

## Consular Corps of Northern Ireland Diplomatic Charity Dinner 2019

24 October 2019

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BBC Africa Editor Fergal Keane delivered a message of hope in his keynote address at the Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) Diplomatic Dinner held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaw's Bridge tonight.

The biennial dinner's charity sponsor for 2019 was Co-operation Ireland, and the veteran journalist spoke movingly about his time covering stories across the African continent and what he has learned about reconciliation that he hopes to see replicated in Ireland.

Mr Keane said everyone in the room "shared a love" for the land no matter their background, and we all needed to invest "more time and money and effort" into freeing the people from trauma and fear.

The dinner is an opportunity for CA-NI to officially bring together Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Senior Diplomats and Honorary officials from around the world to Northern Ireland to celebrate with the local business community and the increasing multiculturalism and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

Dr Christopher Stange, CA-NI Secretariat and Consul General for St. Vincent and the Grenadines said: "The Dinner was an opportunity to highlight the international connections with Northern Ireland and the decision of so many countries to establish consulates. Both career diplomats and honorary consuls play a vital role in developing trade, tourism, educational, sporting and cultural links between the countries they represent in Northern Ireland."

Dr Christopher Moran, Chairman, Co-operation Ireland, said: "The dinner was a great example of the hard work going on across the world to promote Northern Ireland and we were delighted to have been chosen as the charity partner for what was a superb event."

**ENDS**