Country/entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	The Agreement Reached in the Multi-Party Negotiations (Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement)
Date	10 Apr 1998
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998)

Commonly referred to as 'the Troubles', the most recent conflict over the territory of Northern Ireland can be framed as beginning in 1968 and ending with the Belfast Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement) in 1998. While the genesis of the conflict was closely related to pressures for the state to reform with relation to discrimination against the (minority) Catholic population, the core issue of the conflict as it proceeded was the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, which was contested between the unionist/loyalist (mostly Protestant) majority, who wanted the territory to remain as part of the United Kingdom, and the nationalist/republican (mostly Catholic) minority, whose goal was to unite the six provincial counties with the Republic of Ireland. The thirty years prior to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement were marked by inter-communal violence, active paramilitary groups, and the deployment of the British army in the province. Mediation by international actors, and dialogue between the British and Irish governments, and between the IRA and its representatives and the British Government eventually resulted in a ceasefire respected by the majority of combatants. Talks led to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement which established a power-sharing system of governance between nationalist and unionist communities.
Close
Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998)

Stage	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Northern Ireland peace process
Parties	Agreement not signed, but parties understood to be APNI, NIWC, Sinn Fein, UUP, NI Labour Coalition, UDP, PUP, SDLP, Irish Government, United Kingdom Government

Third parties	-
Description	Three strand agreement dealing with the establishment of internal institutions, North/ South institutions and East/West institutions. Sets out specific obligations. British/Irish treaty annexed to agreement. Negotiated as if binding quality. The agreement aimed to set up a nationalist and unionist political power-sharing in Northern Ireland. On the constitutional question, it was agreed that there would be no change and that Northern Ireland would remain part of the UK, only the principle of consent of the majority of people in Northern Ireland could change this.

Agreement document	UK_IE_980410_The Agreement Reached in Multi-Party Negotiations (Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement).pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 3.
All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland.

Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 3.
All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland.
Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(vi) recognise the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly confirm that their right to hold both British and Irish citizenship is accepted by both Governments and would not be affected by any future change in the status of Northern Ireland.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Comparable Steps by the Irish Government, 9.
...The measures brought forward would ensure at least an equivalent level of protection of human rights as will pertain in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Irish Government will:...proceed with arrangements as quickly as possible to ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention on National Minorities (already ratified by the UK);...

Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 4.
In the context of active consideration currently being given to the UK signing the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:
- take resolute action to promote the language;
- facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand;
- seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;
- place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;
- explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilige in Northern Ireland;
- seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and
- encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by a new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.

Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender

Page 18, Rights, Safeguard and Equality of Opportunity, Human Rights, 1.
The parties affirm their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community. Against the background of the recent history of communal conflict, the parties affirm in particular:...
- the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity;...
- the right of women to full and equal political participation.

Page 18, Rights, Safeguard and Equality of Opportunity, United Kingdom Legislation, 3.
Subject to the outcome of public consultation underway, the British Government intends, as a particular priority, to create a statutory obligation on public authorities in Northern Ireland to carry out all their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to religion and political opinion; gender; race; disability; age; marital status; dependants; and sexual orientation...

Page 20, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 1.
Pending the devolution of powers to a new Northern Ireland Assembly, the British Government will pursue broad policies for sustained economic growth and stability in Northern Ireland and for promoting social inclusion, including in particular community development and the advancement of women in public life.

Men and boys

No specific mention.

LGBTI

Gender→LGBTI→LGBTI (positive)
Page 18, Rights, Safeguard and Equality of Opportunity, United Kingdom Legislation, 3.
Subject to the outcome of public consultation underway, the British Government intends, as a particular priority, to create a statutory obligation on public authorities in Northern Ireland to carry out all their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to religion and political opinion; gender; race; disability; age; marital status; dependants; and sexual orientation...

Family

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 2.
The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all.

Page 23, Policing and Justice, 1.
The participants recognise that policing is a central issue in any society. They equally recognise that Northern Ireland's history of deep divisions has made it highly emotive, with great hurt suffered and sacrifices made by many individuals and their families, including those in the RUC and other public servants...

State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	No specific mention.

Self determination

Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
(i) recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union with Great Britain or a sovereign united Ireland;

Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(ii) recognise that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish, accepting that this right must be achieved and exercised with and subject to the agreement and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland;

Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(iii) acknowledge that while a substantial section of the people in Northern Ireland share the legitimate wish of a majority of the people of the island of Ireland for a united Ireland, the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, freely exercised and legitimate, is to maintain the Union and, accordingly, that Northern Ireland's status as part of the United Kingdom reflects and relies upon that wish; and that it would be wrong to make any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of a majority of its people;

Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(iv) affirm that if, in the future, the people of the island of Ireland exercise their right of self-determination on the basis set out in sections (i) and (ii) above to bring about a united Ireland, it will be a binding obligation on both Governments to introduce and support in their respective Parliaments legislation to give effect to that wish;

Page 4, ANNEX A, DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES FOR INCORPORATION IN BRITISH LEGISLATION, 1.(1)
It is hereby declared that Northern Ireland in its entirety remains part of the United Kingdom and shall not cease to be so without the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland voting in a poll held for the purposes of this section in accordance with Schedule 1.

Page 4, ANNEX A, DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES FOR INCORPORATION IN BRITISH LEGISLATION, 1.(2)
But if the wish expressed by a majority in such a poll is that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland, the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament such proposals to give effect to that wish as may be agreed between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland.

