Infographic

Women’s role in Northern Ireland’s Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement (1996-1998)

BACKGROUND ON THE BELFAST (GOOD FRIDAY) AGREEMENT

The Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement ended more than three decades of conflict. The Agreement institutionalized power-sharing arrangements, comprising a legislative assembly with a cross-party executive and a series of cross-party committees, and set up mechanisms for north-south (Northern Ireland and Ireland) cooperation and East-West cooperation (UK and Ireland). However, the Agreement envisioned political divisions in Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland’s politics remains highly polarized, with repeated suspensions of the power-sharing arrangement.

WOMEN’S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

- Northern Ireland Forum for Political Dialogue (1996-98)
  - 70 out of 110 members elected to the Forum under the Northern Ireland Women’s Caucus (coalition agreements)
- Multiparty Talks (1996-98)
  - 15 out of 110 members elected to the Forum under the Northern Ireland Women’s Caucus (coalition agreements)
  - 9 women delegates (2 TDs, 7 M Ps, 1 Sinn Fein, 1 Ulster Government, 1 Irish Government)

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

- 22 May 1998 to ratify the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement
- 5 women delegates
- 60 inputs provided
- 6 10 women
- 20 20 women
- 5 10 women
- 4 16 women
- 20 20 women
- 6 10 women
- 20 20 women

Factors enabling women’s influence

- Precedence
- Coalition building
- Support from existing women’s groups
- Mediators’ support
- Attitudes of political parties
- Low public buy-in
- Interagency of women’s identities

Factors constraining women’s influence

- Communication and advocacy strategies
- Statecraft building
- Funding

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI) as part of the series “Women in Peace and Transition Processes” that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover other infographics and our case study series, visit our website:

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