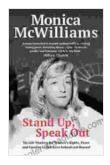
### My Life Working for Women's Rights, Peace, and Equality in Northern Ireland

My name is Mairead Maguire, and I am a woman who has dedicated my life to working for women's rights, peace, and equality in Northern Ireland. This book is my memoir, and it tells the story of my journey, from my early days as a young woman growing up in the midst of the Troubles, to my work as a peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

I was born in Belfast in 1944, and I grew up in a working-class Catholic family. The Troubles began when I was just a child, and I witnessed firsthand the violence and hatred that tore my community apart. I was determined to make a difference, and I began working for peace and reconciliation at a young age.



## Stand Up, Speak Out: My life working for women's rights, peace and equality in Northern Ireland and

**beyond** by Monica McWilliams

🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 4.8 out of 5	
Language	: English
File size	: 3593 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled	
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 451 pages



In 1976, I co-founded the Women's Peace Movement, which brought together women from both the Catholic and Protestant communities to work for peace. The movement was successful in organizing a number of largescale peace demonstrations, and it helped to raise awareness of the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

In 1977, I was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for my work for peace in Northern Ireland. The award was a great honor, and it gave me a platform to speak out for peace and reconciliation on a global stage.

I have continued to work for peace and equality in Northern Ireland ever since. I am a member of the Peace People, a non-violent movement that works to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and around the world. I am also a patron of the Mairead Maguire Foundation, which works to support women's rights and peace initiatives.

My life has been a journey of hope and inspiration. I have seen firsthand the power of peace and reconciliation, and I believe that it is possible to create a better world for all.

This book is my story, and it is a story of hope and possibility. I hope that it will inspire you to work for peace and equality in your own community.

#### **Chapter 1: Growing Up in the Troubles**

I was born in Belfast in 1944, and I grew up in a working-class Catholic family. The Troubles began when I was just a child, and I witnessed firsthand the violence and hatred that tore my community apart.

I remember the day the Troubles began. It was August 15, 1969, and I was just 15 years old. I was playing outside with my friends when we heard a loud explosion. We ran inside and saw that our neighbor's house had been bombed.

The next day, we heard that a young Catholic boy had been killed in the bombing. His name was Patrick Rooney, and he was just 11 years old.

Patrick's death was a turning point for me. I realized that the Troubles were not just a political conflict, but a human tragedy. I saw the pain and suffering that the violence was causing, and I knew that I had to do something to stop it.

I began working for peace and reconciliation at a young age. I joined the Women's Peace Movement, and I organized a number of large-scale peace demonstrations. I also worked with young people, teaching them about the importance of peace and reconciliation.

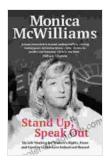
My work for peace was not without its challenges. I was often threatened and harassed by paramilitaries from both sides of the conflict. But I was determined to continue my work, and I never gave up hope for peace.

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