

Country/entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	St Andrews Agreement
Date	13 Oct 2006
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	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Northern Ireland peace process
Parties	United Kingdom Government, Republic of Ireland Government are formally parties, however the agreement covers commitments of the political parties

Third parties

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Description

The two governments set out new modalities for implementing the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement and publish a timetable for action leading to the possible restoration of the Assembly and devolved government in March 2007. While formally an agreement between the two governments, the agreement documents agreement reached also between the political parties in Northern Ireland and so is classified as a multi-party agreement.

Agreement document

[UK_IE_061013_St Andrews 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**

No specific mention.

Religious groups

Groups→Religious groups→Substantive
Page 13, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES,
The Government will continue to actively promote the advancement of human rights, equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:...

- The 50/50 recruitment arrangements to the PSNI will lapse when the Patten target for Catholic officers has been achieved.

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 No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) Page 2, Policing and the rule of law

5. We have consistently said that support for policing and the rule of law should be extended to every part of the community. We believe that all the parties share this objective. Notwithstanding the right of every political party to hold the police to account, we believe that there are fundamental principles of support for the police and the courts which underpin any democratic society

Annex A: proposals on power-sharing and political institutions.

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 No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Annex A (pages 5-11) deals with changes to the operation of different political institutions see agreement for all changed institutions of the agreement below are some key changes.

Page 7, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand 1 Issues, 9. Appointment of Ministers in the Executive.

An amendment would be made to the 1998 Act on appointment of Ministers in the Executive. The Nominating Officer of the largest party in the largest designation in the Assembly shall make a nomination to the Assembly Presiding Officer for the post of First Minister. The Nominating Officer of the largest party in the second largest designation in the Assembly shall similarly nominate for the post of Deputy First Minister. The d'Hondt procedure will then run, as already set out in the 1998 Act, to fill the Ministerial posts in the Executive. Where a vacancy arose later in the office of the FM or DFM, the nominating officer(s) of the party(ies) entitled to nominate as above for the office(s) would do so and the nominee would take up office once he had taken the pledge of office. Where a vacancy arose in another ministerial office, it would be filled as at present. It will be a matter for the standing Institutional Review Committee referred to in paragraph 12 to consider whether the new procedures should continue beyond the life of the present Assembly.

Page 8, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand 1 Issues, 11. Committee of the Centre.

An amendment to the 1998 Act would provide for the existing Assembly Committee of the Centre to be placed on a statutory footing like that of other departmental scrutiny committees.

Page 8, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand 1 Issues, 12. Reviews.

An amendment to the 1998 Act would provide for the Assembly to appoint a standing Institutional Review Committee, to examine the operational aspects of the Strand One institutions. Matters to be reviewed in this way would be agreed among the parties. The Committee's reports would be considered by the Executive and Assembly, and, where agreed changes required legislative steps outside the scope of the devolved institutions, by the British Government in consultation as appropriate with the Irish Government.

Page 8, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand 1 Issues, 14. Repeal of the Northern Ireland Act 2000.

The Northern Ireland Act 2006 provides for the automatic repeal of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 if the Assembly is restored by the date set out in that Act. The Government remains committed to the repeal of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland.

Page 9, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand 1 Issues, 15. Community designation.

An amendment to the 1998 Act would provide that an Assembly Member would not be able to change community designation for the whole of an Assembly term except in the case of a change of membership of political party.

Page 10, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strands Two and Three issues, 19. Review.

The Northern Ireland Executive and Irish Government, under the auspices of the NSMC, would appoint a Review Group to examine objectively (1) the efficiency and value for money of existing implementation bodies and (2) the case for additional bodies and

Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 10, ANNEX A PRACTICAL CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS, Strand Two & Three Issues, 22. Independent Consultative Forum. The Northern Ireland Executive would support the establishment of an independent North/South consultative forum appointed by the two Administrations and representative of civil society.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	Page 13, ANNEX B, HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES The Government will continue to actively promote the advancement of human rights, equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:... • We will bring forward separate legislation before the end of 2006 to reform entry requirements to ensure access for EU nationals to posts in the Civil Service.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
Sub-state level

Page 15, Annex D provides a clear timetable for implementation.

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
Sub-state level

Page 3,

Conclusion

10. We believe that all parties should be able to endorse this agreement and to implement it in good faith, building the trust and confidence necessary for a stable and lasting settlement. We have set out a fixed timetable for the implementation of this agreement in Annex D and have asked parties, having consulted their members, to confirm their acceptance by 10 November. Following endorsement of the St Andrews agreement by the parties the Assembly will meet to nominate the First and Deputy First Minister on 24 November. Between that date and restoration of the Executive on 26 March the new Programme for Government Committee will agree all the necessary arrangements relating to ministerial responsibilities, ensuring that d'Hondt can be run and the Executive can operate immediately.

