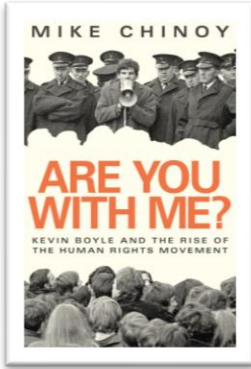




THE LILLIPUT PRESS



# ARE YOU WITH ME?

KEVIN BOYLE AND THE RISE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Mike Chinoy

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*'In this beautifully-written and fascinating book, Mike Chinoy has brought to life one of the great pioneering human rights lawyers of our times – a brilliant and dedicated fighter for justice, first in Northern Ireland and then on the international stage.'* CONOR O'CLERY, author *The Shoemaker and his Daughter*, former correspondent and news editor for *The Irish Times*

Kevin Boyle was one of the world's great human rights lawyers. In a career that lasted decades and spanned continents, he tackled issues ranging from freedom of the press to terrorism to the rights of minorities. Kevin Boyle was a charismatic, larger-than-life figure – yet his personal story, which is extremely compelling, is curiously unknown, and many of his greatest achievements took place away from the glare of publicity. Now, award-winning journalist and former CNN correspondent Mike Chinoy chronicles Boyle's remarkable career and his lasting and extensive legacy. *Are You With Me?* will be launched in Dublin, Belfast, London, Galway and at Essex University on March 19, 2020.

Kevin Boyle was among the most important figures in the Northern Ireland civil rights movement. He was a co-founder of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and the People's Democracy, the driving force behind the rent and rates strike that paralysed Northern Ireland after the introduction of internment in 1971. He was the individual who proposed holding the civil rights march in Derry that became Bloody Sunday, and played a crucial and until now unknown role as a mediator trying to find a solution to the IRA hunger strikes in 1981. His ideas, endorsed in a previously unrevealed conversation Margaret Thatcher had with Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald, provided much of the intellectual underpinning for the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement - in turn a crucial foundation for the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement, where Boyle's ideas were also influential.

Boyle was also the lead lawyer in the case that decriminalized homosexuality in Northern Ireland – a case that later led to its decriminalization in the Irish Republic, Cyprus, and other countries, and was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark gay rights case. Moreover, he was a key figure on human rights issues not only in Ireland but on the international stage. He conducted major missions for Amnesty International in Africa in the 1980s, including two to South Africa, where his report on the inequities of the notorious 'pass laws' played an important role in mobilising the international pressure that led to their abolition. He also devised and led the international campaign to support Salman Rushdie, at considerable personal risk, after the writer was targeted by Iran's ayatollahs in 1989.

In the 1990s, he brought – and won – scores of cases before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Kurds in south-eastern Turkey who had faced imprisonment, torture, rape, and murder at the hands of the Turkish security forces. In 2001-2002, he served as the chief advisor to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson during the period of the September 11 attacks. Boyle argued passionately for the use of legal methods to combat terrorist violence and was sharply critical of the flawed notion of a 'war on terror', which he had the foresight to see would open the door to major violations of human rights.

Teaching at Queen's University in Belfast, the University of Galway, and at the University of Essex, he pioneered the idea of incorporating human rights into legal education – a radical innovation that is now widely accepted. He was the inspiration behind the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway, as well as the Human Rights Centre at Essex. Today, both are widely recognised as among the leading training centres for human rights lawyers and advocates. At a time when human rights protections in many parts of the world are under threat, the story of Kevin Boyle serves as an inspiring example of the importance of fighting for basic rights - no matter how daunting the challenges.

**About the author:** As a foreign correspondent for CNN for 24 years, Mike Chinoy won Emmy, Peabody and Dupont awards for his journalism. While he worked primarily in China and North Korea, he also reported on the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 80s. It was during this time that he met Kevin Boyle. Chinoy is currently a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the University of Southern California's US-China Institute and is based in Hong Kong. His books include *China Live: People, Power, and Television Revolution* (1999), *Meltdown: The Inside Story of the North Korean Nuclear Crisis* (2008), and *The Last POW* (2014). His work has been widely acclaimed across the globe.

