



<b>Country/entity</b>	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ireland establishing a North/South Ministerial Council
<b>Date</b>	8 Mar 1999
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

### **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)

<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Northern Ireland peace process
<b>Parties</b>	The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	In order to implement Article 2 of the British-Irish Agreement, this Agreement establishes a North-South, British-Irish Ministerial Council ("the Council").

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<b>Agreement document</b>	<a href="#">UK_IE_990804_Agreement on Establishing North-South Ministerial Council.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a>
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## Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Racial/ethnic/ national group</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Religious groups</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Refugees/displaced persons</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Social class</b>	No specific mention.
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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision**

Page 1, Article 1  
Under and in furtherance of Article 2 of the British-Irish Agreement, there is hereby established a British-Irish Council ("the Council").

Page 1, Article 2  
The Council shall be constituted and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of the Multi-Party Agreement.

Page 1, Article 3  
Both sides of the Council, with each side acting in accordance with the appropriate arrangements in its jurisdiction, shall be responsible for the operation of the Council and shall as necessary, acting within the Council, decide on supplementary procedural arrangements relating to its operation.

## Governance

<b>Political institutions (new or reformed)</b>	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)</p> <p>Page 1, Article 1</p> <p>Under and in furtherance of Article 2 of the British-Irish Agreement, there is hereby established a British-Irish Council ("the Council").</p> <p>Page 1, Article 2</p> <p>The Council shall be constituted and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of the Multi-Party Agreement.</p> <p>Page 1, Article 3</p> <p>Both sides of the Council, with each side acting in accordance with the appropriate arrangements in its jurisdiction, shall be responsible for the operation of the Council and shall as necessary, acting within the Council, decide on supplementary procedural arrangements relating to its operation.</p>
<b>Elections</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	Coder YES The agreement states "The Council shall be constituted and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of the Multi-Party Agreement." However this is only implementing legislation and no details of the arrangement are contained within this agreement."
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.

<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.
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**Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.
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**Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.
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**Socio-economic reconstruction**

<b>Development or socio-economic reconstruction</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>National economic plan</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Natural resources</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>International funds</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Business</b>	No specific mention.
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**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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**Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** No specific mention.

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**Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence  
services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of  
foreign forces** No specific mention.

**Corruption** No specific mention.



<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.
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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.
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## **Implementation**

<b>UN signatory</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Other international signatory</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Referendum for agreement</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>International mission/force/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Enforcement mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Related cases</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Source</b>	CAIN Web Service <a href="https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/issues/politics/docs/nio/bi080399.htm">https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/issues/politics/docs/nio/bi080399.htm</a>

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