

# Unit 4: What is Justice?

## Active Citizenship



## Lesson 2: Paramilitary-style attacks in Northern Ireland

This lesson requires pupils to explore the terminology of punishment beating and the impact that punishment beatings are having on the people of Northern Ireland.

### Planning

<p><b>Prior Learning</b></p>	<p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• democracy and the rule of law;</li> <li>• human rights; and</li> <li>• inclusion and equality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss the meaning of justice;</li> <li>• explore what the term justice means in different groups in society; and</li> <li>• demonstrate understanding of the problems associated with paramilitary-style justice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus</b></p>	<p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p><b>Working with Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect the views and opinions of others and reach agreement using negotiation and compromise</li> <li>• Listen actively and share ideas and opinions</li> </ul> <p><b>Thinking Skills, Problem Solving and Decision Making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make and justify decisions</li> <li>• Offer ideas and reasons to support them</li> <li>• Justify a personal viewpoint and offer a range of reasons to back it up.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attitudes and Dispositions</b></p>	<p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern for others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Animation: <i>What Is Justice?</i></b></p> <p><b>Unit 4: Lesson 2 Resource – Paramilitary-style attacks – facts and figures</b></p> <p>Whiteboard, tablets or computers</p> <p>Interactive map compiled by The Detail:  <a href="https://batchgeo.com/map/6735208584128eb7fde05b0558020159">Paramilitary 'punishment' attacks 1990–2014</a>  <a href="https://batchgeo.com/map/6735208584128eb7fde05b0558020159">https://batchgeo.com/map/6735208584128eb7fde05b0558020159</a></p>

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### Resources

Documentary shown on RTÉ and available on YouTube: [Above the Law](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vtWxyMT2Nw)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vtWxyMT2Nw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vtWxyMT2Nw)

## Suggested teaching and learning strategies

### Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. **Who should enforce justice in society?**
2. **Can you think of any groups in Northern Ireland society who carry out their own forms of so-called justice?**
3. **Why do you think these groups carry out their own forms of justice and do not rely on lawful methods of justice?**

You may now wish to show the animation *What Is Justice?*

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. *Police, lawyers and courts*
2. *Paramilitary groups*
3. *They believe they are above the law; some people in the community might support their actions; some people may be afraid of challenging their actions.*



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### Activities

#### Activity 1: Exploring terminology (Think – pair – share)

Give the pupils an opportunity to discuss the following as a Think, Pair and Share activity (see **Active Learning and Teaching Methods for Key Stage 3**):

1. What does the term 'punishment beating' suggest?
2. With what groups in society do you relate this term?
3. What comes to mind when you hear the term 'punishment beating'? Come up with as many answers as you can.
4. Who do the paramilitary groups carry out the 'punishment beatings' on? Try to think of as many scenarios as you can.
5. Are 'punishment beatings' lawful? Explain your answer, thinking back on your prior learning.
6. Why do you think 'punishment beatings' are still allowed to occur and are deemed acceptable by some people in communities in Northern Ireland?
7. There is an attempt to change the name used in the media from 'punishment beatings' to 'paramilitary-style attacks'. Why do you think that might be?

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. *Beating someone up because they did something bad; giving someone a "kicking"; 'teaching someone a lesson'*
2. *Paramilitary groups*
3. *Someone getting beaten up*
4. *Young people joy riding; someone dealing drugs 'without permission'; someone who who owes them money; someone who has had minor disagreement*
5. *Punishment beatings are not lawful, as people are not going through the democratic system of the courts.*
6. *Some people within the communities support them; some people are too scared to stand up to the paramilitaries; some people see it as a way of life and and a form of "justice".*
7. *'Punishment beatings' makes it sound as though people are getting what they deserve; 'attacks' suggests that the person is being victimised and those carrying out the attacks have no authority to take justice into their own hands.*



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### Activity 2: Paramilitary-style attacks – facts and figures

Give your pupils copies of the information in the **Resource** sheets on paramilitary-style punishment attacks 1990–2014, and ask them to answer the following questions:

1. In what locations are most of the punishment beatings occurring?
2. Have punishment attacks decreased since the 1994 ceasefire?
3. Why do you think punishment beating numbers are higher in some areas than others? (Have a think about geographical locations in Northern Ireland.)
4. What can you identify about the number of attacks on female victims?
5. Why do you think there are much fewer attacks on females than males?

