

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

The Women's Coalition entered the Talks process determined that women's voices should be heard and that never again will women in politics be treated so disdainfully as their own experience in the early days of the process.

“We are determined that the position of women in this society will be addressed and changed for ever. There must be a will from all the parties in Northern Ireland to take action to bring women into the frame, to stand them in constituencies where they will win seats so that at the time of the 4 year review, the Assembly will have 40% of the seats filled by women. The public policy landscape will reflect the fact that women constitute half the population. We are delighted that these points are headlined in the agreement.” said

The Women's Coalition have been a thorn in the side of those people who would rather set women to the side and deal with 'real' issues - issues like who to talk to, and who not; who to 'recognise' and who not; who has a bigger majority and who should get their way.

Instead the Women's Coalition have worked for a settlement which respects the identities of all and protects the rights of all. We have spoken to every party in the talks that would give us their time. We have listened to everything that other parties have had to say. Always without pre-conditions and trivial excuses.

“We have been involved in a peace process to secure a stable and peaceful future for the people of Northern Ireland. Women have to recognise that peaceful future, it must be something that offers women a new start.” said