



Press Release 31 July 2019

DIPLOMATIC BALL 2019 ANNOUNCED FOR OCTOBER 24TH

The Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) is pleased to announce that Invest Northern Ireland has been agreed as Event Sponsor of the Diplomatic Dinner due to be held in Belfast later in the year.

The peace-building charity Co-operation Ireland is delighted to have been nominated as co-organiser and beneficiary for the Dinner, scheduled for 24 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast.



The event is an opportunity for CA-NI to officially bring together Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Senior Diplomats from around the world to Northern Ireland to celebrate with the local business community and the increasing multiculturalism and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

Making the announcement, Dr Christopher Stange, CA-NI Secretariat and Consul General for St. Vincent and the Grenadines said: *“After the success of the inaugural Diplomatic Dinner in 2017, I am delighted to see it’s return to Belfast this year and thank Invest Northern Ireland for providing sponsorship”.*



“The Dinner is an opportunity to highlight the international connections with Northern Ireland and the decision of so many countries to establish consulates. Both career diplomats and honorary consuls play a vital role in developing trade, tourism, educational, sporting and cultural links between the countries they represent in Northern Ireland.”

Alan Wilson, Director of Trade & Investment, Invest NI said: “Promoting Northern Ireland as both an investment location and a trade partner is at the heart of our International Strategy”.

“This event hosted by CA-NI will provide a unique opportunity to showcase all that Northern Ireland has to offer to CA-NI Members and their international guests, ambassadors and diplomats from around the world. This will help us raise NI’s profile with an influential audience and help establish important relationships”.

It is particularly gratifying, that in the 40th anniversary year, Co-operation Ireland is once again, to be chosen as the recipient of the CA-NI Diplomatic Dinner. As an organisation created to build better relations between the people living on this island, the aim of this dinner fits our remit perfectly.

Peter Sheridan, Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland said: “*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 look forward to being able to fund additional peace-building work for young people, through the efforts and support of the CA-NI organisation”.

The Diplomatic Dinner is being organised as a black tie/traditional dress event and will take the format of a Welcome Drinks Reception commencing at 18.30 followed by a 4-Course Dinner. Fergal Keane, BBC News Africa Editor and Writer has been confirmed as Guest Speaker.

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. With 50% of tables already taken, the Dinner is expected to be a sell-out and early booking is recommended.

Table information is available from Winne Orr, Co-operation Ireland Senior Fundraising & Events Officer

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For further information on this release, contact:

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Notes to Editors

Established over 10 years ago CA-NI, has members representing 36 countries including the United States of America, People’s Republic of China, Republic of



Poland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the European Commission, having a full resident Diplomatic presence in Northern Ireland.

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

As the regional business development agency, Invest NI's role is to grow the local economy by helping new and existing businesses to compete internationally, and by attracting new investment to Northern Ireland.

Invest NI is part of the Department for the Economy and provides strong government support for business by effectively delivering the Government's economic development strategies. www.investni.com

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