

Country/entity Ireland
United Kingdom
Northern Ireland

Region Europe and Eurasia

Agreement name Joint Declaration by the British and Irish Governments

Date 1 Apr 2003

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement 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)

Stage Implementation/renegotiation

Conflict nature Government/territory

Peace process Northern Ireland peace process

Parties British government, Irish Government

Third parties -

Description Declaration by the two Governments outlining the work that they had engaged in since the suspension of the Executive and the Assembly in 2002 and identifying areas where progress could be made in the ongoing implementation.

Agreement document	UK_IE_030401_Joint Declaration by the British and Irish Governments.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Women, girls and gender

Participation	<p>Participation→Effective participation</p> <p>Page 20, ANNEX 3, RIGHTS, EQUALITY, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY, Human Rights, 1.</p> <p>In the Agreement, the parties affirmed their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community, and affirmed in particular:...• the right of women to full and equal political participation.</p>
Equality	<p>Equality→Social equality</p> <p>Page 20, ANNEX 3, RIGHTS, EQUALITY, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY, Human Rights, 1.</p> <p>In the Agreement, the parties affirmed their commitment to the mutual respect, the civil rights and the religious liberties of everyone in the community, and affirmed in particular:...• the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity;...</p> <p>Page 21, ANNEX 3, RIGHTS, EQUALITY, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY, Equality, 7.</p> <p>As provided in the Agreement, both the British Government and, prior to suspension last October, the devolved administration in Northern Ireland, have pursued 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.</p>
Particular groups of women	No specific mention.
International law	No specific mention.
New institutions	No specific mention.
Violence against women	No specific mention.
Transitional justice	No specific mention.

Institutional reform Institutional reform→Police

Page 7, Policing and Justice, para 21

The new beginning in policing envisaged by the Agreement, requires, amongst other things, all community leaders, including political party leaders and local councillors, to take steps to remove all discouragements to members of the community from supporting and applying to join the police, and making it a priority to encourage them to apply. Part of this process would involve Sinn Féin deciding to join the Policing Board and the District Policing Partnerships. In recognition of the importance of policing with the support of the community, the PSNI will renew and continue its efforts to encourage applications from all parts of the community, including those in which the service has traditionally been under-represented. Efforts should be made to encourage recruitment from women and ethnic minorities.

Development No specific mention.

Implementation No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.
