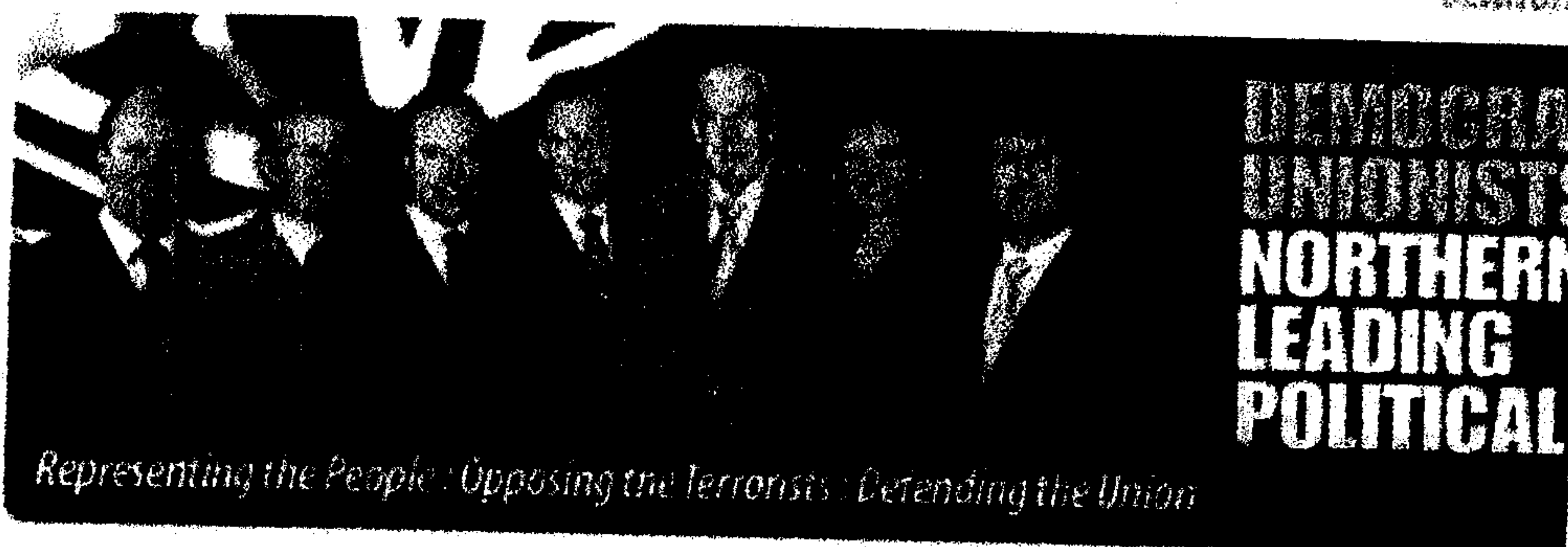




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PARENTS IN CHILD DEATHS INQUIRY REQUIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

DUP Health Spokesperson, Iris Robinson MP, MLA, has argued that the families of children who died at local hospitals should be provided legal assistance for the inquiry into deaths of children at local hospitals should be provided legal assistance.

"I am grateful that the terms of reference for the inquiry into hyponatraemia have finally been produced. These parents have had their lives turned upside down and require assistance with the inquiry process."

I have written to Angela Smith asking her if legal aid will be provided to the parents of the children who died. She will appoint contacts to keep them informed throughout the inquiry process. Those provided by PSNI to the Crawfords in Fermanagh for the police inquiry concerns about how this ongoing police investigation will impact on John and whether he will be able to proceed until police investigations have been completed."

Doctors asked to provide expertise from a medical perspective for this inquiry outside Northern Ireland, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest within the relatively insular medical fraternity. That is an absolute requirement of the Public confidence must be rebuilt by demonstrating conclusively that neither health service management can be free from scrutiny, criticism and the law."

RF - FAMILY