Page 30, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, Article 1
The two Governments:
(i) recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the

Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	Page 23, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 3. All participants acknowledge the sensitivity of the use of symbols and emblems for public purposes, and the need in particular in creating the new institutions to ensure that such symbols and emblems are used in a manner which promotes mutual respect rather than division. Arrangements will be made to monitor this issue and consider what action might be required.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ANNEX A: DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES FOR INCORPORATION IN BRITISH LEGISLATION, 1.(1) It is hereby declared that Northern Ireland in its entirety remains part of the United Kingdom and shall not cease to be so without the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland voting in a poll held for the purposes of this section in accordance with Schedule 1. Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ANNEX A: DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES FOR INCORPORATION IN BRITISH LEGISLATION, 1.(2) But if the wish expressed by a majority in such a poll is that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland, the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament such proposals to give effect to that wish as may be agreed between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland. Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ANNEX A: DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES FOR INCORPORATION IN BRITISH LEGISLATION, SCHEDULE 1 POLLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 1 1. The Secretary of State may by order direct the holding of a poll for the purposes of section 1 on a date specified in the order. 2. Subject to paragraph 3, the Secretary of State shall exercise the power under paragraph 1 if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 5.
...It is accepted that all of the institutional and constitutional arrangements - an Assembly in Northern Ireland, a North/South Ministerial Council, implementation bodies, a British-Irish Council and a British- Irish Intergovernmental Conference and any amendments to British Acts of Parliament and the Constitution of Ireland - are interlocking and interdependent and that in particular the functioning of the Assembly and the North/South Council are so closely inter-related that the success of each depends on that of the other.

Page 13, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 1.
Under a new British/Irish Agreement dealing with the totality of relationships, and related legislation at Westminster and in the Oireachtas, a North/South Ministerial Council to be established to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government, to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland - including through implementation on an all-island and cross-border basis - on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the Administrations, North and South.

Page 13, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 2.
All Council decisions to be by agreement between the two sides. Northern Ireland to be represented by the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and any relevant Ministers, the Irish Government by the Taoiseach and relevant Ministers, all operating in accordance with the rules for democratic authority and accountability in force in the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas respectively. Participation in the Council to be one of the essential responsibilities attaching to relevant posts in the two Administrations. If a holder of a relevant post will not participate normally in the Council, the Taoiseach in the case of the Irish Government and the First and Deputy First Minister in the case of the Northern Ireland Administration to be able to make alternative arrangements.

Page 13, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 5.
The Council:
(i) to exchange information, discuss and consult with a view to co-operating on matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
(ii) to use best endeavours to reach agreement on the adoption of common policies, in areas where there is a mutual cross-border and all-island benefit, and which are within the competence of both Administrations, North and South, making determined efforts to overcome any disagreements;
(iii) to take decisions by agreement on policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction, in relevant meaningful areas within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
(iv) to take decisions by agreement on policies and action at an all-island and cross-border level to be implemented by the bodies to be established as set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 below.

Page 13, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 6.
Each side to be in a position to take decisions in the Council within the defined authority of those attending, through the arrangements in place for co-ordination of executive functions within each jurisdiction. Each side to remain accountable to the Assembly and Oireachtas respectively, whose approval, through the arrangements in place on either side, would be required for decisions beyond the defined authority of those attending.

Page 14, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 7.
As soon as practicably possible after elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, inaugural meetings will take place of the Assembly, the British/Irish Council and the North/South Ministerial Council in their transitional forms. All three institutions will meet

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 5.
...It is accepted that all of the institutional and constitutional arrangements - an Assembly in Northern Ireland, a North/South Ministerial Council, implementation bodies, a British-Irish Council and a British- Irish Intergovernmental Conference and any amendments to British Acts of Parliament and the Constitution of Ireland - are interlocking and interdependent and that in particular the functioning of the Assembly and the North/South Council are so closely inter-related that the success of each depends on that of the other.

Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, ANNEX B, IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
Add to Article 29 the following sections: 7.2°. Any institution established by or under the Agreement may exercise the powers and functions thereby conferred on it in respect of all or any part of the island of Ireland notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution conferring a like power or function on any person or any organ of State appointed under or created or established by or under this Constitution. Any power or function conferred on such an institution in relation to the settlement or resolution of disputes or controversies may be in addition to or in substitution for any like power or function conferred by this Constitution on any such person or organ of State as aforesaid.
Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)
Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, 1.
This agreement provides for a democratically elected Assembly in Northern Ireland which is inclusive in its membership, capable of exercising executive and legislative authority, and subject to safeguards to protect the rights and interests of all sides of the community.

Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, The Assembly, 2.
A 108 member Assembly will be elected by PR (STV) from existing Westminster constituencies.

Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, The Assembly, 3.
The Assembly will exercise full legislative and executive authority in respect of those matters currently within the responsibility of the six Northern Ireland Government Departments, with the possibility of taking on responsibility for other matters as detailed elsewhere in this agreement.

Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, The Assembly, 4.
The Assembly - operating where appropriate on a cross-community basis - will be the prime source of authority in respect of all devolved responsibilities.

Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Operation of the Assembly, 8. There will be a Committee for each of the main executive functions of the Northern Ireland Administration. The Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Assembly Committees will be allocated proportionally, using the d'Hondt system. Membership of the Committees will be in broad proportion to party strengths in the Assembly to ensure that the opportunity of Committee places is available to all members.

Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Operation of the Assembly, 9. The Committees will have a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the Department with which each is associated, and will

Elections	Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, The Assembly, 2. A 108 member Assembly will be elected by PR (STV) from existing Westminster constituencies.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 12, 3. Strand One: Democratic Institutions in Northern Ireland, Relations with other institutions, 34 A consultative Civic Forum will be established. It will comprise representatives of the business, trade union and voluntary sectors, and such other sectors as agreed by the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister. It will act as a consultative mechanism on social, economic and cultural issues. The First Minister and the Deputy First Minister will by agreement provide administrative support for the Civic Forum and establish guidelines for the selection of representatives to the Civic Forum. Page 16, STRAND TWO: NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 19. Consideration to be given to the establishment of an independent consultative forum appointed by the two Administrations, representative of civil society, comprising the social partners and other members with expertise in social, cultural, economic and other issues. Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Reconciliation and Victims of Violence, 13. The participants recognise and value the work being done by many organisations to develop reconciliation and mutual understanding and respect between and within communities and traditions, in Northern Ireland and between North and South, and they see such work as having a vital role in consolidating peace and political agreement. Accordingly, they pledge their continuing support to such organisations and will positively examine the case for enhanced financial assistance for the work of reconciliation. An essential aspect of the reconciliation process is the promotion of a culture of tolerance at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage integrated education and mixed housing. Page 25-26, ANNEX A, COMMISSION ON POLICING FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, Terms of Reference ...The Commission should focus on policing issues, but if it identifies other aspects of the criminal justice system relevant to its work on policing, including the role of the police in prosecution, then it should draw the attention of the Government to those matters. The Commission should consult widely, including with non-governmental expert organisations, and through such focus groups as they consider it appropriate to establish. The Government proposes to establish the Commission as soon as possible, with the aim of it starting work as soon as possible and publishing its final report by Summer 1999.

Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.

Constitution

Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 2.
The participants also note that the two Governments have accordingly undertaken in the context of this comprehensive political agreement, to propose and support changes in, respectively, the Constitution of Ireland and in British legislation relating to the constitutional status of Northern Ireland.

Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, ANNEX B: IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
Add to Article 29 the following sections: 7.1° The State may consent to be bound by the British-Irish Agreement done at Belfast on the day of 1998, hereinafter called the Agreement.

Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, ANNEX B: IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
Add to Article 29 the following sections: 7.2° Any institution established by or under the Agreement may exercise the powers and functions thereby conferred on it in respect of all or any part of the island of Ireland notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution conferring a like power or function on any person or any organ of State appointed under or created or established by or under this Constitution. Any power or function conferred on such an institution in relation to the settlement or resolution of disputes or controversies may be in addition to or in substitution for any like power or function conferred by this Constitution on any such person or organ of State as aforesaid.

Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, ANNEX B: IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
Add to Article 29 the following sections: 7.3°
If the Government declare that the State has become obliged, pursuant to the Agreement, to give effect to the amendment of this Constitution referred to therein, then, notwithstanding Article 46 hereof, this Constitution shall be amended as follows:
i. the following Articles shall be substituted for Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish text:
"2. [Irish text to be inserted here]
3. [Irish text to be inserted here]"
ii. the following Articles shall be substituted for Articles 2 and 3 of the English text:"Article 2: It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland. Furthermore, the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage."

Page 4, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, ANNEX B: IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION
Add to Article 29 the following sections: 7.3°
ii. the following Articles shall be substituted for Articles 2 and 3 of the English text: "Article 3:
1. It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland, in all the diversity of their identities and traditions, recognising that a united Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions in the island. Until then, the laws enacted by the Parliament established by this Constitution shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws enacted by the Parliament that existed immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution.
2. Institutions with executive powers and functions that are shared between those jurisdictions may be established by their respective responsible authorities for stated

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
Sub-state level
Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 14. Executive authority to be discharged on behalf of the Assembly by a First Minister and Deputy First Minister and up to ten Ministers with Departmental responsibilities.

Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 15. The First Minister and Deputy First Minister shall be jointly elected into office by the Assembly voting on a cross-community basis, according to 5(d)(i) above.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 16. Following the election of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, the posts of Ministers will be allocated to parties on the basis of the d'Hondt system by reference to the number of seats each party has in the Assembly.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 17. The Ministers will constitute an Executive Committee, which will be convened, and presided over, by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 18. The duties of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister will include, inter alia, dealing with and co-ordinating the work of the Executive Committee and the response of the Northern Ireland administration to external relationships.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 19. The Executive Committee will provide a forum for the discussion of, and agreement on, issues which cut across the responsibilities of two or more Ministers, for prioritising executive and legislative proposals and for recommending a common position where necessary (e.g. in dealing with external relationships).

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 20. The Executive Committee will seek to agree each year, and review as necessary, a programme incorporating an agreed budget linked to policies and programmes, subject to approval by the Assembly, after scrutiny in Assembly Committees, on a cross-community basis.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 21. A party may decline the opportunity to nominate a person to serve as a Minister or may subsequently change its nominee.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 22. All the Northern Ireland Departments will be headed by a Minister. All Ministers will liaise regularly with their respective Committee.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 23. As a condition of appointment, Ministers, including the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, will affirm the terms of a Pledge of Office (Annex A) undertaking to discharge effectively and in good faith all the responsibilities attaching to their office.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 24. Ministers will have full executive authority in their respective areas of responsibility, within any broad programme agreed by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the Assembly as a whole.

Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 2.
The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all.

Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:... (v) affirm that whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the power of the sovereign government with jurisdiction there shall be exercised with rigorous impartiality on behalf of all the people in the diversity of their identities and traditions and shall be founded on the principles of full respect for, and equality of, civil, political, social and cultural rights, of freedom from discrimination for all citizens, and of parity of esteem and of just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos, and aspirations of both communities;

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 2.
The participants believe it essential that policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is professional, effective and efficient, fair and impartial, free from partisan political control; accountable, both under the law for its actions and to the community it serves; representative of the society it polices, and operates within a coherent and co-operative criminal justice system, which conforms with human rights norms. The participants also believe that those structures and arrangements must be capable of maintaining law and order including responding effectively to crime and to any terrorist threat and to public order problems. A police service which cannot do so will fail to win public confidence and acceptance. They believe that any such structures and arrangements should be capable of delivering a policing service, in constructive and inclusive partnerships with the community at all levels, and with the maximum delegation of authority and responsibility, consistent with the foregoing principles. These arrangements should be based on principles of protection of human rights and professional integrity and should be unambiguously accepted and actively supported by the entire community.

Page 17, STRAND TWO, BRITISH-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, 6.
Co-operation within the framework of the Conference will include facilitation of co-operation in security matters. The Conference also will address, in particular, the areas of rights, justice, prisons and policing in Northern Ireland (unless and until responsibility is devolved to a Northern Ireland administration) and will intensify co-operation between the two Governments on the all-island or cross-border aspects of these matters.

