



Good Relations



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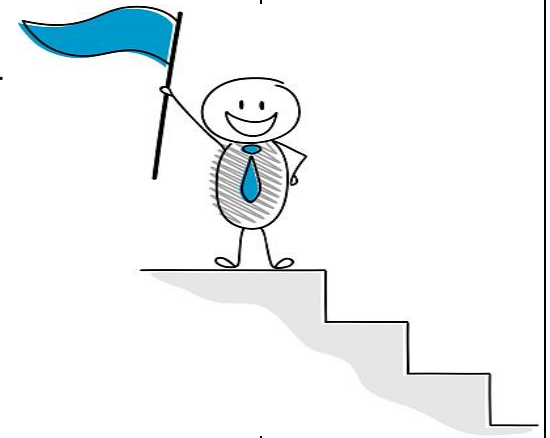
Purpose: To help participants understand and explore symbols, flags and traditions in NI.

Participant learning objectives:

1. Understand the meaning of common symbols and flags in NI
2. Be aware of traditions and celebrations in NI
3. Understand the need for a safer/ more together community

CONTENT	METHODS/ RESOURCES <i>Slides 41-46 can assist with this session.</i>	APPROX. TIME
Flags in Northern Ireland	<p>Resources: Common flags found in NI Flag Names Flag information</p> <p>This activity will allow participants to see and learn about a range of common flags found in Northern Ireland. They will understand why flags are important to some people and why it is important to develop tolerance and respect.</p> <p>Remind participants to be respectful of other people’s opinions/ personal choices.</p> <p>Place the flags around the room. Ask participants what they think of when they hear the word flag (symbol, identity, colour, purpose)? Ask them to stand beside the flag that they best relate to. Ask participants to tell the group what they know about this flag and where it is commonly seen.</p> <p>Now ask participants to stand beside the flag that makes them feel uncomfortable/ they cannot relate to. Why does it make them feel that way? What do they know about this flag?</p> <p>Ask participants the official names of the flags. Put the names under the flags once agreed by the group. Share some factual information on the flags.</p>	45 minutes

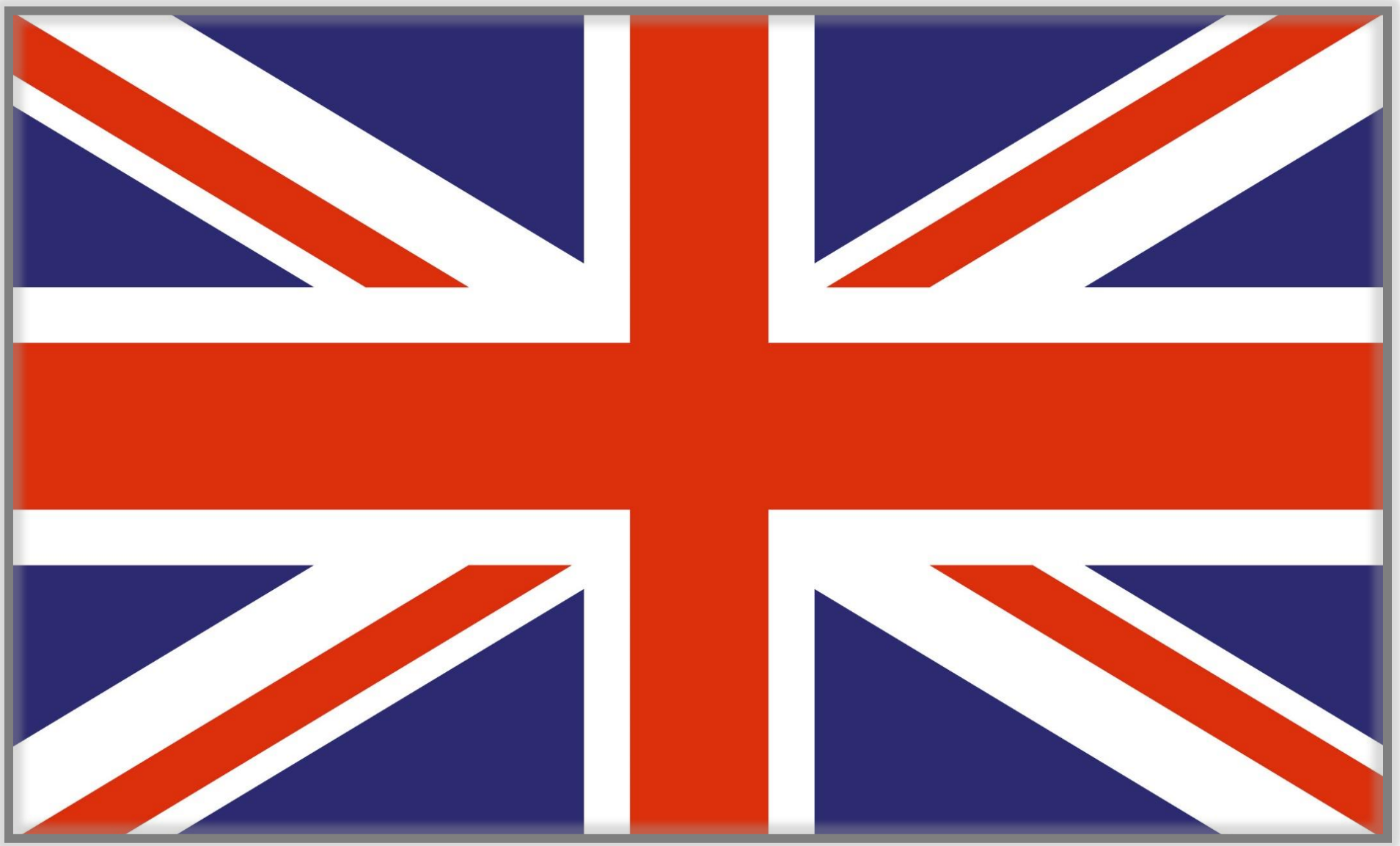
	<p>Debrief - What is the role of a national flag (to represent, unite, inspire national pride, show political or national identity to others)?</p> <p>What flags are controversial and why?</p> <p>Why can they be divisive?</p> <p>Are we surprised by what the flags mean/ represent?</p>	
<p>Symbols in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Resources: Symbols Hula Hoops – 2 per group</p> <p>This activity will offer participants an opportunity to learn about symbols that are used in Northern Ireland; their purpose and where they come from.</p> <p>Introduce symbols using slide 44. Ask participants to think of symbols in the room which we all recognise e.g., symbols on clothes, doors, posters etc. Explain that symbols represent an idea or value and allow us to communicate ideas without words.</p> <p>Split participants into groups of 3-5. Provide each group with a copy of the symbols.</p> <p>Using two overlapped hula hoops, ask the participants to place the symbols into the correct circle.</p> <p>Do they represent PUL, CNR or are they shared?</p> <p>Ask participants to talk about what they know about these symbols, where they can be seen, and how they can be linked to our identity.</p> <p>Provide the group with some symbol facts.</p> <p>Debrief: Again, think about the purpose of symbols here in Northern Ireland. Are they used to unite or divide us? Are they helpful/ unhelpful to our society? How do flags and symbols relate to different traditions/ celebrations in Northern Ireland? For example, 12th July, St. Patrick’s Day, Belfast Pride etc.</p>	<p>45 minutes</p>
<p>Design own flag or symbol for Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Resources: Creative art materials Flip chart/ Card/ Material</p> <p>Ask participants to work in teams to design their own flag or symbol for Northern Ireland. It must represent all the people of Northern Ireland and be sensitive to everyone’s interests.</p> <p>Debrief: Is this an easy task? Is an inclusive flag the solution to greater peace in Northern Ireland?</p>	<p>30 minutes</p>