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'The story of the late Kevin Boyle is well worth telling ... Never one to seek the often overcrowded limelight, his name and legacy slipped into an obscurity from which Mike Chinoy has deservedly rescued him.' **MARY MCALEESE – Former President of Ireland**

'Mike Chinoy has done a major service by chronicling the extraordinary range of Kevin Boyle's work over nearly 50 years and in interviewing over 100 people so as to paint a fascinating picture of this quiet, soft spoken, but determined defender of human rights. This book should be read by everyone interested in human rights, not just in Northern Ireland, but in every country where rights need to be defended.' **MICHAEL FARRELL – Solicitor, former Chair, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and early leader of the Northern Ireland civil rights movement**

'Kevin Boyle contributed to the building of modern Ireland ... as a place of universal human rights. Practitioner, law teacher, activist and global champion of human rights, Boyle deserves this splendid biography. It explains his place in the pantheon of human rights champions.' **MICHAEL KIRBY – former Justice of the High Court of Australia and Past President of the International Commission of Jurists**

'Mike Chinoy has written a compelling journey through the challenges of human rights. It is through the life of Kevin Boyle, from his role as the "legal Martin Luther King" of the Northern Ireland civil rights struggles to his evolution as a pioneer in the modern international human rights movement, as an activist, a lawyer, and an academic. I cannot stress enough what a major contribution Chinoy has made to the human rights literature. It is a must read!' **BERT LOCKWOOD – Professor and Director, Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, University of Cincinnati, USA, Editor-in-Chief, Human Rights Quarterly**

'Brilliant and charismatic in equal measure, Kevin Boyle...showed how scholarship could be done with an eye to real change. What a pleasure it is to have a book that brings his fully-lived life back into view' **CONOR GEARTY – Professor of Human Rights Law, London School of Economics**

'An engaging portrait of Boyle the lawyer and Boyle the man – anyone interested in Ireland, justice, or international law should read this book.' **HURST HANNUM – Professor of International Law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University**

'A terrific biography told by a world-class journalist.' **DAN RATHER – journalist, former anchor, CBS Evening News**

'An eloquent account of the life and work of one of the greatest heroes who has ever worked in the sphere of human rights. Kevin Boyle was instrumental in so many advancements in this field, yet his story is one that is curiously little known because so many of his achievements were made behind the scenes. The world was made a better place because of Kevin Boyle – a charismatic, generous and ebullient figure – and I am delighted that Mike Chinoy has written this book.' **ZEINAB BADAWI – Broadcaster, former Chair of Article 19**

'This is the story of a great lawyer ... a diligent and capable teacher and scholar who helped to bring about the peace process in Northern Ireland, led the fight for free speech during the Rushdie Affair and fought to uphold the UN human rights system after 9/11. This book is not only a fitting memorial to Kevin Boyle, but will enable his inspiration to continue after his untimely death. He was a gentle man of great kindness and, when he upheld in Northern Ireland the banner of civil liberties against sectarian violence from all sides, a man of true courage.' **GEOFFREY ROBERTSON, AO QC – Founder and Joint Head of Doughty Street Chambers**

'Part of the problem in the remembering of the past in Northern Ireland is that the people who were most demonstrative and aggressive are given their place in history while the more effectively assertive and tactically intelligent get bypassed. Mike Chinoy has placed Kevin Boyle back at the heart of the story, where he belongs, as a civil rights activist and lawyer who went on to gain global importance. He shows Boyle to have been a man of thoughtful conscience and immense personal courage who has bequeathed us an impartial emphasis on rights untainted by prejudice or allegiance. Chinoy brings the necessary journalistic thoroughness to this story of a world shaker whose moves were quiet, deliberate and compassionate.' **MALACHI O'DOHERTY - journalist and author, *The Telling Year* and *Gerry Adams: An Unauthorised Life***

'Mike Chinoy's book on Kevin Boyle is wonderful. It is a remarkable story of an extraordinary man and one which needed to be told. It could not have been better told than in this book, which so well brings out Kevin's courage, his determination, his passion for justice, his compassion and his outstanding contribution to the protection of human rights in this country and in other parts of the world. I can only imagine the time and effort that Chinoy must have devoted to researching and writing this tour de force. Brilliantly researched and compellingly written, this is a book that will bring great pleasure to Kevin's legion of friends and admirers.'

**NICOLAS BRATZA - Former President, European Court of Human Rights**

'For lawyers, law students and lay people alike, Chinoy's book is a worthwhile read and a fitting homage not only to an individual pioneer of international human rights law, but also to the underestimated power of the law in challenging injustice and inequality around the world.' – **CONNOR BEATON, Irish Legal News**

'Couldn't recommend this more. Brilliantly written by Mike Chinoy. Can't wait to use it and Kevin's archive to teach our students.' –**DR. MAEVE O'ROURKE, Lecturer in Human Rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway**

'The book will appeal to all those who are interested in the human rights movement in the widest sense but will have a special resonance for young lawyers on the cusp of their legal career who seek to employ their talents to make a difference.' – **MICHAEL O'BOYLE, former Deputy Registrar, European Court of Human Right.**

'I couldn't put down. Kevin Boyle made a real difference to many people's lives, and Mike Chinoy's superbly researched biography of him is inspirational. It should be compulsory reading for any student who is about to embark upon a postgraduate human rights programme.' – **BRICE DICKSON, Professor, School of Law, Queen's University of Belfast and Former Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission**