

The Protestant working class of Northern Ireland are a people much maligned and often ignored, whose heritage is frequently afforded scant legitimacy, and whose entire community is regularly labelled, and demonised, as irredeemably sectarian.

But how do the Protestant working class *see themselves*? To provide an answer to this, a series of discussions was held on Belfast's Shankill Road in the middle of 1994, and community activists, ex-Loyalist prisoners, local councillors and others accepted the challenge of trying to define the Protestant working-class experience.

The diversity of opinion contained within the Protestant working class might surprise outside commentators, and, as this document clearly reveals, it is evident that many current perceptions of this community are based on out-dated stereotypes and badly in need of revision.

A **Postscript** on the IRA ceasefire has been included, which explores how the new circumstances, and the new possibilities, are viewed by members of the Protestant working class.

ISBN 1 899510 00 1

£ 1.50



