the decision of so many countries to set up a consulate here. These Honorary Consuls play an important role in developing trade, tourism, educational and cultural links between the countries they represent and Northern Ireland. I am confident this Diplomatic Dinner will be an historic event and a forerunner of many more to come in the years ahead”.

Peter Sheridan, Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland said “I am delighted Co-operation Ireland has been chosen as the charity for the inaugural Diplomatic Dinner. As an organisation, whose aim is to build better relations between the people living on this island, the aim of this dinner fits our remit perfectly.

“Over the past decade we have seen our society move from being primarily Irish or British to a society that is culturally and ethnically diverse and this is something we reflect in our programme design. We believe that it is vitally important that people feel welcomed and are able to integrate into all parts of Irish society, North or South.”

The Duchess of Abercorn whose own ancestry hails from Russia, will be our Guest of Honour at this black tie/traditional dress Diplomatic Dinner which will take the format of a Welcome Drinks Reception commencing at 19.00 with 4-Course Dinner, Guest Speaker, Ethnic Music and other entertainment.



**Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, Co-operation Ireland officials and CA-NI Organising Committee**



Table information is available from Jerome Mullen, Chair of the CA-NI Organising Committee Mob 07836 734040 [jerome@polishconsulateni.org](mailto:jerome@polishconsulateni.org) or Terry O'Neill Co-operation Ireland Mob 07771 542288 [toneill@cooperationireland.org](mailto:toneill@cooperationireland.org)

The cost of the dinner is £950 for a table of 10 or individual places (based on a min of 2 tickets) on shared tables at £190 per pair.

**END**

For further information on this release, contact:

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### **Notes to Editors**

1. CA-NI provides means and opportunities for the mutual acquaintance, friendship and social intercourse between its members and is a platform for effective communications between members and the host administration. The Association reflects a broad range of experience and expertise to specifically benefit the communities of Northern Ireland and its members are a vital source that can be used effectively in the advancement of economic, social and cultural development at local, regional and international levels. [www.ca-ni.org](http://www.ca-ni.org)

2. Co-operation Ireland is one of the leading peace-building charities on the island of Ireland. Its mission is to sustain peace by helping to build a shared and cohesive society. [www.cooperationireland.org](http://www.cooperationireland.org)