

NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

ALANNA LESLIE:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.
Today we're talking about Pakistan, Canada and Kenya.

But first...

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

This historic agreement brought an end to thirty years of conflict in Northern Ireland – known as the Troubles – in which over three and half thousand people died.

The anniversary is being celebrated in events all over the world, from Chicago to Vienna. To find out how it's being marked at home, James McCarthy has this report from Belfast.

MARK:

I think for me, the Good Friday agreement is probably the most important thing that's actually ever really happened here.

JAMES McCARTHY:

That was Mark, who moved to Northern Ireland as a student and who has been reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

The Good Friday Agreement was signed on the 10th of April 1998 and is an international treaty which brought an end to 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland in a period known as The Troubles.

To understand why people were fighting, we have to go back to 1921, when the island of Ireland was partitioned into two states. 26 counties in the south left the United Kingdom and became their own independent state, while six counties in the north remained under the rule of the British, becoming Northern Ireland.

In the decades that followed, Catholics living in the predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland faced discrimination in accessing housing, jobs and even voting. This sparked a civil rights movement in the 1960s, which ultimately turned violent as Irish nationalists wanted to rejoin the rest of Ireland and unionists wanted to stay part of the United Kingdom.



NEWSREADER:

So after 30 years of troubles, two years of negotiations, 3,200 violent deaths, the parties in Northern Ireland have reached an agreement which they all say they hope will stick.

JAMES McCARTHY:

The Good Friday Agreement document is made up of three strands. Strand One established the Northern Ireland Assembly and an executive created on a power sharing basis.

EÓIN TENNYSON:

It's no doubt that the Northern Ireland I grew up in is utterly transformed compared to that of my parents and grandparents generation.

JAMES McCARTHY:

The Alliance Party Eóin Tennyson was elected to the Assembly in May 2022 aged just 23 and is the first elected representative to have been born after the Good Friday Agreement was signed.

EÓIN TENNYSON:

I'm fortunate enough never to have lived through the horrors of the Troubles, but I know that when my parents went out to vote for that agreement, they aspired to more than just relative peace. They wanted progress and, in those respects, there is still so much work to do.

JAMES McCARTHY:

I went along to Belfast's Botanic Gardens to find out what other young people think of this agreement.

VOX 1:

Like, I moved over from England when I was younger and I think we wouldn't have moved back here if the Good Friday Agreement hadn't have happened.

VOX 2:

It gave us peace and that chance to move on from what was probably the most challenging part of the history here, really, or at least one of the most challenging parts.



JAMES McCARTHY:

It's clear to see that 25 years later, the Good Friday Agreement has changed the lives of young people living in Northern Ireland for the better. James McCarthy reporting for Newsreel World.

ALANNA:

Thanks James.

ALANNA:

A senior researcher in Pakistan has found that 67% of the country's young people want to leave the country in the hope of finding better opportunities abroad.

Dr Faheem Khan announced his findings at Econfest, a two-day conference held in the country's second largest city, Lahore, where economists and policy-makers gathered to discuss the future of Pakistan's economy.

The problem is partly economic – even amongst educated young people, unemployment is still 31% – but participants in the survey also reported that they hoped for “more respect” in other countries.

ALANNA:

A man in Brisbane Australia has been charged after he was seen walking around the city with a platypus he'd stolen from the wild, showing it off in shops and allowing people to pat it.

A platypus is a semi aquatic mammal native to eastern Australia and is one of only five mammals in the world that lays eggs.

In a statement, the police said that taking a platypus from the wild is not only illegal, but it can also be dangerous as male platypuses have venomous spurs.

ALANNA:

That was a short clip of the song “Blood Runs Like A River (Colten Boushie)” by songwriter Evan Redsky, who hails from the First Nations Reserve of Mississauga First Nation in Canada.



It highlights the story of Colten Boushie, a 22-year-old Cree man who was shot and killed by a white farmer in rural Canada in 2016.

Evan's music is a mix of country and Americana, and his lyrics often talk about the struggles and injustices faced by indigenous people.

ALANNA:

The African continent hopes to recycle 50% of its waste by 2050. At the moment it recycles just 10%.

The Kenyan environmental activist James Wakibia has been spearheading efforts to reach the targets in his country for the last 8 years, ever since he started a social media campaign #banplasticsKE.

Michael Kaloki went to speak to James in his native city of Nakuru to find out more.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

The streets of Nakuru city, which lies northwest of the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Nakuru is where Kenyan environmentalist James Wakibia lives and it is on these streets where he has spent countless hours walking around trying to ensure that the city is clean and that plastic waste is well managed. James would like to see a reduction in the use of plastic. His slogan is 'Less Plastic is Fantastic'

JAMES WAKIBIA:

I feel we have already too much plastic in the environment and we are producing so much on a daily basis, our environment is already swamped.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

For James, his journey as an environmentalist and campaigner started when he was studying at a university in Nakuru.

JAMES WAKIBIA:

I used to pass by Nakuru's dumping site, it's called Gioto Dumping Site, which is located on a hillside. And passing there, I felt very offended most of the time because I saw loads of garbage strewn on the road that I was using. And it is then that I started campaigning or calling for better management of that landfill.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

For James, the streets of Nakuru are like his office. I took a walk with him on the streets looking for plastic waste.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

Ahead of us I see what is known as a garbage skip, right?

JAMES WAKIBIA:

And most of the garbage is now on the road.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

On the ground here.

JAMES WAKIBIA:

Yeah, and this is not something that should be happening. This skip is supposed to be emptied and not a very good-looking picture.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

I can see some plastic cups. Some plastic bottles.

Okay, so James now is going to the skip there and taking his photographs.

JAMES WAKIBIA:

Now that I've taken these photos of the garbage skip overflowing, I will look at them and maybe send them to the county environmental officials. If they don't do something about it, then I might decide to share them on Facebook.

Photography is a very powerful tool of communication, and I use it properly to try and document the issues of plastic pollution wherever I see them.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

James also undertakes clean-up exercises on the streets around rivers and other areas. Now, some might say this is a government role, their duty, so why does James take it upon himself to do these clean-up campaigns?



JAMES WAKIBIA:

It is a responsibility for everyone, the government, the citizens, the private sector, everybody living in this planet has a responsibility of ensuring that the place they live, this home we call our planet, is well protected so that we don't end up harming the environment that is supposed to keep us safe.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

For James, he seems determined to carry on as an environmentalist and trying to reduce the use of plastics, as well as ensuring plastic waste is well managed.

He is one of a number of environmentalists in the country and on the African continent keen on ensuring that they highlight matters affecting the environment. In 2023, James plans to continue campaigning for proper plastic waste management and is keenly looking forward to attend the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly meeting here in Kenya next year so he can find out more about what countries are proposing to do regarding plastics.

For Newsreel World, this is Michael Kaloki.

ALANNA LESLIE:

Thanks Michael. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!