Page 30, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, Untitled Preamble
The British and Irish Governments:...Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect and to the protection of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights in their respective jurisdictions;...

Bill of rights/similar Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Safeguards, 5.
There will be safeguards to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected, including:...
(b) the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing it, which neither the Assembly nor public bodies can infringe, together with a Human Rights Commission;
(c) arrangements to provide that key decisions and legislation are proofed to ensure that they do not infringe the ECHR and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland;...

Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Operation of the Assembly, 11.
The Assembly may appoint a special Committee to examine and report on whether a measure or proposal for legislation is in conformity with equality requirements, including the ECHR/Bill of Rights. The Committee shall have the power to call people and papers to assist in its consideration of the matter. The Assembly shall then consider the report of the Committee and can determine the matter in accordance with the cross-community consent procedure.

Treaty incorporation

Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Safeguards, 5.
There will be safeguards to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected, including:...
(b) the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing it, which neither the Assembly nor public bodies can infringe, together with a Human Rights Commission;
(c) arrangements to provide that key decisions and legislation are proofed to ensure that they do not infringe the ECHR and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland;...

Page 8, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Operation of the Assembly,
11. The Assembly may appoint a special Committee to examine and report on whether a measure or proposal for legislation is in conformity with equality requirements, including the ECHR/Bill of Rights. The Committee shall have the power to call people and papers to assist in its consideration of the matter. The Assembly shall then consider the report of the Committee and can determine the matter in accordance with the cross-community consent procedure.

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Legislation, 26.
The Assembly will have authority to pass primary legislation for Northern Ireland in devolved areas, subject to:
(a) the ECHR and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing it which, if the courts found to be breached, would render the relevant legislation null and void;...

Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, United Kingdom Legislation, 2.
The British Government will complete incorporation into Northern Ireland law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), with direct access to the courts, and remedies for breach of the Convention, including power for the courts to overrule Assembly legislation on grounds of inconsistency.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Comparable Steps by the Irish Government, 9.
The Irish Government will also take steps to further strengthen the protection of human rights in its jurisdiction. The Government will, taking account of the work of the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution and the Report of the Constitution Review Group, bring forward measures to strengthen and underpin the constitutional protection of human rights. These proposals will draw on the European Convention on Human Rights and other international legal instruments in the field of human rights and the question of the incorporation of the ECHR will be further examined in this context. The measures brought forward would ensure at least an equivalent level of protection of human rights as will pertain in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Irish Government will:...proceed with arrangements as quickly as possible to ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention on National Minorities (already ratified by the UK);...

Page 28, PRISONERS, 1.
Both Governments will put in place mechanisms to provide for an accelerated programme for the release of prisoners, including transferred prisoners, convicted of scheduled offences in Northern Ireland or, in the case of those sentenced outside Northern Ireland, similar offences (referred to hereafter as qualifying prisoners). Any such arrangements will protect the rights of individual prisoners under national and international law

Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Equality
Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(v) affirm that whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the power of the sovereign government with jurisdiction there shall be exercised with rigorous impartiality on behalf of all the people in the diversity of their identities and traditions and shall be founded on the principles of full respect for, and equality of, civil, political, social and cultural rights, of freedom from discrimination for all citizens, and of parity of esteem and of just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos, and aspirations of both communities;

Page 11, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND,Annex A, Pledge of Office
To pledge:...(c) to serve all the people of Northern Ireland equally, and to act in accordance with the general obligations on government to promote equality and prevent discrimination;...

Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Human Rights, 1.
The parties affirm their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community. Against the background of the recent history of communal conflict, the parties affirm in particular:...
• the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity;...

Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, United Kingdom Legislation, 3.
Subject to the outcome of public consultation underway, the British Government intends, as a particular priority, to create a statutory obligation on public authorities in Northern Ireland to carry out all their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to religion and political opinion; gender; race; disability; age; marital status; dependants; and sexual orientation. Public bodies would be required to draw up statutory schemes showing how they would implement this obligation. Such schemes would cover arrangements for policy appraisal, including an assessment of impact on relevant categories, public consultation, public access to information and services, monitoring and timetables.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Comparable Steps by the Irish Government, 9.
...The measures brought forward would ensure at least an equivalent level of protection of human rights as will pertain in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Irish Government will:...- implement enhanced employment equality legislation; introduce equal status legislation;...

Page 30, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, Untitled Preamble
The British and Irish Governments:...Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect and to the protection of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights in their respective jurisdictions;...
Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion
Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Human Rights, 1.
The parties affirm their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community. Against the background of the recent

Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship

Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen delimitation
Page 3, CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, 1.
The participants endorse the commitment made by the British and Irish Governments that, in a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will:
...(vi) recognise the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly confirm that their right to hold both British and Irish citizenship is accepted by both Governments and would not be affected by any future change in the status of Northern Ireland.

Page 31, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, Article 1
The two Governments:...(vi) recognise the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly confirm that their right to hold both British and Irish citizenship is accepted by both Governments and would not be affected by any future change in the status of Northern Ireland.

Democracy

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 4.
We reaffirm our total and absolute commitment to exclusively democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences on political issues, and our opposition to any use or threat of force by others for any political purpose, whether in regard to this agreement or otherwise.

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 5.
We acknowledge the substantial differences between our continuing, and equally legitimate, political aspirations. However, we will endeavour to strive in every practical way towards reconciliation and rapprochement within the framework of democratic and agreed arrangements...

Page 5, ANNEX B, IRISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION, Article 3
1. It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland, in all the diversity of their identities and traditions, recognising that a united Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions in the island...

Page 9, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Executive Authority, 25. An individual may be removed from office following a decision of the Assembly taken on a cross-community basis, if (s)he loses the confidence of the Assembly, voting on a cross- community basis, for failure to meet his or her responsibilities including, inter alia, those set out in the Pledge of Office. Those who hold office should use only democratic, non-violent means, and those who do not should be excluded or removed from office under these provisions.

