PRESS RELEASE
26 JANUARY 1998
NO EMBARGO

WOMEN'S COALITION OPPOSES GOVERNMENTS' DECISION

'The Women's Coalition are opposed to violence. Nonetheless we do not agree with the decision that the two governments have taken here today. This process should be dealing with the reality of sectarian violence, not sticking its head in the sand. We aim to move Northern Ireland irrevocably beyond periods like those we have witnessed this month.

Speaking on behalf of the Women's Coalition, Monica McWilliams continued:

'We remain steadfast in our belief that this process can only deliver when it is truly inclusive. We support the inclusion of the UDP in the process at this time. In fact, we believe that they should be supported in their efforts working to oppose violence, as set out by the fourth Mitchell principle: *To renounce for themselves, and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations.*

'The UDP offer an analysis that needs to be heard in this process. We will work hard to ensure that they can return as soon as possible, and we urge them to redouble their efforts to come back into the Talks process.'

Ends.

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