

BRIEFING NOTE B

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION POSITION ON STRANDS 1, 2, AND 3.

1. *Principles and Requirements of Process.*
 - 1.1. Acceptance of consent should mean the widest possible consent, not simple majority.
 - a) A commitment to work to win consent inside the Talks through sufficient consent of all parties, not two trading blocks.
 - b) A commitment to collective responsibility for the outcome and for being honest about the compromise, so there is a shared project to put to people.
 - c) A commitment to collective leadership to winning the greatest possible majority among the people through education, information and promotion of the agreed outcome on a common platform not on an adversarial basis.
 - 1.2. There must be a willingness to examine the need for change and the radicalisation of democracy at all levels of society as well as in the course of dealing with the constitutional issue.
 - 1.3. There should be inclusion of people as far as possible in the dialogue in order to assist us to shape the outcome and prepare for change.
 - 1.4. Any agreement, including the institutions and arrangements which are part of it, must be based on principles of inclusion, equity and human rights.
 - 1.5. It must broaden and deepen democracy and draw on the best lessons of partnership, co-operation and collaboration. It should address the concept of participatory democracy and find ways of engaging people with politicians, recognising them as active citizens, informing, influencing and taking part in decisions which affect their lives.
 - 1.6. It must go beyond the confines of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland and must specifically include measures to ensure an equal outcome for women with men.
 - 1.7. It should be characterised by openness and be capable of flexibility and development, while offering people the stability of a solid framework based on a shared commitment by political structures.