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. *Mainly in urban areas within the Belfast area – west and north Belfast, Castlereagh and Newtownabbey have the highest numbers.*
2. *They were higher around 2002/2003 than before the ceasefire. They may have decreased since then but are not significantly lower than before the 1994 ceasefire.*
3. *Higher poverty rates; more crimes happen in urban areas; Belfast and Derry/Londonderry would have been the central hubs of the Troubles*
4. *There are fewer attacks on females.*
5. *(Pupils' own answers)*

- To explore the topic in more detail, use the interactive map at <https://batchgeo.com/map/6735208584128eb7fde05b0558020159> (either on the whiteboard or with pupils using individual computers or tablets) and ask the following:

1. In what locations are few punishment beatings occurring?
2. Look at your local area: what are the levels of punishment beatings there?
3. Are there more attacks by loyalists or republicans in your area?
4. Are there more assaults or shootings?

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. Rural areas
2. *(Pupils' own answers)*
3. *(Pupils' own answers)*
4. *(Pupils' own answers)*
5. *(Pupils' own answers)*

- For the last three questions, you may wish to ask pupils for their opinions about the statistics and whether or not they are surprised.

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### Activity 3: The impact of 'punishment beatings' on the Northern Ireland population

- Together watch the [Above the Law documentary](#), shown on RTÉ and available on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). As they watch, encourage the pupils to note the impact of punishment beatings on the following groups, providing facts and figures where possible:
  1. the victim
  2. the victim's family
  3. the local community
  4. the police
  5. the NHS service.

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. They have psychological damage following the attack.
2. The mother feels she was unable to protect her child.
3. People in the local community are in shock; they do not feel safe to go out.
4. The police have more work, as they have to try to find out who caused the attack.
5. Money has to be spent providing medical assistance to victims; hospital operation waiting times are increased as doctors and nurses have to deal with victims.

### Debrief

Discuss the following:

1. **Is there anything in the documentary that you were surprised about or found interesting?**
2. **What ages are most of the victims of 'punishment beatings and shootings'?**
3. **How do you think we can put an end to 'punishment beatings and shootings' happening in communities?**

*Possible answers and discussion points:*

1. It was surprising that the attack was pre-planned; we were surprised that the boy and his mum were accepting of the attack.
2. They are young people aged between 16 and 25.
3. Higher penalties for those carrying out attacks; stronger police presence in some areas to deter attacks; more events to improve trust in the police in some communities



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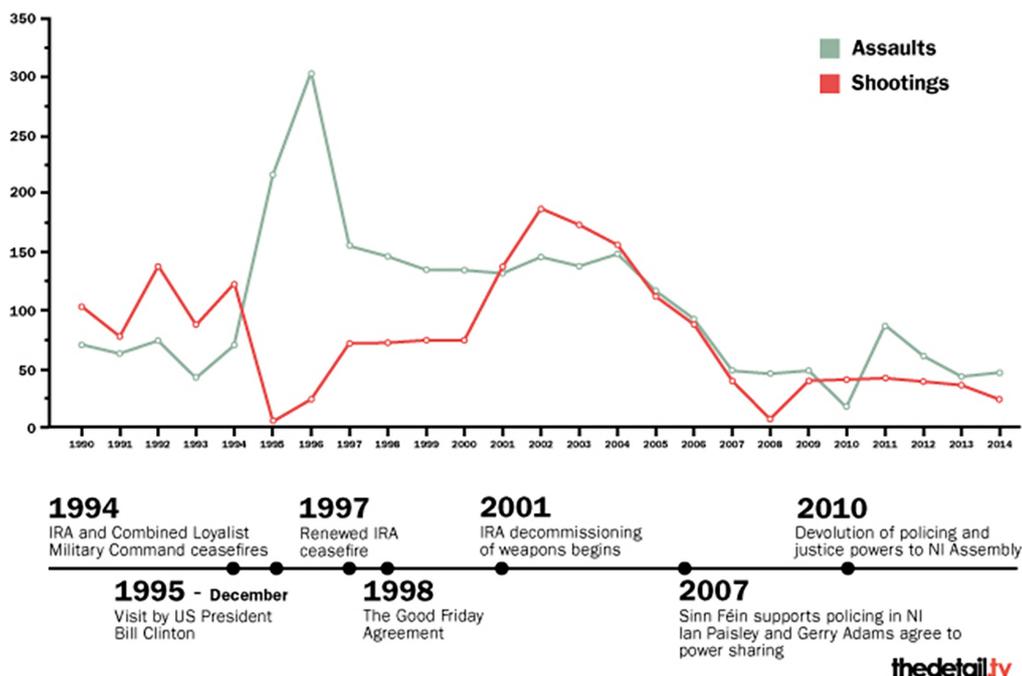