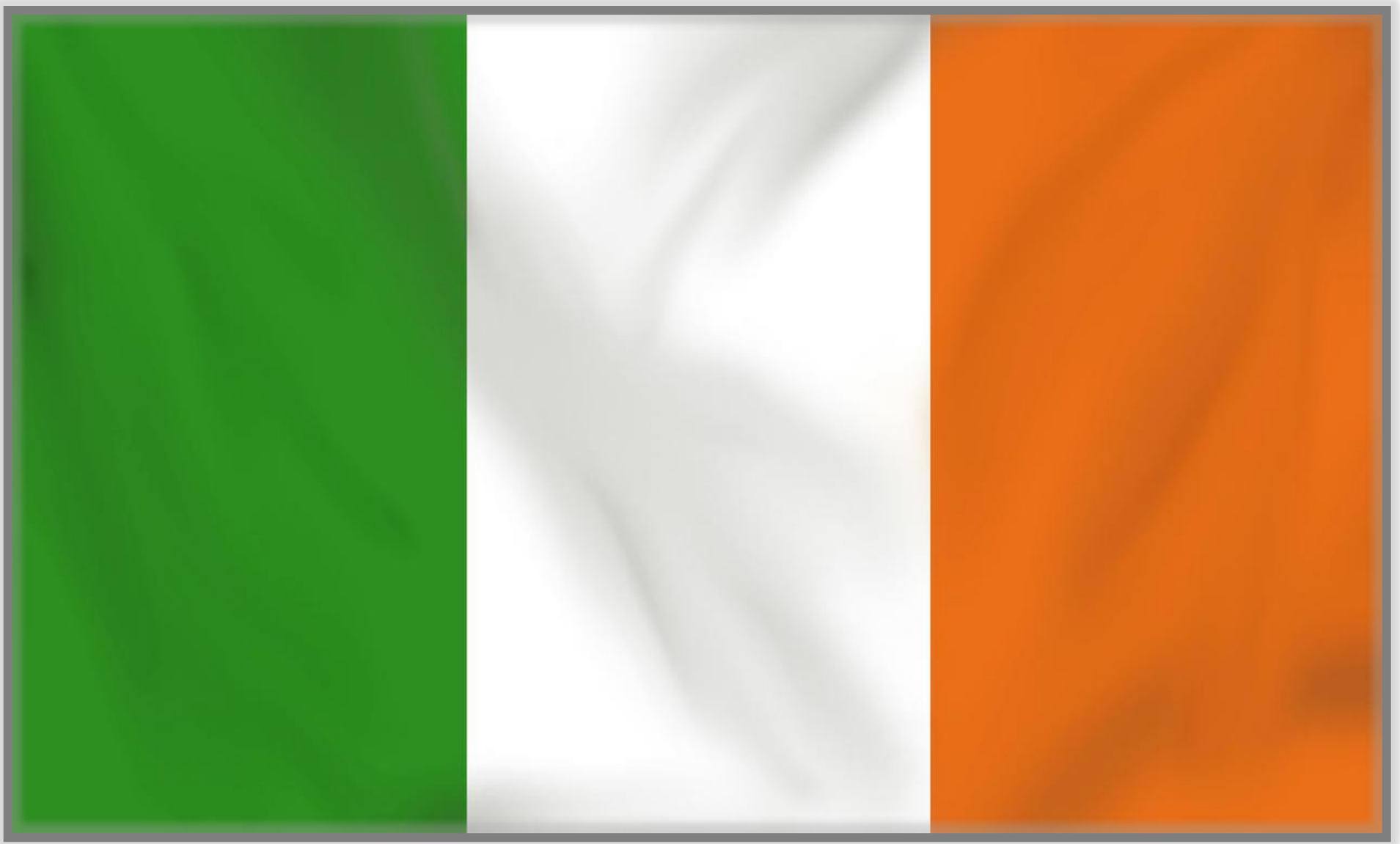




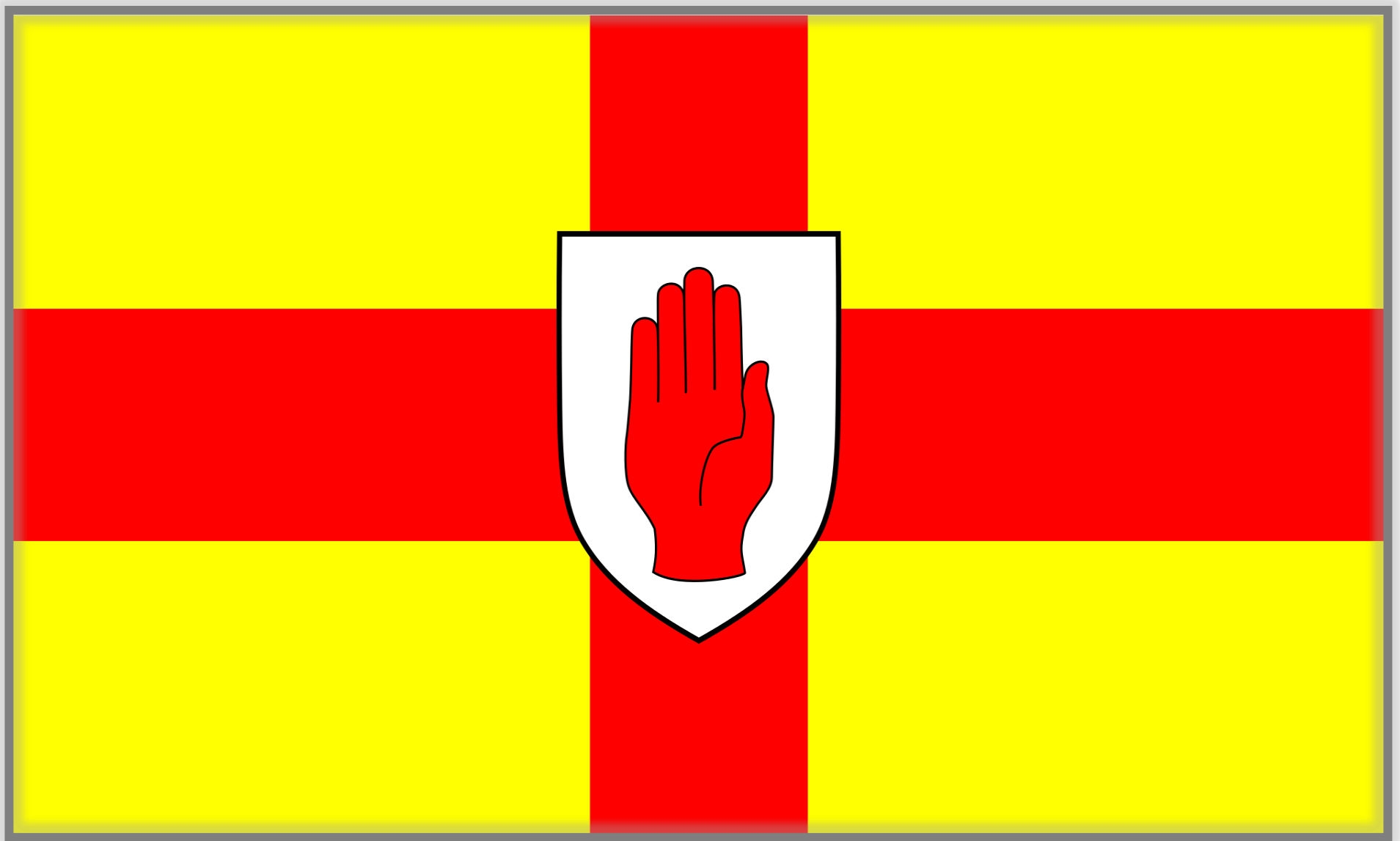


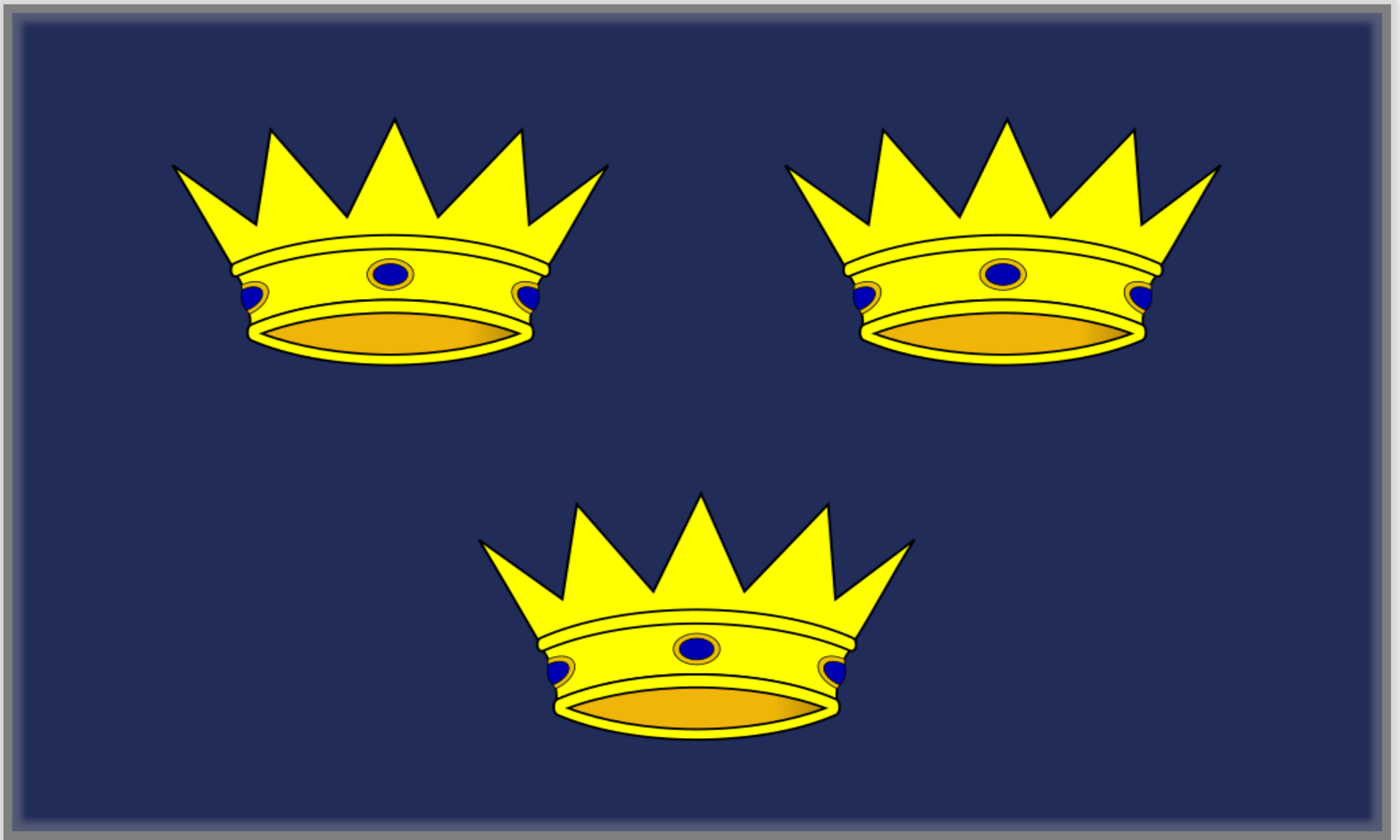






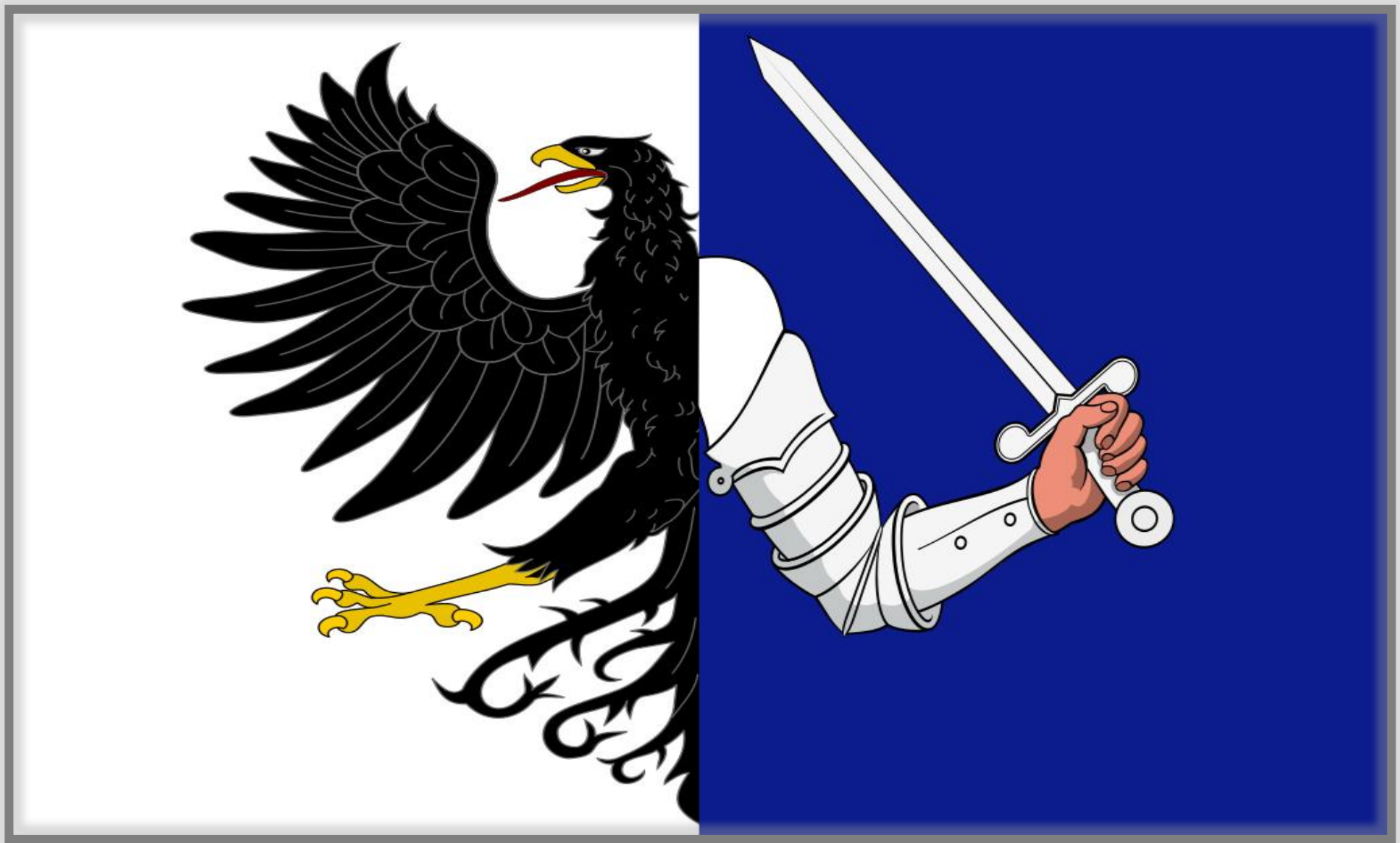


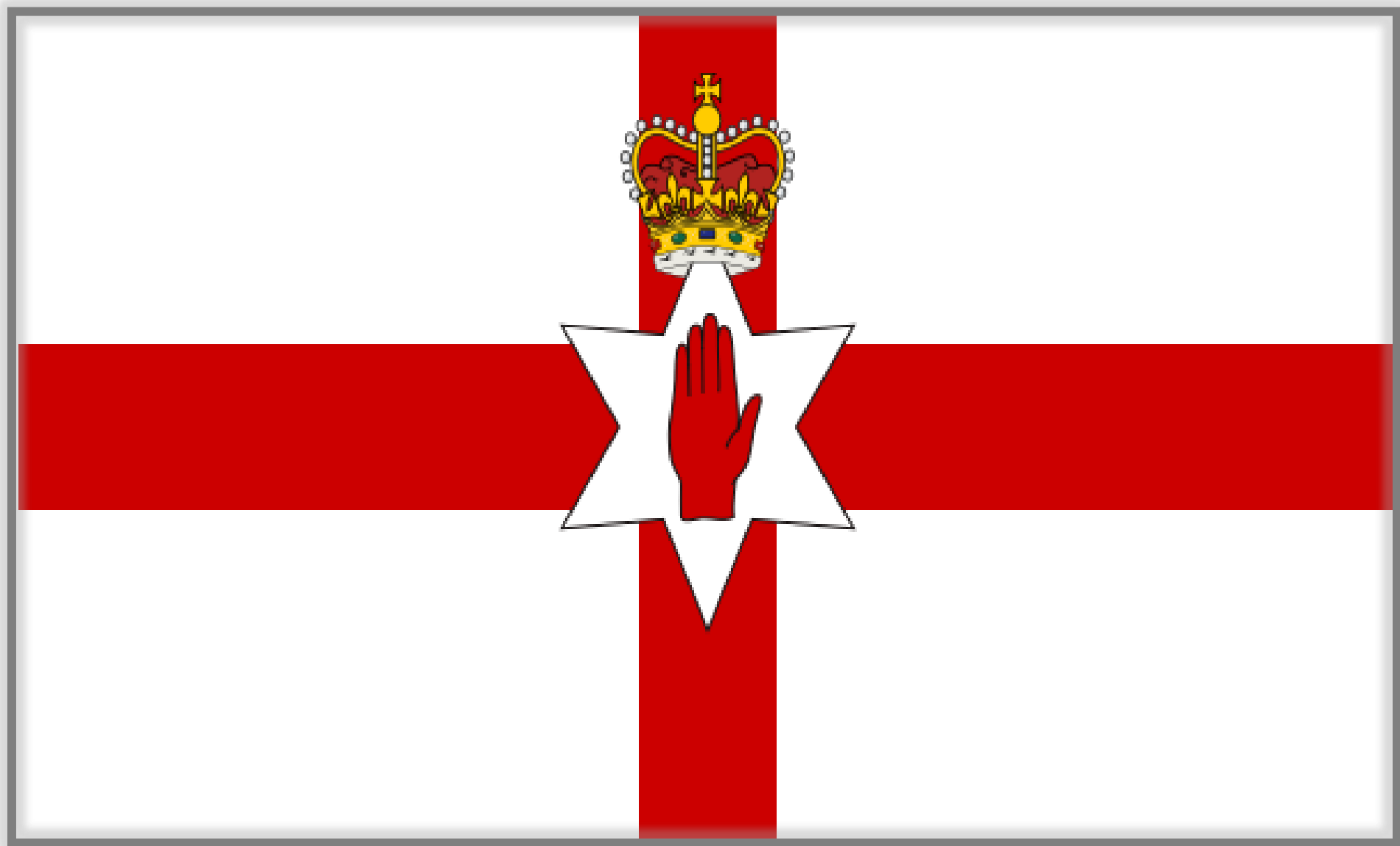


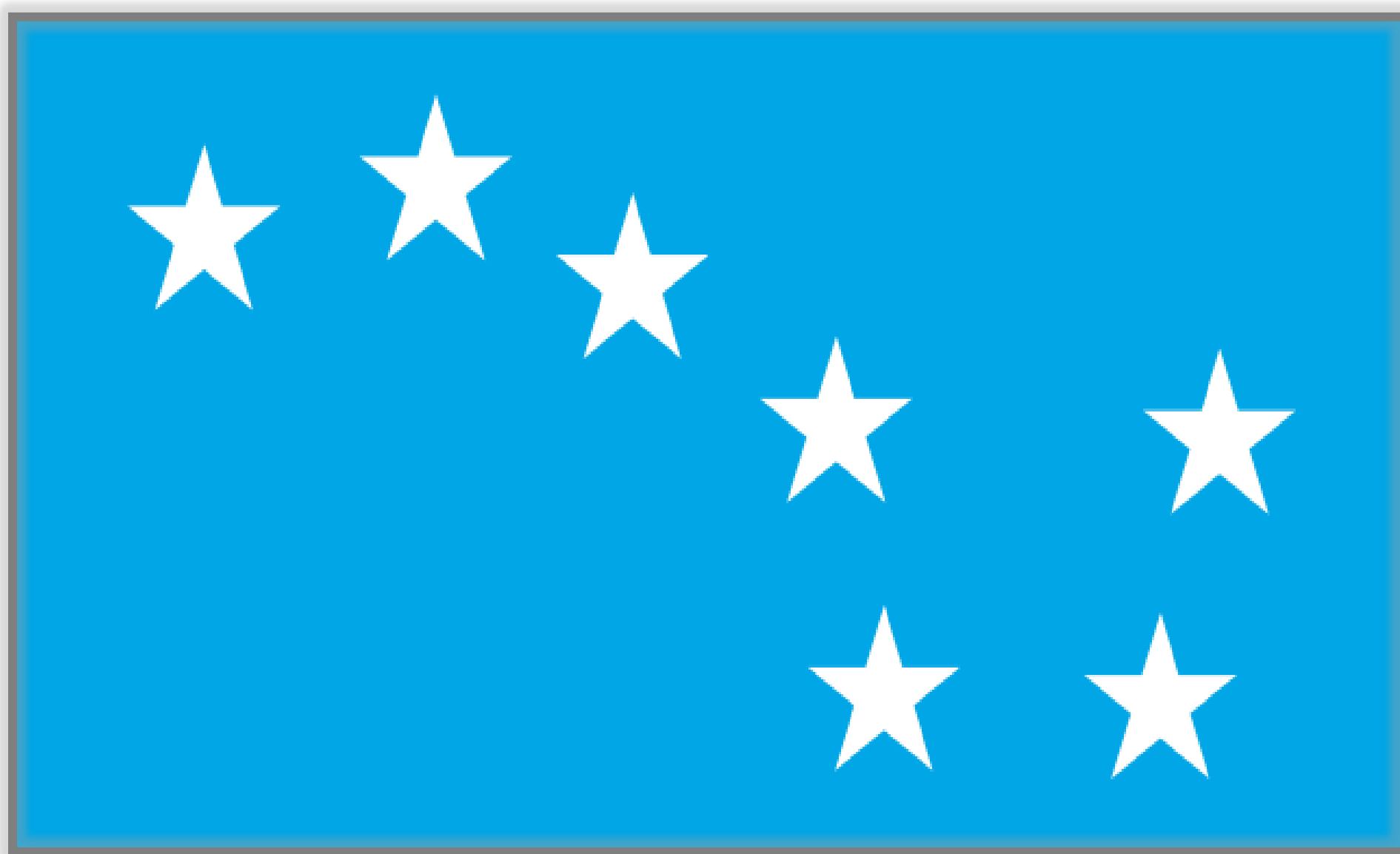


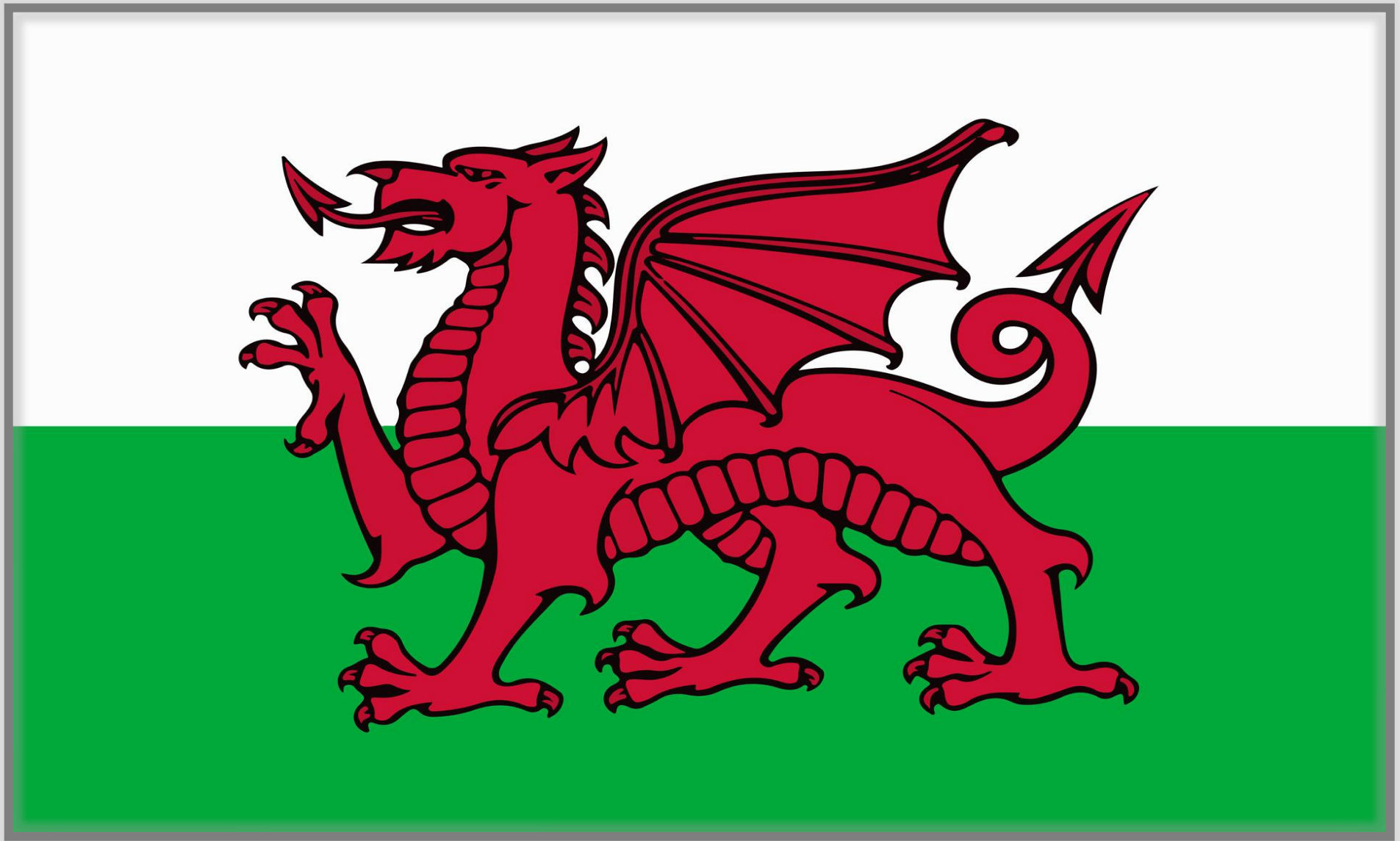


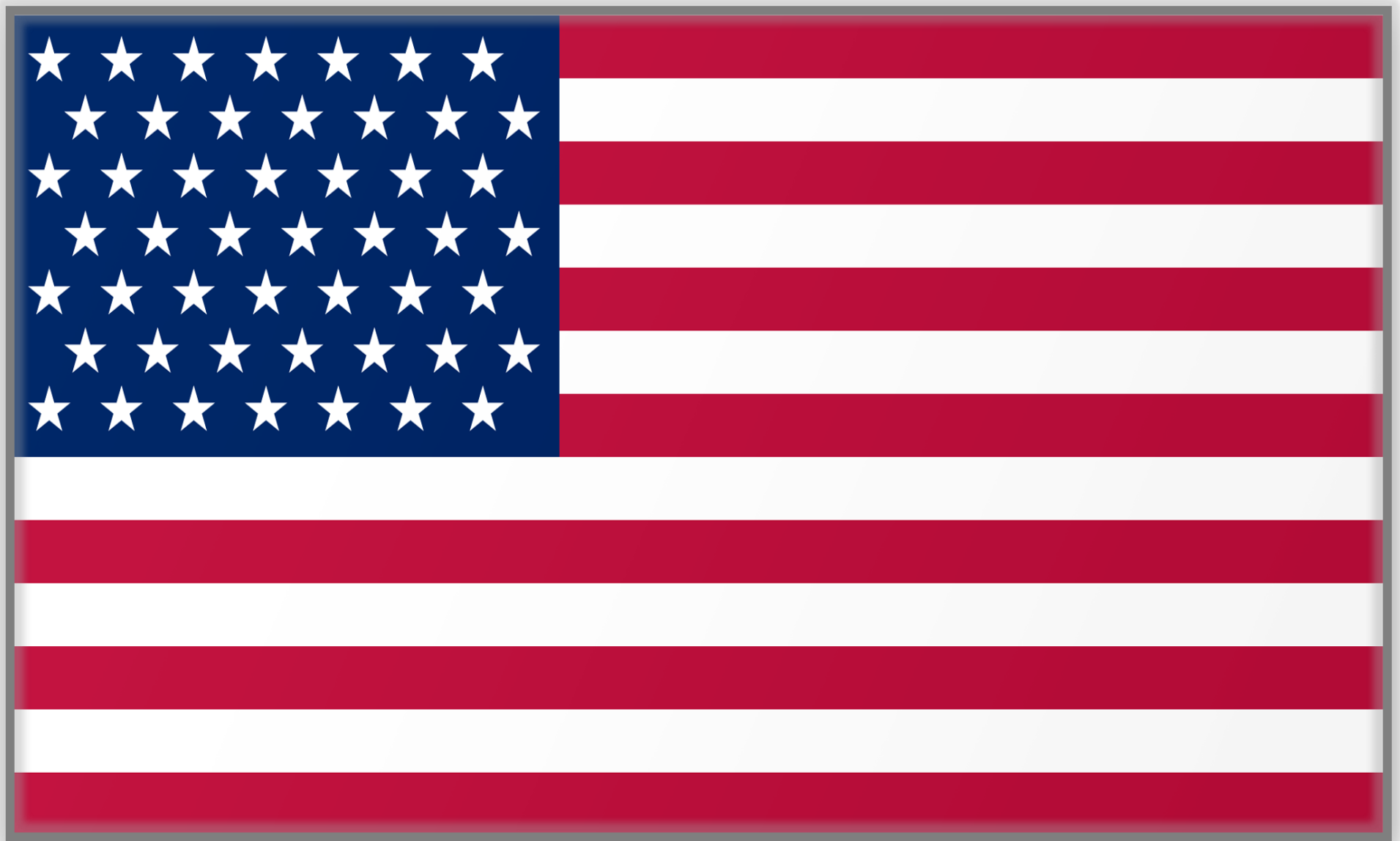
















Cross of St. Patrick



St. Andrew's Cross



St. George's Cross



The Union Flag

The Tricolour

The Four Provinces of Ireland

The Flag of Ulster

The Flag of Munster



The Flag of Leinster

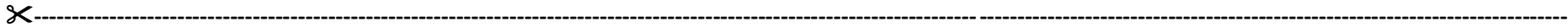


The Flag of Europe



The Flag of Connacht

The Ulster Banner – Government of Northern Ireland Flag 1921



The Starry Plough

The Welsh Flag

✂

The American Flag

✂

The Rainbow Flag

✂



Name: St Andrews Cross / Saltire

Description: The Flag of Scotland (Scottish Gaelic: bratach na h-Alba;[1] Scots: Banner o Scotland), also known as St Andrew's Cross or the Saltire, is the Flag of Scotland. As the national flag, the Saltire, rather than the Royal Standard of Scotland, is the correct flag for all individuals and corporate bodies to fly. It is also, where possible, flown from Scottish Government buildings every day from 8am until sunset, with certain exceptions.

According to legend, the Christian apostle and martyr Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Use of the familiar iconography of his martyrdom, showing the apostle bound to an X-shaped cross, first appears in the Kingdom of Scotland in 1180 during the reign of William I. It was again depicted on seals used during the late 13th century, including on one used by the Guardians of Scotland, dated 1286.

Using a simplified symbol which does not depict St. Andrew's image, the saltire or crux decussata, (from the Latin crux, 'cross', and decussis, 'having the shape of the Roman numeral X'), began in the late 14th century. In June 1385, the Parliament of Scotland decreed that Scottish soldiers serving in France would wear a white Saint Andrew's Cross, both in front and behind, for identification.