Page 11, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Transitional Arrangements, 35.
...In this transitional period, those members of the Assembly serving as shadow Ministers shall affirm their commitment to non- violence and exclusively peaceful and democratic means and their opposition to any use or threat of force by others for any political purpose; to work in good faith to bring the new arrangements into being; and to observe the spirit of the Pledge of Office applying to appointed Ministers.

Page 11, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Annex A, Pledge of Office
To pledge:...(b) commitment to non-violence and exclusively peaceful and democratic means;...

Page 13, STRAND TWO, NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 2.
All Council decisions to be by agreement between the two sides. Northern Ireland to be represented by the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and any relevant Ministers, the Irish Government by the Taoiseach and relevant Ministers, all operating in accordance with the rules for democratic authority and accountability in force in the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas respectively...

Page 16, STRAND THREE, BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL, 4.
Representatives of members will operate in accordance with whatever procedures for democratic authority and accountability are in force in their respective elected institutions.

Page 17, BRITISH-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, 9.
...The Conference will contribute as appropriate to any review of the overall political

Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 4. In the context of active consideration currently being given to the UK signing the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:... - Explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifis na Gaeilige in Northern Ireland; - Seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland;...
Mobility/access	No specific mention.

Protection measures

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians
Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Safeguards, 5.
There will be safeguards to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected, including:...
Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other
Page 15, STRAND TWO: NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, ANNEX
Areas for North-South co-operation and implementation may include the following:...
4. Environment - environmental protection, pollution, water quality, and waste management.

Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 2.
Subject to the public consultation currently under way, the British Government will make rapid progress with:
(i) a new regional development strategy for Northern Ireland, for consideration in due course by a the Assembly, tackling the problems of a divided society and social cohesion in urban, rural and border areas, protecting and enhancing the environment, producing new approaches to transport issues, strengthening the physical infrastructure of the region, developing the advantages and resources of rural areas and rejuvenating major urban centres;

Other

Page 7, 3. Strand One, 'Safeguards', para 5,

...

(b) the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing it, which neither the Assembly nor public bodies can infringe, together with a Human Rights Commission;

(c) arrangements to provide that key decisions and legislation are proofed to ensure that they do not infringe the ECHR and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland;

page 10, 3. Strand One, Legislation. para 26.

The Assembly will have authority to pass primary legislation for Northern Ireland in devolved areas, subject to:

(a) the ECHR and any Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing it which, if the courts found to be breached, would render the relevant legislation null and void

Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Human Rights, 1. The parties affirm their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community. Against the background of the recent history of communal conflict, the parties affirm in particular:
• the right of free political thought;
• the right to freedom and expression of religion;
• the right to pursue democratically national and political aspirations;
• the right to seek constitutional change by peaceful and legitimate means;
• the right to freely choose one's place of residence;
• the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity;
• the right to freedom from sectarian harassment; and
• the right of women to full and equal political participation.

Page 20, 6. RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY,

...

United Kingdom Legislation

2. The British Government will complete incorporation into Northern Ireland law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), with direct access to the courts, and remedies for breach of the Convention, including power for the courts to overrule Assembly legislation on grounds of inconsistency.

3. Subject to the outcome of public consultation underway, the British Government intends, as a particular priority, to create a statutory obligation on public authorities in Northern Ireland to carry out all their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to religion and political opinion; gender; race; disability; age; marital status; dependants; and sexual orientation. Public bodies would be required to draw up statutory schemes showing how they would implement this obligation. Such schemes would cover arrangements for policy appraisal, including an assessment of impact on relevant categories, public consultation, public access to information and services, monitoring and timetables.

Rights institutions

NHRI

Rights institutions→NHRI→New or fundamentally revised NHRI
Page 7, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Safeguards, 5.
There will be safeguards to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected, including:...
(e) an Equality Commission to monitor a statutory obligation to promote equality of opportunity in specified areas and parity of esteem between the two main communities, and to investigate individual complaints against public bodies.

Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, United Kingdom Legislation, 4.
The new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (see paragraph 5 below) will be invited to consult and to advise on the scope for defining, in Westminster legislation, rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights, to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland, drawing as appropriate on international instruments and experience. These additional rights to reflect the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem, and - taken together with the ECHR - to constitute a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. Among the issues for consideration by the Commission will be:
- the formulation of a general obligation on government and public bodies fully to respect, on the basis of equality of treatment, the identity and ethos of both communities in Northern Ireland; and
- a clear formulation of the rights not to be discriminated against and to equality of opportunity in both the public and private sectors.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, New Institutions in Northern Ireland, 5.
A new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, with membership from Northern Ireland reflecting the community balance, will be established by Westminster legislation, independent of Government, with an extended and enhanced role beyond that currently exercised by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, to include keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of laws and practices, making recommendations to Government as necessary; providing information and promoting awareness of human rights; considering draft legislation referred to them by the new Assembly; and, in appropriate cases, bringing court proceedings or providing assistance to individuals doing so.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, New Institutions in Northern Ireland, 6.
Subject to the outcome of public consultation currently underway, the British Government intends a new statutory Equality Commission to replace the Fair Employment Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission (NI), the Commission for Racial Equality (NI) and the Disability Council. Such a unified Commission will advise on, validate and monitor the statutory obligation and will investigate complaints of default.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, New Institutions in Northern Ireland, 7.
It would be open to a new Northern Ireland Assembly to consider bringing together its responsibilities for these matters into a dedicated Department of Equality.

Page 19, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Comparable Steps by the Irish Government, 9.

In addition, the Irish Government will:
- establish a Human Rights Commission with a mandate and remit equivalent to that

Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law

Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Reform to specific laws

Page 22, SECURITY, 2.
The British Government will make progress towards the objective of as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland, consistent with the level of threat and with a published overall strategy, dealing with:...
(iii) the removal of emergency powers in Northern Ireland;...

Page 22, SECURITY, 5.
The Irish Government will initiate a wide-ranging review of the Offences Against the State Acts 1939-85 with a view to both reform and dispensing with those elements no longer required as circumstances permit.

Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Criminal Justice System reform

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 4.
The participants believe that the aims of the criminal justice system are to:
• deliver a fair and impartial system of justice to the community;
• be responsive to the community's concerns, and encouraging community involvement where appropriate;
• have the confidence of all parts of the community; and
• deliver justice efficiently and effectively.

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 5.
There will be a parallel wide-ranging review of criminal justice (other than policing and those aspects of the system relating to the emergency legislation) to be carried out by the British Government through a mechanism with an independent element, in consultation with the political parties and others. The review will commence as soon as possible, will include wide consultation, and a report will be made to the Secretary of State no later than Autumn 1999. Terms of Reference are attached at Annex B.

Page 24, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 7.
The participants also note that the British Government remains ready in principle, with the broad support of the political parties, and after consultation, as appropriate, with the Irish Government, in the context of ongoing implementation of the relevant recommendations, to devolve responsibility for policing and justice issues.

Page 27, ANNEX B, REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, Terms of Reference
Taking account of the aims of the criminal justice system as set out in the Agreement, the review will address the structure, management and resourcing of publicly funded elements of the criminal justice system and will bring forward proposals for future criminal justice arrangements (other than policing and those aspects of the system relating to emergency legislation, which the Government is considering separately) covering such issues as:
• the arrangements for making appointments to the judiciary and magistracy, and safeguards for protecting their independence;
• the arrangements for the organisation and supervision of the prosecution process, and for safeguarding its independence;
• measures to improve the responsiveness and accountability of, and any lay participation in the criminal justice system;
• mechanisms for addressing law reform;
• the scope for structured co-operation between the criminal justice agencies on both parts of the island; and
• the structure and organisation of criminal justice functions that might be devolved to an Assembly, including the possibility of establishing a Department of Justice, while safeguarding the essential independence of many of the key functions in this area.
The Government proposes to commence the review as soon as possible, consulting with

State of emergency provisions	Page 22, SECURITY 1. The participants note that the development of a peaceful environment on the basis of this agreement can and should mean a normalisation of security arrangements and practices. 2. The British Government will make progress towards the objective of as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland, consistent with the level of threat and with a published overall strategy, dealing with: … (iii) the removal of emergency powers in Northern Ireland; and
Judiciary and courts	Page 10, STRAND ONE, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, Legislation, 28. Disputes over legislative competence will be decided by the Courts. Page 18, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, United Kingdom Legislation, 2. The British Government will complete incorporation into Northern Ireland law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), with direct access to the courts, and remedies for breach of the Convention, including power for the courts to overrule Assembly legislation on grounds of inconsistency. Page 27, ANNEX B, REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, Terms of Reference Taking account of the aims of the criminal justice system as set out in the Agreement, the review will address the structure, management and resourcing of publicly funded elements of the criminal justice system and will bring forward proposals for future criminal justice arrangements (other than policing and those aspects of the system relating to emergency legislation, which the Government is considering separately) covering such issues as:... • the arrangements for making appointments to the judiciary and magistracy, and safeguards for protecting their independence;...
Prisons and detention	Page 17, STRAND TWO, BRITISH-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, 6. Co-operation within the framework of the Conference will include facilitation of co-operation in security matters. The Conference also will address, in particular, the areas of rights, justice, prisons and policing in Northern Ireland (unless and until responsibility is devolved to a Northern Ireland administration) and will intensify co-operation between the two Governments on the all-island or cross-border aspects of these matters.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 15, STRAND TWO: NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, ANNEX Areas for North-South co-operation and implementation may include the following:... 2. Education - teacher qualifications and exchanges... 12. Urban and rural development. Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 1. Pending the devolution of powers to a new Northern Ireland Assembly, the British Government will pursue broad policies for sustained economic growth and stability in Northern Ireland and for promoting social inclusion, including in particular community development and the advancement of women in public life. Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 2. Subject to the public consultation currently under way, the British Government will make rapid progress with: (i) a new regional development strategy for Northern Ireland, for consideration in due course by a the Assembly, tackling the problems of a divided society and social cohesion in urban, rural and border areas, protecting and enhancing the environment, producing new approaches to transport issues, strengthening the physical infrastructure of the region, developing the advantages and resources of rural areas and rejuvenating major urban centres; (ii) a new economic development strategy for Northern Ireland, for consideration in due course by a the Assembly, which would provide for short and medium term economic planning linked as appropriate to the regional development strategy; and' (iii) measures on employment equality included in the recent White Paper ("Partnership for Equality") and covering the extension and strengthening of anti-discrimination legislation, a review of the national security aspects of the present fair employment legislation at the earliest possible time, a new more focused Targeting Social Need initiative and a range of measures aimed at combating unemployment and progressively eliminating the differential in unemployment rates between the two communities by targeting objective need.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/ nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible
Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 3.
All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland.

Page 21, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 4.
In the context of active consideration currently being given to the UK signing the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:
- take resolute action to promote the language;
- facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand;
- seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;
- place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;
- explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilige in Northern Ireland;
- seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and
- encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by a new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.

