

# Helen Kelly: A Life Devoted to Education and Peace

## Early Life and Education

Helen Kelly was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1943. She grew up during the Troubles, a period of political conflict and violence in Northern Ireland. Despite the challenges of her surroundings, Helen excelled in school and went on to study at Trinity College Dublin. She graduated with a degree in English and History.

## Teaching Career

After graduating from university, Helen returned to Northern Ireland and began her teaching career. She taught at a number of schools in Belfast, and she quickly gained a reputation as an outstanding educator. Her students loved her enthusiasm for learning and her ability to connect with them on a personal level.



## Helen Kelly: Her Life by Richard Sakwa

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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In 1985, Helen was appointed principal of St. Louise's Comprehensive College in West Belfast. St. Louise's was a Catholic school in a predominantly Protestant area, and it had a history of being a target of sectarian violence. Under Helen's leadership, the school became a beacon of hope and reconciliation. She created a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their religion or background.

## **Peace Activism**

In addition to her work as a teacher and principal, Helen was also a passionate peace activist. She was a member of the peace group Women Together, and she played a key role in the Northern Ireland peace process. She helped organize peace rallies and workshops, and she worked to build bridges between different communities.

Helen's work for peace was recognized internationally. In 1997, she was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Award. She was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

## **Educational Consulting**

After retiring from teaching in 2003, Helen continued to work for peace and education as an educational consultant. She worked with schools and organizations in Northern Ireland and around the world, sharing her expertise in conflict resolution, peace-building, and social justice.

## **Legacy**

Helen Kelly passed away in 2016 at the age of 72. She left behind a legacy of peace, education, and social justice. She was an inspiration to countless people, and her work continues to make a difference in the world.

Helen Kelly was an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to making the world a better place. She was a gifted teacher, a passionate peace activist, and a tireless advocate for social justice. Her legacy will continue to inspire and guide us for generations to come.



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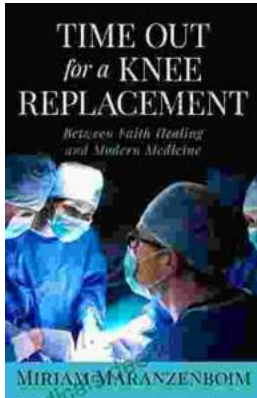
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