

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

ISSUES, FORMAT & PROCESSES TO AID DISCUSSION IN THE SUBGROUP FOR FOR PREPARATION OF REPORT TO PLENARY

INTRODUCTION

1. This Subgroup should ensure it is in a position to report that it has successfully fulfilled the remit set by the Plenary on Tuesday 2 December.

- to prepare a statement of the issues to be agreed, the format and the processes
- to report back to a Review Plenary in the week of 15 December

2. Based on the discussion last week, the following is a suggested proposal to be amended, developed by Subgroup participants to assist progression and for recommendation to the Review Plenary on 16 December.

ISSUES

3. The issues for resolution are:

- Future arrangements for Northern Ireland
- Future North-South Arrangements
- Future East-West Arrangements
- Constitutional Issues
- Rights and Safeguards
- Confidence Issues
- Validation of Overall Agreements

4. The Chairmen of each Strand should prepare an aid-memoire of questions arising under any or all of these headings.

5. As well as being organised by Strand agenda the issues should be grouped by theme as follows.

Theme: Arrangements and Relationships

- Future Arrangements for Northern Ireland (Strand 1)
- Future North/South Arrangements (Strand 2)
- Future East/West Arrangements (Strand 3)

Theme: Rights and Safeguards & Confidence

- Rights and Safeguards
- Confidence Issues

Theme: Constitutional Issues

- Constitutional Issues

Theme: Confirming Agreement

- Validation of Agreement

FORMAT & PROCESS

6. The plenary shall establish a Subgroup with the following remit:
- to discuss and explore the issues
 - to report on progress to the Review Plenary
7. The Subgroup should be chaired by the Plenary Chairman and his alternate. It should be comprised of two persons per participant with one/two backup person(s). The Subgroup may establish working groups to conduct theme discussions in greater depth.
8. Discussion shall be conducted "in good faith" on the basis of "without prejudice". No commitment should be required from participants for agreement; without ruling out the possibility for agreement if agreement is forthcoming.

9. The Subgroup Chairmen should take the soundings of the Subcommittee as to general agreement and identify areas of disagreement. Areas of agreement and disagreement should be checked with each party subsequently.

10. The Subgroup should be able to move in and out of "Strand" mode; to meet in conjunction with the Strands, for example meetings of the Subgroup in the mornings and meetings of the Strands in the afternoon for more detailed discussion on the basis of progress made in the morning session; to refer matters to the Strands for more detailed discussion.

15th December 1997