The earliest reference to the Saint Andrew's Cross as a flag is found in the Vienna Book of Hours, circa 1503, in which a white saltire is depicted with a red background. In the case of Scotland, use of a blue background for the Saint Andrew's Cross is said to date from at least the 15th century, with the first certain illustration of a flag depicting such appearing in Sir David Lyndsay of the Mount's Register of Scottish Arms, circa 1542.

The legend surrounding Scotland's association with the Saint Andrew's Cross was related by Walter Bower and George Buchanan, who claimed that the flag originated in a 9th-century battle, where Oengus II led a combined force of Picts and Scots to victory over the Angles, led by Æthelstan. Supposedly, a miraculous white saltire appeared in the blue sky and Oengus' troops were roused to victory by the omen. Consisting of a blue background over which is placed a white representation of an X-shaped cross, the Saltire is one of Scotland's most recognisable symbols.



Name: St George's Cross

Description: The flag of England is derived from St George's Cross (heraldic blazon: Argent, a cross gules). The association of the red cross as an emblem of England can be traced back to the Middle Ages, and it was used as a component in the design of the Union Flag in 1606. Since the 1990s it has been in widely used at national sporting events. Sometimes associated with Saint George, the military saint, often depicted as a crusader from the Late Middle Ages, the cross has appeared on many flags, emblems, standards, and coats of arms.

Its first documented use was as the ensign of the Republic of Genoa, where after it was used successively by crusaders. The symbol has since been adopted by the Swabian League in the pre-Reformation Holy Roman Empire, and it was introduced as the emblem of several countries and cities which have or had Saint George as a patron saint, notably the Republic of Genoa, the Duchy of Milan, England, Wales, and Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains of Eastern Europe.

The cross is also found, for various reasons, on the provincial flags of Huesca, Zaragoza, and Teruel (the three provinces of Aragón in Spain) and Barcelona. It is used extensively across Northern Italy and is the symbol of Bologna, Padua, Genoa, Reggio Emilia, Mantua, Vercelli, Alessandria, and most notably of Milan, where it is often called the "Cross of Saint Ambrose". It is also the main feature of the Ulster Banner, formerly the Flag of Northern Ireland, and thus appears on the badges and flags of some Ulster loyalist groups, such as the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Early representations of Saint George as a crusader knight with bearing a red-on-white cross still date to the late 13th century, and become widespread as the saint's attributed arms in the 14th and 15th centuries. Edward III of England chose Saint George as the patron saint of his Order of the Garter in 1348, and also took to using a red-on-white cross in the hoist of his Royal Standard.

Saint George became widely venerated as a warrior saint during the Third Crusade. The red cross in particular was associated with the Knights Templar, from the time of the Second Crusade (1145), but in 1188 red and white crosses were chosen to identify the French and English troops in the "Kings' Crusade" of Philip II of France and Henry II of England, respectively. Together with the Jerusalem Cross, the plain red-on-white became a recognizable symbol of the crusader from about 1190, and in the 13th century it came to be used as a standard or emblem by numerous leaders or polities who wanted to associate themselves with the crusades.



Name: St Andrews Cross / Saltire

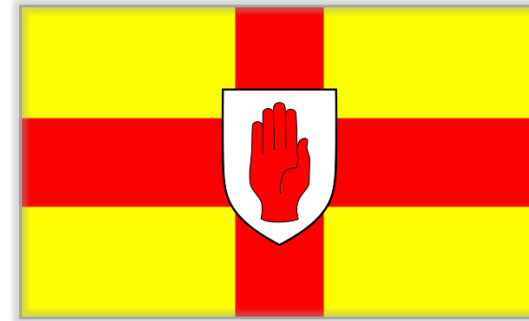
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Name: The Flag of Ulster

Description: The Flag of Ulster has a gold background featuring a red cross with the symbol of the Red Hand of Ulster. The flag is composed of two symbols which represent two ancient families from Ulster. The gold background and red cross came from the coat of arms of the Burkes and the Red Hand from the O'Neill family.

Legend has it that the symbol of the Red Hand comes from a race to conquer Ireland thousands of years ago. Heremon O'Neill racing a rival chieftain for possession of Ireland became the first man to touch its soil by cutting off his own hand and hurling it ashore! His sacrifice made Heremon the first king of Ulster in 1015 B.C.

The Flag of Ulster is a historic banner used to represent Ulster, one of the four provinces of Ireland. The Red Hand of Ulster is a symbol that is either derived from the O'Neill dynasty, then the most prominent Irish clan in Ulster, or the Dextra Dei of early Christian iconography. The gold background featuring a red cross comes from the coat of arms of the Burkes, a Hiberno-Norman noble family.

Flag of Ulster is used to represent the province of Ulster, which is one of the four provinces of Ireland. The arms of the historic province of Ulster is a composite achievement, combining the heraldic symbols of two of that province's best known families, namely the cross of de Burgh and the red hand motif adopted by the O'Neill (Ua Néill, later Ó Néill) Kings of Áilech and Tír Eoghán.

The 'Red Hand' badge of O'Neill was probably grounded on a theme in Gaelic culture. An early heraldic use in Ireland of the open right hand can be seen in the seal of Aodh Ó Néill, King of the Irish of Ulster, 1344-1364.[2]

When Walter de Burgh, Lord of Connacht, became Earl of Ulster in 1243 the de Burgh cross became inseparably linked with the Hiberno-Norman Earldom of Ulster, which spanned over a third of the province. The seal of his son Richard, for example, appended to a deed dated 1282, shows the heraldic cross in triplicate together with what may well be a portrait head of the Earl himself. At some point the Red Hand motif was appended to the de Burgh cross, the result eventually coming to represent the entire province.

The flag of Ulster is usually displayed alongside the flags of Leinster, Munster, Connacht, or as part of the combined flag of the Provinces of Ireland. The flag is the official flag of the Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association and the Ulster rugby team, and is part of the IRFU four provinces flag and the Ireland hockey team flag



Name: The Flag of Europe

Description: The European flag has a background of Azure blue with twelve, five pointed golden stars formed into a circle. It is used to represent the council of Europe and the European Union. The number of stars is based on the fact that twelve is seen as a symbol of perfection and completeness, and does not represent the number of countries in the European Union.



Name: The Union Flag. The first one had only the England and Scotland ones combined.

Description: The Union Flag brings together three flags:

1. The Flag of England, also known as St George's Cross: A red cross on a white background.
2. The Flag of Scotland, also known as St Andrew's Cross: A white diagonal cross on a blue background.
3. The St Patrick's Cross, representing Ireland: A red diagonal cross on a white background.

It uses the red cross of St George, the red saltire of St Patrick and the flag of Scotland to make the Union Flag. The design of the flag was made in 1801.

The Union Flag, is used to represent the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This is the royal standard and is flown when the Queen is present.

The union flag is only called the 'Union Jack' when flown at sea.



Name: The Tricolour

Description: The Tricolour has three vertical bands of green, white and orange. The green band is where the flag is flown from. The colours in the flag are there for representation; green for the Catholic population and orange for the Protestant population of the island of Ireland. The white band in the middle represents the hope of lasting peace.

This was first used in 1922. Tricolours are the flags of all republics who used to be a monarchy. Ireland became a republic in 1939.

The Tricolour was originally designed to represent the whole of Ireland, but is currently used as the flag for the Republic of Ireland.

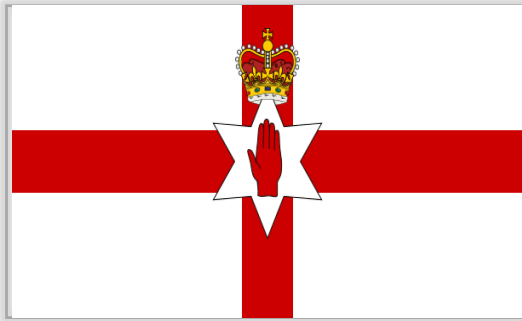
This flag was gifted to Thomas Francis Maher from a group of French Ladies in 1848 to support the self determination of the nation.

