

# THE YELLOW MANIFESTO

A true account of a border and its people.

- 1.** People who live on the border need a say about the border. Don't think just of the borderline, think of the lives there. Think of the emotional meaning of the border as well as its practical impacts.
- 2.** This is one of the most beautiful places on earth. We need to preserve this for everyone; the night sky, lakes, mountains and bogs. We value the freedom we have to wander in our environment.
- 3.** We value our ability to live and work in either jurisdiction. Many of us cross the border daily. Homesteads, farms and businesses span both sides. We value the borderland's uniqueness. We value family and friends; we have relatives across religious and social borders and love our differences. We value peace and quiet.
- 4.** We know how to resist. We know how to adapt. How to open closed roads. How to quickly evaluate strangers and work out currency exchange rates. How to get along with neighbours, even when our views are opposed. We don't fit the stereotypes.
- 5.** We could teach you about tolerance. Border people have codes; we know how to treat each other in order to keep harmony. The border is where realities can co-exist. Co-existence is essential to the contract we have with each other; it is a higher thing than economics or security.
- 6.** No one was unaffected by our history; the sights we saw, the hurt and fear. Some people lost far too much. For many the border gave safety and protection and preserved identity. We all need to learn history—our own and others. Preserve this knowledge so that the troubles of the past remain in the past.
- 7.** Keep the border invisible and confined to maps. We want no checkpoints. Heightened security doesn't make us feel more safe or more secure. It makes us feel the opposite—angry, anxious, defensive and fearful.
- 8.** The difference between Yes and No can be made into Maybe. The Good Friday Agreement brought peace and stability. We fear the reversal of this good work. We can teach the world about history, respect and forgiveness but we need more time to come to terms with our past. You don't rush border people.
- 9.** Some of us want to grow together without a border. Some of us want the border intact although invisible. Our neighbours are our friends. We all choose peace.

**ACROSS  
AND IN-BETWEEN**



Written by people who live along the border in Ireland during the Border People's Parliament.

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