

BLOODY SUNDAY

Britons and Northern Irish Welcome PM's Apology for Bloody Sunday

Most respondents in Britain and Northern Ireland think it is unnecessary to prosecute the soldiers who fired on civilians that day.

[LONDON – Jun. 28, 2010] – A unique survey—which compares reactions in both Britain and Northern Ireland to the recent apology by British Prime Minister David Cameron over the events of Bloody Sunday—shows that a majority of people welcomed the gesture.

The Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found that six-in-ten British respondents (61%) and seven-in-ten Northern Irish (70%) agree with Cameron's apology. The British Prime Minister's statement came after the Saville Inquiry into the events of 30 January 1972 found that British soldiers fatally shot 13 civilian Catholic demonstrators who were unarmed.

The online survey of representative samples of 2,018 British adults and 178 Northern Irish adults also found that about three-in-five Britons (61%) and Northern Irish (62%) believe that Cameron's apology is enough, and that the soldiers who opened fire against demonstrators should not be prosecuted for their actions.

State of Relations

A large majority of Britons (66%) and Northern Irish (67%) describe the current state of relations as “very friendly” or “moderately friendly”.

KEY FINDINGS

- **66% Britons, 67% Northern Irish describe bi-lateral relations as friendly**
- **61% Britons, 70% Northern Irish agree with Cameron's apology for the Bloody Sunday events**
- **61% Britons, 62% Northern Irish think PM's apology is enough, and soldiers who opened fire should not be prosecuted**
- **27% British, 43% Northern Irish think apology will improve bi-lateral relations**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 17 to June 23, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,018 randomly selected British adults and 178 Northern Irish adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is 2.2% for Great Britain and 7.3% in Northern Ireland. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Following the British prime minister's apology, 43 per cent of Northern Irish respondents think the gesture will have a positive impact in relations with Britain. But only 27 per cent of Britons think the apology will have much of a good influence on relations with Northern Ireland.

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Bloody Sunday

How would you describe the current state of relations between Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	GREAT BRITAIN	NORTHERN IRELAND
Very friendly	7%	13%
Moderately friendly	59%	54%
Not too friendly	17%	18%
Not friendly at all	3%	6%
Not sure	15%	10%
Friendly – net	66%	67%
Not friendly – net	20%	23%

Bloody Sunday

As you may know, the Saville Inquiry that investigated the events of 30 January 1972—a day more commonly known as “Bloody Sunday”—has published its report. UK Prime Minister David Cameron has apologized for the Government’s responsibility over the events of “Bloody Sunday”, and called them “unjustified and unjustifiable.” Do you agree or disagree with the Prime Minister’s apology?

	GREAT BRITAIN	NORTHERN IRELAND
Strongly agree	27%	41%
Moderately agree	34%	29%
Strongly disagree	11%	13%
Moderately disagree	9%	10%
Not sure	18%	7%
Agree – net	61%	70%
Disagree – net	20%	23%

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The Saville Inquiry has concluded that British soldiers opened fire without justification at unarmed, fleeing civilians and killed 13 Catholic demonstrators on “Bloody Sunday.” All of the witnesses who participated in the inquiry were granted immunity on the grounds of self-incrimination. However, some people believe that civil lawsuits may be launched against the British soldiers who opened fire on “Bloody Sunday”, who are now in their 60s and 70s. Thinking about this, which one of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	GREAT BRITAIN	NORTHERN IRELAND
The apology from the Government is enough—the British soldiers should not be prosecuted	61%	62%
The apology from the Government is not enough—the British soldiers should be prosecuted	19%	26%
Not sure	20%	13%

Bloody Sunday

Do you think the “Bloody Sunday” apology will have a positive impact, a negative impact, or no impact at all in the state of relations between Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	GREAT BRITAIN	NORTHERN IRELAND
A positive impact	27%	43%
A negative impact	17%	16%
No impact at all	37%	28%
Not sure	19%	13%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specialising in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
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More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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