### Unit 4: Lesson 2 Resource

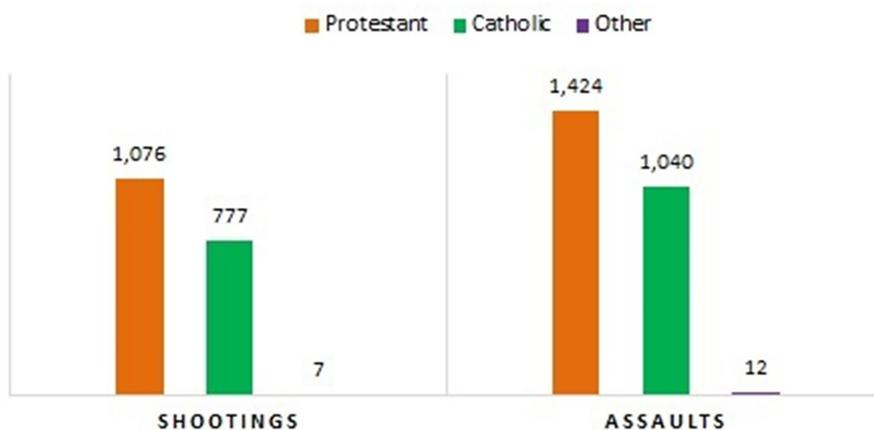
#### Paramilitary-style attacks – facts and figures

Source: [www.thedetail.tv/articles/above-the-law-paramilitary-punishment-attacks-in-northern-ireland](http://www.thedetail.tv/articles/above-the-law-paramilitary-punishment-attacks-in-northern-ireland)

#### Punishment Attacks Timeline



#### RELIGION OF VICTIMS



This chart was compiled by The Detail using PSNI data relating to attacks from Jan 1990 - Oct 2014.

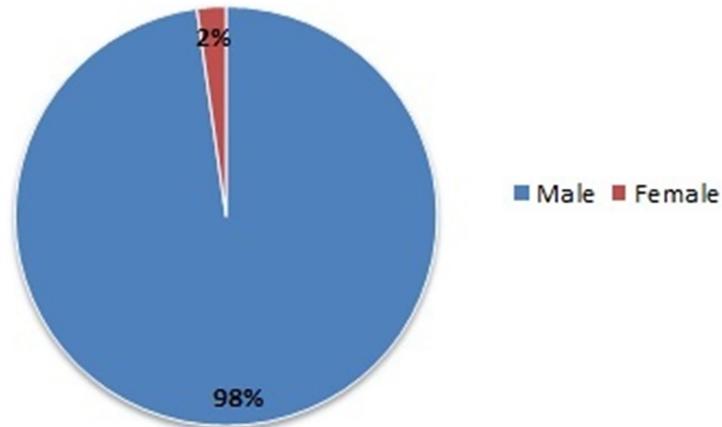
thedetail.tv

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### GENDER OF VICTIMS



This chart was compiled by The Detail using PSNI data relating to attacks Jan 1990 - Oct 2014. Women were victims in 93 assaults and 3 shootings.

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### The key findings

- 4,336 punishment-style attacks were reported to the police in Northern Ireland from the beginning of 1990 to the end of October 2014. There were 2,476 assaults and 1,860 shootings.
- Almost 58% of the victims were Protestant, 42% Catholic and less than 1% categorised as 'other'. 'Other' indicates either another religion or religion was unrecorded.
- 1,443 of the assaults and 1,080 shootings were carried out by loyalists. 1,033 assaults and 780 shootings were attributed to republicans.
- 2% of the attacks involved female victims. They were subjected to 93 assaults and three shootings.
- Half of all attacks took place in Belfast. The highest number of assaults were reported in West Belfast – 357. The highest number of shootings took place in North Belfast – 481 incidents.