If it is flown back to front it is the Flag of the Ivory Coast.



Name: The Four Provinces of Ireland

Description: Each flag from the four provinces of Ireland are brought together to form one flag. The four provinces are known as Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht. Top left is Ulster, top right is Munster, bottom left is Connacht and bottom right is Leinster.



Name: The Ulster Banner – Government of Northern Ireland Flag 1921

Description: The Ulster Banner is composed of a red cross on a white field, the Red Hand of Ulster on a six pointed star and a crown at the top of the star.

It is based on the English Flag and the Flag of Ulster with the addition of the six pointed star to represent the six counties of Northern Ireland and the crown on top for the British Monarchy.

It was formerly the flag for the Government of Northern Ireland, but it no longer has any status. It is sometimes used at sporting events to represent Northern Ireland.



Name: The American Flag

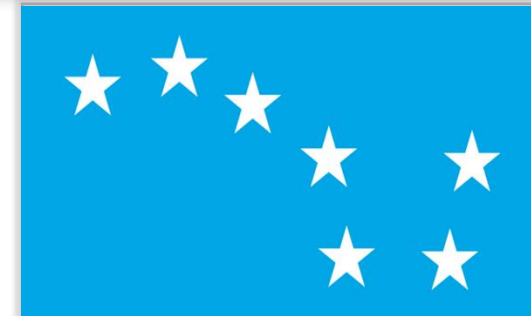
Description: The flag of the United States of America, often referred to as the American flag, is the national flag of the United States. It consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton (referred to specifically as the "union") bearing fifty small, white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows, where rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternate with rows of five stars. The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, and became the first states in the U.S. Nicknames for the flag include The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, and The Star-Spangled Banner.



Name: The Rainbow Flag

Description: The rainbow flag, commonly known as the gay pride flag or LGBT pride flag, is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) pride and LGBT social movements. Other uses of rainbow flags include a symbol of peace and the colors reflect the diversity of the LGBT community, as the flag is often used as a symbol of gay pride during LGBT rights marches. While it originated in Northern California, the flag is now used worldwide.

Originally devised by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker, the design has undergone several revisions since its debut in 1978, first to remove colors then restore them based on availability of fabrics. The most common variant consists of six stripes: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. The flag is typically flown horizontally, with the red stripe on top, as it would be in a natural rainbow.

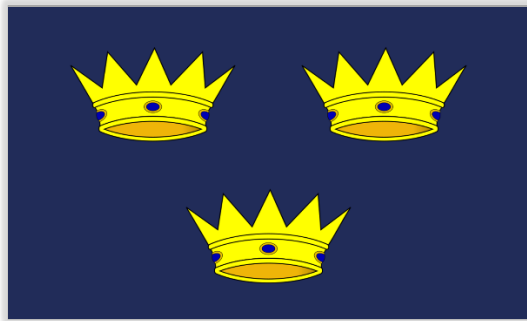


Name: The Starry Plough

Description: The Starry Plough banner (Irish: An Camhéachta) was originally used by the Irish Citizen Army, a socialist, Irish republican movement. James Connolly, co-founder of the Irish Citizen Army with Jack White, said the significance of the banner was that a free Ireland would control its own destiny from the plough to the stars.

The flag depicts an asterism (an identified part) of the constellation Ursa Major, called The Plough (or "Starry Plough") in Ireland and Britain, the Big Dipper in North America, and various other names worldwide. Two of the Plough's seven stars align (point) on the North Pole Star.

The original Starry Plough was unveiled in 1914 and flown over the Imperial Hotel by the Irish Citizen Army during the 1916 Easter Rising. Throughout the year the Plough prominently features in the night sky over the Northern Hemisphere.



Name: The Flag of Munster

Description: The flag of Munster consists of three gold crowns on a blue field. Similar crowns were included on the arms of Ireland before being superseded by the golden harp in the 16th century. The meaning of the crowns on the flag is not certain, but one possibility is that they may represent three of the medieval Hiberno-Norman lordships in Munster; the O'Briens (Thomond), the Butlers (Ormond) and the Fitzgeralds (Desmond).

For more than four hundred years, the Province of Munster has been heraldically symbolised by three golden antique crowns on a deep blue shield. The crowns may represent Thomond (Tuamhain, North Munster), Desmond (Deasumhain, South Munster), and Ormond (Urumhain, East Munster). While these arms are on record as relating to Munster as early as the sixteenth century, the motif, namely the antique Irish crown which inspired them, is considerably older. For example, a crown of the type now known as antique Irish, crafted in burnished metal and resting on a blue enamel surface, forms part of a thirteenth-century crozier head found near Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel. This Gaelic Irish artifact is now in the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin. Cashel was the seat of the Kings of Munster, from early Christian times through to the fifteenth century. In the case of the 'king-bishops' of Cashel, the placing of the antique crown on their crozier, could be interpreted as a symbolic assertion of their right to the political sovereignty of Munster. It is suggested therefore that the sovereignty of Munster, as expressed in heraldic format, uses the antique crown in triplicate. (Tripling of symbols in heraldic art is a convention used to achieve balance on the triangular surface of a shield.)

As to the tincture (colour) of the Munster shield, in Gaelic mythology the sovereignty of Munster was personified in Mór Muman – a lady or goddess dressed in deep blue robes.

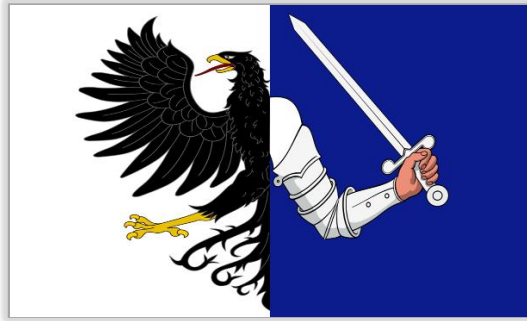


Name: The Welsh Flag

Description: The flag of Wales (Welsh: Baner Cymru or Y Ddraig Goch, meaning the red dragon) consists of a red dragon passant on a green and white field. As with many heraldic charges, the exact representation of the dragon is not standardised and many renderings exist.

The flag incorporates the red dragon of Cadwaladr, King of Gwynedd, along with the Tudor colours of green and white. It was used by Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, after which it was carried in state to St Paul's Cathedral. The red dragon was then included as a supporter of the Tudor royal arms to signify their Welsh descent. It was officially recognised as the Welsh national flag in 1959.

The dragon as a major flag design element is shared with the flag of Bhutan. A dragon also appears on the badge of the George Cross on the flag of Malta. The Chinese flag also featured a dragon during the Qing Dynasty. Several cities include a dragon in their flag design, including Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, Ljubljana, the capital city of Slovenia, and Puerto Madryn in Argentina.



Name: The Flag of Connacht

Description: The flag of Connacht is a heraldic banner of the arms of Connacht, a dimidiated (divided in half from top to bottom) eagle and armed hand. The arms are recorded as such on a map of Galway dated 1651 now in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. These arms approximate rather closely to those of the Schottenkloster or Irish monastery founded in Regensburg, Bavaria in the 11th century.

The question is how the arms of that Schottenkloster located deep in the heart of the Holy Roman Empire come to be associated with the province of Connacht in Ireland. A somewhat unsatisfactory answer to this question can be found in Vatican Ms 11000 which contains a necrology of prominent Irish ecclesiastics and political rulers – with floruits mainly in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries – whose obituaries were recorded locally, apparently on the basis of their being substantial benefactors of the Schottenkloster at Regensburg. In the section of the aforementioned necrology headed "Kings", the initial entry relates to Donnchadh and Domhnall Mac Carthaigh, rulers of Desmond, to whom the arms of the Schottenkloster were apparently conceded, presumably as arms of affection. If it is assumed that the arms of the Schottenkloster were similarly conceded to the other royal benefactors noted in the necrology, then an explanation of the origins of the arms of the province of Connacht begins to emerge because the final entry in the necrology refers to Ruaidhrí Ó Conchobhair, King of Connacht and last High King of Ireland.