Environment	Page 15, STRAND TWO: NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, ANNEX Areas for North-South co-operation and implementation may include the following:... 4. Environment - environmental protection, pollution, water quality, and waste management. Page 16, STRAND THREE, BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL, 5. The BIC will exchange information, discuss, consult and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the relevant Administrations. Suitable issues for early discussion in the BIC could include transport links, agricultural issues, environmental issues, cultural issues, health issues, education issues and approaches to EU issues. Suitable arrangements to be made for practical co-operation on agreed policies Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, 2. Subject to the public consultation currently under way, the British Government will make rapid progress with: (i) a new regional development strategy for Northern Ireland, for consideration in due course by a the Assembly, tackling the problems of a divided society and social cohesion in urban, rural and border areas, protecting and enhancing the environment, producing new approaches to transport issues, strengthening the physical infrastructure of the region, developing the advantages and resources of rural areas and rejuvenating major urban centres;...
Water or riparian rights or access	Page 15, STRAND TWO: NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, ANNEX Areas for North-South co-operation and implementation may include the following:... 5. Waterways - inland waterways... 9. Inland Fisheries. 10. Aquaculture and marine matters.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 22, SECURITY, 1. The participants note that the development of a peaceful environment on the basis of this agreement can and should mean a normalisation of security arrangements and practices. Page 22, SECURITY, 2. The British Government will make progress towards the objective of as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland, consistent with the level of threat and with a published overall strategy, dealing with: ...(ii) the removal of security installations;...(iv) other measures appropriate to and compatible with a normal peaceful society. Page 22, SECURITY, 4. The British Government will continue its consultation on firearms regulation and control on the basis of the document published on 2 April 1998.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.

Police

Page 17, STRAND TWO, BRITISH-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, 6.
Co-operation within the framework of the Conference will include facilitation of co-operation in security matters. The Conference also will address, in particular, the areas of rights, justice, prisons and policing in Northern Ireland (unless and until responsibility is devolved to a Northern Ireland administration) and will intensify co-operation between the two Governments on the all-island or cross-border aspects of these matters.

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 1.
The participants recognise that policing is a central issue in any society. They equally recognise that Northern Ireland's history of deep divisions has made it highly emotive, with great hurt suffered and sacrifices made by many individuals and their families, including those in the RUC and other public servants. They believe that the agreement provides the opportunity for a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting and sustaining support from the community as a whole. They also believe that this agreement offers a unique opportunity to bring about a new political dispensation which will recognise the full and equal legitimacy and worth of the identities, senses of allegiance and ethos of all sections of the community in Northern Ireland. They consider that this opportunity should inform and underpin the development of a police service representative in terms of the make-up of the community as a whole and which, in a peaceful environment, should be routinely unarmed.

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 2.
The participants believe it essential that policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is professional, effective and efficient, fair and impartial, free from partisan political control; accountable, both under the law for its actions and to the community it serves; representative of the society it polices, and operates within a coherent and co-operative criminal justice system, which conforms with human rights norms. The participants also believe that those structures and arrangements must be capable of maintaining law and order including responding effectively to crime and to any terrorist threat and to public order problems. A police service which cannot do so will fail to win public confidence and acceptance. They believe that any such structures and arrangements should be capable of delivering a policing service, in constructive and inclusive partnerships with the community at all levels, and with the maximum delegation of authority and responsibility, consistent with the foregoing principles. These arrangements should be based on principles of protection of human rights and professional integrity and should be unambiguously accepted and actively supported by the entire community.

Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 3.
An independent Commission will be established to make recommendations for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland including means of encouraging widespread community support for these arrangements within the agreed framework of principles reflected in the paragraphs above and in accordance with the terms of reference at Annex
A. The Commission will be broadly representative with expert and international representation among its membership and will be asked to consult widely and to report no later than Summer 1999.

Page 24, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 7.
The participants also note that the British Government remains ready in principle, with the broad support of the political parties, and after consultation, as appropriate, with the Irish Government, in the context of ongoing implementation of the relevant recommendations, to devolve responsibility for policing and justice issues.

Armed forces

Page 22, SECURITY, 2.
The British Government will make progress towards the objective of as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland, consistent with the level of threat and with a published overall strategy, dealing with:
(i) the reduction of the numbers and role of the Armed Forces deployed in Northern Ireland to levels compatible with a normal peaceful society;...

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 1.
Participants recall their agreement in the Procedural Motion adopted on 24 September 1997 "that the resolution of the decommissioning issue is an indispensable part of the process of negotiation", and also recall the provisions of paragraph 25 of Strand 1 above.

Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 2.
They note the progress made by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning and the Governments in developing schemes which can represent a workable basis for achieving the decommissioning of illegally-held arms in the possession of paramilitary groups.

Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 3.
All participants accordingly reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations. They also confirm their intention to continue to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission, and to use any influence they may have, to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years following endorsement in referendums North and South of the agreement and in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement.

Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 4.
The Independent Commission will monitor, review and verify progress on decommissioning of illegal arms, and will report to both Governments at regular intervals.

Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 6.
Both Governments will take all necessary steps to facilitate the decommissioning process to include bringing the relevant schemes into force by the end of June.

Page 28, PRISONERS, 5.
The Governments continue to recognise the importance of measures to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into the community by providing support both prior to and after release, including assistance directed towards availing of employment opportunities, re- training and/or re-skilling, and further education.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 2. They note the progress made by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning and the Governments in developing schemes which can represent a workable basis for achieving the decommissioning of illegally-held arms in the possession of paramilitary groups. Page 22, DECOMMISSIONING, 3. All participants accordingly reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations. They also confirm their intention to continue to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission, and to use any influence they may have, to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years following endorsement in referendums North and South of the agreement and in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement. Page 22, SECURITY, 3. The Secretary of State will consult regularly on progress, and the response to any continuing paramilitary activity, with the Irish Government and the political parties, as appropriate.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	Page 23, POLICING AND JUSTICE, 2. The participants believe it essential that policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is professional, effective and efficient, fair and impartial, free from partisan political control; accountable, both under the law for its actions and to the community it serves; representative of the society it polices, and operates within a coherent and co- operative criminal justice system, which conforms with human rights norms. The participants also believe that those structures and arrangements must be capable of maintaining law and order including responding effectively to crime and to any terrorist threat and to public order problems...

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 28, PRISONERS, 1.
Both Governments will put in place mechanisms to provide for an accelerated programme for the release of prisoners, including transferred prisoners, convicted of scheduled offences in Northern Ireland or, in the case of those sentenced outside Northern Ireland, similar offences (referred to hereafter as qualifying prisoners). Any such arrangements will protect the rights of individual prisoners under national and international law.

