Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition

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10 July, 1997

Dear Members,

We are writing to you to thank you for all the hard work undertaken during the Election period and to apologise for not having circulated a Coalition Newsletter. We hope to prepare a circulation for September 1997. but we felt that it might be useful to prepare an interim Summer mailing to keep people in touch with the main issues facing the Coalition.

It is hard to be optimistic during the present month, but the N.I. W.C. is making plans to prepare a major input into stands 1, 2 and 3 of the Peace Talks, if the latter manage to begin to address the substantive agenda, when the Talks resume after their Summer break on 15th September 1997. You will remember that:

\*Stand 1 is about the consideration of principles and criteria for new arrangements and relationships within Northern Ireland.

♦Strand 2 concerns the requirements for a new beginning of relationships within the island of Ireland (North -South relations)

♦Strand 3 is about relations between Britain and Ireland.

It is when we get into the substantive negotiations that the N. Ireland Women’s Coalition will have the opportunity to bring forward new ideas and issues, about what type of society and constitutional framework we want for the future.

However, at this stage we need your ideas. Please feed them in to us by posting them to “The Strands Discussion,” N.I.W.C., 52 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ. We hope to bring a synthesis of the views and ideas reviewed to a NIWC meeting in September. (There will be no members meeting in July.) This will help the Coalition to formulate its input to the Peace Talks.

It would help if the various contributions could be reviewed by Friday 5th September, 1997.

Please keep up your hopes for a more positive political climate in the Autumn. We look forward to seeing you again at the next members meeting on **Saturday 30th August** at the Ulster People’s College at 11 a.m.

Yours sincerely,

Pearl Sagar

Monica McWilliams