**Statement**

**11 May 2021**

**Ballymurphy inquest**

Following Mrs Justice Keegan’s finding today (11 May) that those killed in Ballymurphy, in Belfast in August 1971, ‘were entirely innocent of wrongdoing on the day in question,’ the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr David Bruce, issued the following statement.

“For the Ballymurphy families, today’s findings are a long awaited public declaration of the innocence of their loved ones. As they take in the news that they have waited 50 years to hear, it reminds us once more of the tragic and shattering past that Northern Ireland has witnessed, and the legacy of those times half a century on.

Dr Bruce concluded by saying, “For too many people across Northern Ireland, and indeed further afield, today would have brought back memories of loved ones whose lives were also cut short during what we casually call ‘The Troubles’. At this particular time they, along with the Ballymurphy families, are in our thoughts and prayers.”