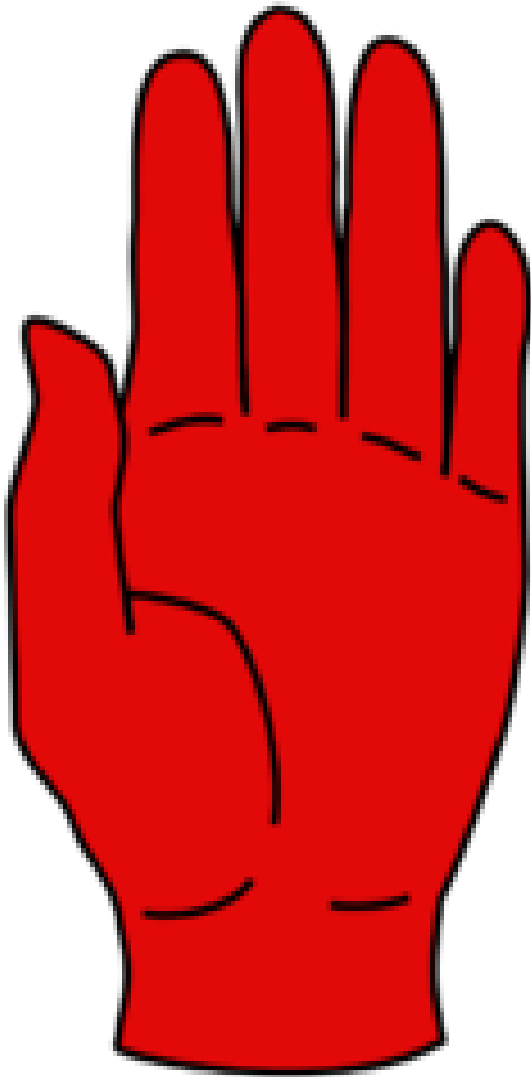
Name: The Flag of Leinster

Description: The flag of the Irish province of Leinster is a banner with the provincial coat of arms: a gold Irish harp with silver strings on a green field (blazon: vert a harp or stringed argent). These arms are similar to the arms of Ireland, which have the same device on a field of blue rather than green.

Possibly the oldest Irish instance of the use of the harp device on a green field was the flag of Eoghan Ruadh Ó Néill (Owen Roe O'Neill). Owen Roe, nephew of Aodh (Hugh O'Neill), had entered the Spanish service after his uncle's defeat at Kinsale in 1601. Owen rose to prominence in the Spanish army, and in 1642 returned to Ireland to assist the Irish Confederation in the war that broke out the previous year. It is recorded that his ship, the St Francis, as she lay at anchor at Dunkirk, flew from her mast top "the Irish harp in a green field, in a flag". Because the confederation's headquarters were located in Kilkenny – the principal city of Leinster "without the pale" – his flag may have had a special significance for that province. The Confederation seal also incorporated, among a number of other motifs, a representation of the Irish harp. When Eoghan Ruadh died in 1649 the hopes of the Irish Confederation died with him.













SINCE  1795
The
**Orange
Order**





Symbols



The Celtic cross is a form of Christian cross featuring a nimbus or ring that emerged in Ireland and Britain in the Early Middle Ages. There are hundreds of examples still in existence. Sometimes known as a Celtic sun cross, there are also thousands of memorials in the form of a Celtic cross headstone to be seen in many cemeteries around the world.



The Crown symbolises the British monarchy in Ireland. It is seen on many Loyalist murals and Orange Order banners. It is seen as the ultimate symbol of Protestantism, and allegiance is pledged to it by all who are loyal to Britain and the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland.



This ancient instrument has long symbolised the island of Ireland. Its Nationalist origins come from when Owen Roe O'Neill, a Gaelic Chieftain, adopted a green flag incorporating the harp. Being seen as a threat to the English invaders, playing the harp was banned, despite remaining on the royal insignia as representing Ireland in the growing British Empire. It was revived in Belfast in 1792, and was the prime symbol of the United Irishmen. The symbol of the harp also represents Loyalist Irishmen when it is surmounted by a crown and it is used in this form on, for example, the cap badges of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.



The Remembrance Day Poppy was initially used to commemorate the dead of World War I, in which many Irishmen, both Protestant and Catholic, died fighting. The symbol has long been the preserve of the Unionist community as it is seen as unequivocally British. While it can still be the cause of controversy it is slowly growing in popularity with Irish Nationalists who also wish to pay tribute to those who died in the two World Wars.



The Red Hand of Ulster is the official seal of the O'Neill family. It is believed to originate from a mythical tale wherein two chieftains were racing across a stretch of water in a bid to be the first to reach the land and claim it as his own. Realising his foe would touch the land first; one chieftain cut off his hand and threw it onto the shore, thereby claiming the land before his adversary reached it. The Red Hand is one of the only emblems in Northern Ireland used by both communities in Northern Ireland although it is more associated with the Protestant community. Catholics see it as representing the nine counties of Ulster while Protestants see it as representing the six counties of Northern Ireland. The Red Hand of Ulster appears on many murals and flags.



Legend has it that St Patrick used the shamrock to explain the trinity to the Irish and convert them to Christianity. It is recognised around the world as a symbol of Ireland. People wear shamrocks on St Patrick's Day to commemorate the saint. It is also used within Unionist tradition –



for example the Royal Irish Rangers wear shamrocks on St Patrick's day. It is one of Ireland's national emblems, and is used by mainly by the Nationalist tradition, but is also evident within the Unionist tradition, with bodies such as the Royal Irish Rangers wearing the Shamrock every St. Patrick's day.



The Football Association of Ireland is the governing body for association football in the Republic of Ireland.



Often regarded as the Catholic counterpart to the Orange Order, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) was founded in the USA in 1838. The word 'Hibernia' comes from the old Roman name for Ireland. AOH members parade with banners depicting their Catholic, Nationalist and Celtic heritage. The traditional AOH parade days each year are 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption, and St. Patrick's day on 17 March.



IFA is the Irish Football Association and the governing body for the Northern Ireland Football Team.



The Orange Order was founded prior to the 1798 Rebellion, after the battle of the Diamond, to defend and uphold Protestantism and the English Monarchy. The Order commemorates the Battle of the Boyne every 12 July.



Six symbols which reflected both nationalist and unionist identities were chosen by Northern Ireland's Policing Board as the design for a badge which is worn by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The PSNI badge features the St. Patrick's saltire, and six symbols representing different and shared traditions:

- The Scales of Justice (representing equality and justice)
- A crown (a traditional symbol of royalty but not the St Edward's Crown worn by or representing the British Sovereign)
- The harp (a traditional Irish symbol but not the Brian Boru harp used as an official emblem in the Republic)
- A torch (representing enlightenment and a new beginning)
- An olive branch (a peace symbol from Ancient Greece)
- A shamrock (a traditional Irish symbol, used by St Patrick, patron saint of all Ireland, to explain the Christian Trinity)



Although commonly known as the 'sash' this item is more properly termed a collarette. The 'sash' is the most distinctive item worn by members of the Orange Order when taking part in parades.



Ulster Rugby is one of the four professional provincial rugby teams from the island of Ireland. They compete in the Pro14 and the European Rugby Champions Cup. The team represents the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) Ulster Branch, which is one of the four primary branches of the IRFU and is responsible for rugby union throughout the geographical Irish province of Ulster, comprising six counties in Northern Ireland and three counties in the Republic of Ireland.

The Easter Lily commemorates the Easter Rising of 1916. Easter 1916 is a controversial event in the history of Ireland, but there is no doubt it altered the course of history on the island. Irish Republicans celebrate Easter 1916 as a struggle for independence from imperial England. Northern Irish Protestants are overwhelmingly Unionist in their politics – so in their eyes Easter 1916 was a violent attempt to force them into an independent Ireland against their wishes.