

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

SUBMISSION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA

PLENARY-PRE STRANDS 1, 2, & 3

Affirmation of participants commitment to work within the principles of Human Rights, Equity, Pluralism and Participative Democracy.

STRAND ONE

1. Consideration of principles and criteria for new arrangements within Northern Ireland.
2. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland.
3. Implications for the implementation of the principles, criteria and relationship including institutional and other practical arrangements:
 - Economic and social stability and development including addressing social and economic disadvantage;
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - equality and Human Rights including a Bill of Rights and arrangements for the protection of rights
 - law and order including policing issues;
 - Coming to terms with the impact and effect of political instability and violence
 - prisoners
 - victims
 - consideration of a Truth Commission;
 - Culture and Identity;
 - Participative Democracy including the relationship between political parties and political structure and the business, trade union, and voluntary/community sectors;
 - The constitutional position of Northern Ireland;
 - The nature of institutional arrangements for and within Northern Ireland to meet principles and criteria including equality proofing any arrangements and structures;

- Relationship with other institutions in Britain, in the Republic of Ireland, North/South, British and Irish and in the European Union;
- The extent to which proposed arrangements attract the assent and support of all sections of the community and ensure parity of esteem and equality of treatment.

4. Report to Plenary

STRAND TWO

1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within the island of Ireland.

2. Common interests:

- Comparative equity, equality and rights standards and measures for the guarantee and protection of rights;
- Sharing European citizenship;
- Harmonisation of social and economic policy within the EU context and achieving social and economic cohesion;
- Development of an island economy and economic cooperation;
- Regional development policy;
- European Monetary Union;
- Common movement of workers and cross-border living/working arrangements;
- X - Education for mutual understanding, co-ordination and cooperation;
- Culture and identity;
- Common/integrated funding arrangements for new mechanisms of cooperation;
- Security and law enforcement.

3. Institutional arrangements and other practical implications to meet agreed requirements including principles to govern any such arrangements and including equality proofing of all arrangements and institutions.

(Include items 4, 6 and 7 of the governments' agenda)

STRAND 3

1. Add to the agenda:

European Citizenship

∞ Economic and Monetary Union

Harmonisation of Economic and Social policy including securing economic and social cohesion.

2. Add to all items and especially to items 5 and 6 the requirement to equality proof all policies arrangements, mechanisms and institutions.

3. Change item 4 to read:

“Principles and criteria which should underpin new arrangements including requirements to acknowledge and recognise the culture and rights of all traditions and sections of society that exist in Ireland so as to ensure parity of esteem and equality in practice”.

Date: 15th October, 1996