

# The Highlighter

5TH OF DECEMBER, 2022 | PAGE ONE

---

Welcome to Issue Two of The Highlighter!

In this issue you will find articles about:

- Northern Ireland News
- COP27 Climate Change Conference
- The Cost of Living
- Protests in China and Iran

## WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHTER?

---

We know the news can be confusing, complicated and hard to keep up with. The news can also be overwhelming at times and can make us feel scared, stressed and worried. The Highlighter aims to help make the news feel more accessible for people with learning disabilities and autism.



# Northern Ireland News

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

The Northern Ireland Assembly has still not been restored. This means that there is not currently a functioning Northern Irish government.

As the Assembly politicians continue to disagree and aren't fulfilling their proper job roles, there has been a Bill introduced to the U.K. Parliament that might mean N. Ireland politicians have their pay cut. A bill is a proposal to make changes to a law.

### WHAT IS THE BILL?

The bill (called the Executive Formation Bill) will also give extra powers to the U.K. government politician who oversees Northern Ireland. If it become a law, they will be able to decide whether Northern Ireland has an election to vote in new politicians or give more time for the current Assembly politicians to get back to work in Stormont.



Image above shows a photograph of Stormont

### WHAT IS THE ASSEMBLY?

This is the name given to the group of politicians in Northern Ireland who have been elected to be in charge. Some Members of the Assembly also form the Executive and have extra powers. These people are called Ministers.

# COP27 Conference

You might have heard on the news about something called 'COP 27'. This is a conference that happens every year for the leaders of countries to meet to discuss and plan for climate change issues. COP is a shortened way to write and pronounce 'conference of the parties'. This year's COP27 was held on the 6th of November to the 20th November in Egypt.

## WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change refers to how the weather and temperature is changing over time. The earth's average temperature is increasing and this will continue to cause problems for people, animals and landscapes.

## WHY DOES THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES HAPPEN?

Climate change has many causes but the way that people live and work is one of the main causes. Burning fossil fuels like oil and gas, cutting down forests and certain farming methods all make climate change worse. As every country has different rules and laws on these subjects, country leaders need to come together to try and agree on rules for everyone to follow.

## WHAT HAPPENED AT COP 27?

At this year's conference, countries agreed to create a fund to help people around the world most affected by climate change. This will help countries that experience extreme weather, like floods, droughts and rising seas.



Image above shows a person holding a protest sign that says 'Stop climate change'

---

# The Cost of Living Crisis

---

## WHAT IS THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS?

The cost of living crisis refers to the increase in the prices of every day essentials such as heating, electricity and food. Many people are struggling to pay their bills as the cost has increased a lot, but their wages have not increased.

## WHAT CAUSED THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS?

There are a lot of factors that have caused the cost of living crisis, including:

- the conflict between Russia and Ukraine affecting the supply of oil, gas, energy, and food.
- high inflation (increase in costs) due to the pandemic changing how people spent their money and how quickly products could be made.
- most people's wages - the money they get for doing their jobs - have not gone up in a long time, despite the cost of living getting more expensive.

These are just a few of the reasons the cost of living crisis has happened.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE TO HELP PEOPLE WITH COSTS?

Although no one can say with certainty what will happen in the future, there has been some positive news about the cost of living crisis.

The government has announced an energy price guarantee that means companies supplying energy can't raise costs above a certain amount between now and April 2023. The government has also announced that some people will be getting extra money to help them pay their bills.

---



# Protests In China and Iran

It can sometimes feel very upsetting to see images and videos of violence from around the world, especially when it's difficult to understand why it's happening. The reasons why people are fighting, protesting and being harmed are often complicated and a result of a very long series of events. It's normal to feel sad and scared when you see these types of images. Just remember you can always talk to a friend, carer, or family member you can trust. Sometimes it's good to take a break from the news. You can also avoid looking at very violent or upsetting images on social media. Remember, it's important to look after your own emotions! If you'd like to avoid hearing about fighting and protests, skip this page of The Highlighter.

## PROTESTS IN CHINA

People in China have been protesting against their government's Covid rules. In China, many schools, businesses and shops are still closed.

If someone is diagnosed as having Covid, the government can decide to send them to special government facilities.

Many people feel the laws are too strict and they want to have more freedom so they began to protest. After a week of protests, the government have said that they will begin changing the laws about Covid to be less strict.

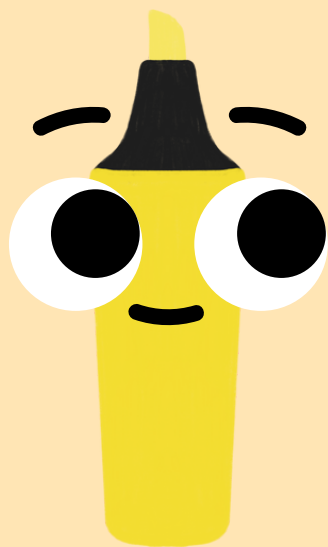
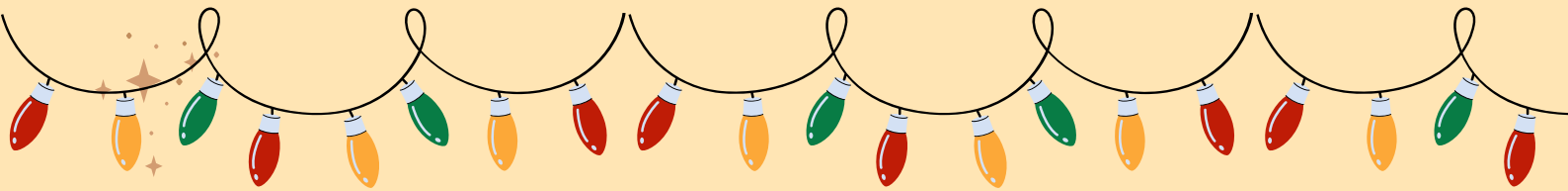
## PROTESTS IN IRAN

Protests started in Iran in September 2022. They began after a young woman was arrested for not wearing a hijab or headscarf. Many people have reported that the woman was also beaten and this is the reason she later died. The government denies that she was killed and said she died of a heart attack.

In Iran, the law says women must cover their hair. Many people, especially women, are unhappy with this law. The protests started because many people are angry and upset over the death of the woman arrested and because women have less rights and freedom than men.

# Happy Christmas!

Everyone here at The Highlighter would like to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Hi, I'm Henry  
The  
Highlighter!  
Happy  
Christmas!

We're taking a break over the Christmas holidays and will be back with the next issue of The Highlighter in February.

All the articles in this issue were correct at the time of writing but remember that news can change fast! If you have enjoyed reading The Highlighter, we would love to hear from you. You can email us at:

[hello@thehighlighter.org](mailto:hello@thehighlighter.org)

You can also visit our website: [thehighlighter.org](http://thehighlighter.org)