Page 28, PRISONERS, 2.
Prisoners affiliated to organisations which have not established or are not maintaining a complete and unequivocal ceasefire will not benefit from the arrangements. The situation in this regard will be kept under review.

Page 28, PRISONERS, 3.
Both Governments will complete a review process within a fixed time frame and set prospective release dates for all qualifying prisoners. The review process would provide for the advance of the release dates of qualifying prisoners while allowing account to be taken of the seriousness of the offences for which the person was convicted and the need to protect the community. In addition, the intention would be that should the circumstances allow it, any qualifying prisoners who remained in custody two years after the commencement of the scheme would be released at that point.

Page 28, PRISONERS, 4.
The Governments will seek to enact the appropriate legislation to give effect to these arrangements by the end of June 1998.

Page 28, PRISONERS, 5.
The Governments continue to recognise the importance of measures to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into the community by providing support both prior to and after release, including assistance directed towards availing of employment opportunities, re- training and/or re-skilling, and further education.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 2.
The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all.

Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Reconciliation and Victims of Violence, 11.
The participants believe that it is essential to acknowledge and address the suffering of the victims of violence as a necessary element of reconciliation. They look forward to the results of the work of the Northern Ireland Victims Commission.

Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Reconciliation and Victims of Violence, 12.
It is recognised that victims have a right to remember as well as to contribute to a changed society. The achievement of a peaceful and just society would be the true memorial to the victims of violence. The participants particularly recognise that young people from areas affected by the troubles face particular difficulties and will support the development of special community-based initiatives based on international best practice. The provision of services that are supportive and sensitive to the needs of victims will also be a critical element and that support will need to be channelled through both statutory and community-based voluntary organisations facilitating locally-based self-help and support networks. This will require the allocation of sufficient resources, including statutory funding as necessary, to meet the needs of victims and to provide for community-based support programmes.

Missing persons

No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 2.
The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all.

Page 2, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, 5.
We acknowledge the substantial differences between our continuing, and equally legitimate, political aspirations. However, we will endeavour to strive in every practical way towards reconciliation and rapprochement within the framework of democratic and agreed arrangements...

Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Reconciliation and Victims of Violence, 11.
The participants believe that it is essential to acknowledge and address the suffering of the victims of violence as a necessary element of reconciliation. They look forward to the results of the work of the Northern Ireland Victims Commission.

Page 20, RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, Reconciliation and Victims of Violence, 13.
The participants recognise and value the work being done by many organisations to develop reconciliation and mutual understanding and respect between and within communities and traditions, in Northern Ireland and between North and South, and they see such work as having a vital role in consolidating peace and political agreement. Accordingly, they pledge their continuing support to such organisations and will positively examine the case for enhanced financial assistance for the work of reconciliation. An essential aspect of the reconciliation process is the promotion of a culture of tolerance at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage integrated education and mixed housing.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement	Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Validation and Implementation, 2. Each Government will organise a referendum on 22 May 1998. Subject to Parliamentary approval, a consultative referendum in Northern Ireland, organised under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc.) Act 1996, will address the question: "Do you support the agreement reached in the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883?". The Irish Government will introduce and support in the Oireachtas a Bill to amend the Constitution as described in paragraph 2 of the section "Constitutional Issues" and in Annex B, as follows: (a) to amend Articles 2 and 3 as described in paragraph 8.1 in Annex B above and (b) to amend Article 29 to permit the Government to ratify the new British-Irish Agreement. On passage by the Oireachtas, the Bill will be put to referendum. Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Validation and Implementation, 3. If majorities of those voting in each of the referendums support this agreement, the Governments will then introduce and support, in their respective Parliaments, such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to all aspects of this agreement, and will take whatever ancillary steps as may be required including the holding of elections on 25 June, subject to parliamentary approval, to the Assembly, which would meet initially in a "shadow" mode. The establishment of the North-South Ministerial Council, implementation bodies, the British-Irish Council and the British- Irish Intergovernmental Conference and the assumption by the Assembly of its legislative and executive powers will take place at the same time on the entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Validation and Implementation, 4.
In the interim, aspects of the implementation of the multi-party agreement will be reviewed at meetings of those parties relevant in the particular case (taking into account, once Assembly elections have been held, the results of those elections), under the chairmanship of the British Government or the two Governments, as may be appropriate; and representatives of the two Governments and all relevant parties may meet under independent chairmanship to review implementation of the agreement as a whole.

Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Review procedures following implementation, 5.
Each institution may, at any time, review any problems that may arise in its operation and, where no other institution is affected, take remedial action in consultation as necessary with the relevant Government or Governments. It will be for each institution to determine its own procedures for review.

Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Review procedures following implementation, 6.
If there are difficulties in the operation of a particular institution, which have implications for another institution, they may review their operations separately and jointly and agree on remedial action to be taken under their respective authorities.

Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Review procedures following implementation, 7.
If difficulties arise which require remedial action across the range of institutions, or otherwise require amendment of the British-Irish Agreement or relevant legislation, the process of review will fall to the two Governments in consultation with the parties in the Assembly. Each Government will be responsible for action in its own jurisdiction.

Page 29, VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW, Review procedures following implementation, 8.
Notwithstanding the above, each institution will publish an annual report on its operations. In addition, the two Governments and the parties in the Assembly will convene a conference 4 years after the agreement comes into effect, to review and report on its operation.

Page 31, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, ARTICLE 4 (1)
It shall be a requirement for entry into force of this Agreement that:
(a) British legislation shall have been enacted for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Annex A to the section entitled "Constitutional Issues" of the Multi-Party Agreement;
(b) the amendments to the Constitution of Ireland set out in Annex B to the section entitled "Constitutional Issues" of the Multi-Party Agreement shall have been approved by Referendum;
(c) such legislation shall have been enacted as may be required to establish the institutions referred to in Article 2 of this Agreement.

Page 31, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, ARTICLE 4 (2)
Each Government shall notify the other in writing of the completion, so far as it is concerned, of the requirements for entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the later of the two notifications.

Page 32, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT