

Symbolic

Declaration of War

A Symbolic Gesture

Steven Condra

Date: 20/01/2025

Symbolic Declaration of War

To the President of Ireland,

Preamble:

My name is Steven Condra. I am writing this symbolic declaration to express the profound pain and systemic injustices I have endured as a citizen of this State. This declaration reflects a lifetime of suffering caused by the failures of multiple institutions that have denied me support, recognition, and justice.

Reasons for the Declaration:

This symbolic declaration of war reflects a lifetime of systemic neglect and injustice that I have endured as a citizen of this State. The failures of multiple government departments and institutions have had a profound impact on my life. These include:

- 1. Neglect of Childhood Safety and Welfare:**
 - I experienced severe abuse in my adoptive home, including sexual, physical, and mental abuse.
 - My reports to authorities, including An Garda Síochána, were ignored, leaving me vulnerable to further harm.
- 2. Failure of Justice and Law Enforcement:**
 - Repeated instances where my rights and safety were disregarded, including being forcibly removed from a rented home without cause and no action taken after violent assaults.
- 3. Denial of Adequate Mental Health Care:**
 - Despite being diagnosed in 2016, I was denied recommended treatments such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). Instead, I was offered inadequate chemical solutions.
- 4. Exploitation and Financial Mismanagement by State Authorities:**
 - I was misled into remaining on the Back to Education Allowance, later penalized for the State's error, and left to face financial hardship.
- 5. Housing Insecurity and Unsafe Living Conditions:**
 - Living in State-managed hostels has exposed me to dangerous conditions, including assault by a convicted sex offender, with no adequate response or protection from authorities.

I also believe the State declared war on me before I was born by denying my parents the right to marry, setting the stage for a lifetime of suffering and exclusion. This declaration is a reaction to all the pain I have endured, and the profound hurt that continues to affect me.

Formal Declaration:

In light of the reasons outlined above, I, Steven Condra, as a citizen of this State, hereby make this symbolic declaration of war. This act is not one of aggression but a profound statement of the neglect and systemic injustice I have endured. It is my hope that this act will bring attention to these injustices and lead to acknowledgment, accountability, and meaningful reform.

Conclusion:

This symbolic declaration is made not as an act of hostility, but as a profound call for justice, recognition, and change. It represents my desire to live in peace, to be heard, and to be treated with the dignity and respect owed to every citizen.

I seek acknowledgment of the failures I have endured, action to address the systemic neglect that continues to harm me, and reform to ensure no one else has to endure the same. My intention is to foster understanding, accountability, and a pathway toward healing and progress.

I stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue and to work towards a better future for myself and others who have suffered under similar circumstances.

My heart is a drum

He's home

Beat

Run, hide, get in bed quickly,

Beat. Beat. Beat.

He comes to me and wakes me

Beat

What did I do now.....

Nothing again, drunk again

Beat. Beat. Beat.

Shouting, roaring, drunken breath

Beat. Beat. Beat.

Eyes squeezed shut

Beat. Beat. Beat.

A prayer to stop the drum.

It will begin again tomorrow

unless my drum stops beating.

Yours sincerely

Steven Condra

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"Numquam **cedo**"