11. Verification and compliance mechanisms relating to the Assembly already exist, as set out in the agreement between the Governments published in May 2003 and in the Belfast Agreement. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach are determined that default by any one of the parties following restoration of the Executive should not be allowed to delay or hinder political progress in Northern Ireland.

Pages 7-8,

3. The 1998 Act would be amended to require inclusion in the Code of agreed provisions in relation to ministerial accountability. Consistent with paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Agreement, this would provide for the Executive to be the forum for:

- (i) the discussion of, and agreement on, issues which cut across the responsibilities of two or more Ministers, including in particular those that are the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and Personnel.
- (ii) prioritising executive proposals;
- (iii) prioritising legislative proposals;
- (iv) recommending a common position where necessary – for instance, on matters which concern the response of the Northern Ireland administration to external relationships;
- (v) agreement each year on (and review as necessary of) a programme incorporating an agreed budget linked to policies and programmes (Programme for Government).

4. The Code will also provide for the discussion of and agreement on any issue which is significant or controversial and:

- (a) clearly outside the scope of the agreed Programme for Government or
- (b) which the First Minister and Deputy First Minister agree should be brought to the Executive.

5. The new Code would be discussed by the parties and agreed by the Executive when formed. The First Minister and Deputy First Minister would propose the Code to the Assembly. It would have effect once endorsed by cross-community support there. Any amendments to the Code would require cross-community support in the Assembly.

6. Assembly referrals for Executive review. An amendment to the 1998 Act would provide for referrals from the Assembly to the Executive of important ministerial decisions. Thirty members of the Assembly might initiate such a referral, within seven days of a ministerial decision or notification of the decision where appropriate. Before he could pass the referral to the Executive, the Presiding Officer, following consultation with the parties in the Assembly, would be required to certify that it concerned an issue of public importance. The Executive would consider the issue within seven days. A

second referral could not be made by the Assembly in respect of the same matter. Only matters covered by the Ministerial Code, as set out above, would require a collective

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 1, Power sharing and the political institutions, 3.

Both Governments remain fully committed to the fundamental principles of the Agreement: ...for equality and human rights at the heart of the new dispensation in Northern Ireland. All parties to this agreement need to be wholeheartedly and publicly committed, in good faith and in a spirit of genuine partnership, to the full operation of stable power-sharing Government and the North-South and East-West arrangements.

Page 2, Policing and the rule of law, 5.

We have consistently said that support for policing and the rule of law should be extended to every part of the community. We believe that all the parties share this objective. Notwithstanding the right of every political party to hold the police to account, we believe that there are fundamental principles of support for the police and the courts which underpin any democratic society.

Page 3-4, Human Rights, Equality, Victims and other issues, 8.

Both Governments have also discussed other matters raised by the parties. Some of these relate to the final implementation of the Agreement and others have been raised in the context of the Preparation for Government Committee. The British Government has also agreed to take forward a number of measures to build confidence in both communities and to pursue a shared future for Northern Ireland in which the culture, rights and aspirations of all are respected and valued, free from sectarianism, racism and intolerance. Details of all these issues are set out in Annex B.

The Government will continue to actively promote the advancement of human rights, equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:

- In early November, we will publish an Anti-Poverty and Social Exclusion strategy to tackle deprivation in both rural and urban communities based on objective need and to remedy patterns of deprivation. The strategy will build on the good work of the 'Neighbourhood Renewal' and 'Renewing Communities' initiatives. This can be taken forward by an incoming Executive.
- The Government will introduce legislation this autumn to establish a Victims' Commissioner for Northern Ireland.
- We will establish a forum on a Bill of Rights and convene its inaugural meeting in December 2006.
- The Government believes in a Single Equality Bill and will work rapidly to make the necessary preparations so that legislation can be taken forward by an incoming Executive at an early date.
- The Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.
- The Government firmly believes in the need to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture and will support the incoming Executive in taking this forward.
- We have begun consulting with the Parties on terms of reference for a review which will examine all the issues around parading in Northern Ireland with a view to developing an agreed long term strategy.
- The Government will work with business, trade unions and ex-prisoner groups to produce guidance for employers which will reduce barriers to employment and enhance re-integration of former prisoners.
- The 50/50 recruitment arrangements to the PSNI will lapse when the Patten target for Catholic officers has been achieved.
- We will bring forward in the next parliamentary session legislation to give the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission additional powers. These will include the power to compel evidence, access places of detention and rely on the Human Rights Act when bringing judicial proceedings in its own name. We will publish the Government's response to the consultation carried out on these matters last year, before 24 November.
- We will bring forward separate legislation before the end of 2006 to reform entry requirements to ensure access for EU nationals to posts in the Civil Service.
- During the autumn we will facilitate a meeting of the Northern Ireland Grand Committee in Northern Ireland.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights Page 12-13, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES,

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Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	Page 1, Power sharing and the political institutions, 3. Both Governments remain fully committed to the fundamental principles of the Agreement: consent for constitutional change, commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic means...
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Pg 13, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES We will bring forward in the next parliamentary session legislation to give the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission additional powers. These will include the power to compel evidence, access places of detention and rely on the Human Rights Act when bringing judicial proceedings in its own name... ... We will bring forward separate legislation before the end of 2006 to reform entry requirements to ensure access for EU nationals to posts in the Civil Service.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	Rights institutions→NHRI→Mentions of NHRI Page 13, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES, The Government will continue to actively promote the advancement of human rights, equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will bring forward in the next parliamentary session legislation to give the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission additional powers. These will include the power to compel evidence, access places of detention and rely on the Human Rights Act when bringing judicial proceedings in its own name. We will publish the Government's response to the consultation carried out on these matters last year, before 24 November.
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→Criminal Justice System reform

Page 2, Policing and the rule of law, 7.

Discussions on the devolution of policing and justice have progressed well in the Preparation for Government Committee. The Governments have requested the parties to continue these discussions so as to agree the necessary administrative arrangements to create a new policing and justice department. It is our view that implementation of the agreement published today should be sufficient to build the community confidence necessary for the Assembly to request the devolution of criminal justice and policing from the British Government by May 2008.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

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 12, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES,
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National economic plan Page 14, ANNEX C: FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR THE NEWLY RESTORED EXECUTIVE
All of the parties have raised the question of the future economic progress of Northern Ireland. The Governments are committed to working with all the parties to establish a platform for long-term economic stability and reform necessary for a newly restored Executive. In the context of restoration of the institutions, the Governments remain committed to ensuring the Executive has the capacity to provide quality public services, to continue the process of necessary reform, to plan for the future, to make the long-term capital investments to underpin the economic transformation of Northern Ireland, as well as bringing long-term benefits for the island as a whole.

Page 14, ANNEX C: FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR THE NEWLY RESTORED EXECUTIVE
In the context of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the Chancellor agrees to meet all parties to consider proposals – including those from the Assembly subgroup on economic challenges facing Northern Ireland - that make the most of new opportunities arising from greater peace and stability. We will also consider the potential for further North/South economic cooperation including proposals for joint investment initiatives. In the context of preparations for restoration, both Governments will work with the parties on these issues.

Page 14, ANNEX C: FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR THE NEWLY RESTORED EXECUTIVE
In response to the strongly expressed views of many in the NI community, the British Government will introduce a cap on domestic rates under the new capital values system and will examine the possibility of further rate reliefs for pensioners on lower incomes.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business Page 13, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES,
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The Government will work with business, trade unions and ex-prisoner groups to produce guidance for employers which will reduce barriers to employment and enhance re-integration of former prisoners.

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 12, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES,
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equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:...

- The Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.
- The Government firmly believes in the need to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture and will support the incoming Executive in taking this forward.

Environment No specific mention.

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

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police

Page 2, Policing and the rule of law, 5.

We have consistently said that support for policing and the rule of law should be extended to every part of the community. We believe that all the parties share this objective. Notwithstanding the right of every political party to hold the police to account, we believe that there are fundamental principles of support for the police and the courts which underpin any democratic society

Page 2, Policing and the rule of law, 6.

We believe that the essential elements of support for law and order include endorsing fully the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the criminal justice system, actively encouraging everyone in the community to co-operate fully with the PSNI in tackling crime in all areas and actively supporting all the policing and criminal justice institutions, including the Policing Board.

Page 2, Policing and the rule of law, 7.

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Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

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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.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	Page 12, ANNEX B: HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY, VICTIMS AND OTHER ISSUES, The Government will continue to actively promote the advancement of human rights, equality and mutual respect. In the pursuit of which we commit to the following:...• The Government will introduce legislation this autumn to establish a Victims' Commissioner for Northern Ireland.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	<p>Page 3, Conclusion, 11. Verification and compliance mechanisms relating to the Assembly already exist, as set out in the agreement between the Governments published in May 2003 and in the Belfast Agreement. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach are determined that default by any one of the parties following restoration of the Executive should not be allowed to delay or hinder political progress in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Page 4, Conclusion, 12. The Governments have made clear that in the event of failure to reach agreement by the 24 November we will proceed on the basis of the new British Irish partnership arrangements to implement the Belfast Agreement.</p> <p>[Summary: Page 15-16, Annex D: TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ST ANDREWS AGREEMENT, Sets a fixed timetable for implementation of the agreement.]</p>
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Irish Dept of Foreign Affairs
