

**Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X** <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>

<b>Country/ entity</b>	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Declaration issued by British and Irish Governments, Hillsborough
<b>Date</b>	1 Apr 1999
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/ conflict level</b>	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s) ( Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998) )
<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Northern Ireland peace process
<b>Parties</b>	The Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, and the British Prime Minister, Mr Blair
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Declaration issued by the Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD, and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, at Hillsborough Castle, 1 April 1999. The declaration set out the Governments' proposals for achieving full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, including the establishment of its institutions. And reiterates the commitment to all parties of decommissioning.

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**Agreement document** [UK\\_IE\\_990401\\_Declaration Issued by the British and Irish Governments, Hillsborough.pdf](#)  | [Download PDF](#)

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## Groups

Children/ youth	Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical Page 1, ...All parties firmly believe that the violence we have all lived through must be put behind us. Never again should we or our children have to suffer the consequences of conflict...
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

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## Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	Page 1, ...The needs of victims of violence, and their families, including those of the disappeared, are being addressed in both jurisdictions, though we acknowledge that for many their pain and suffering will never end...

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## State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.

Border delimitation	No specific mention.
Cross-border provision	<p>Page 1,  ...The international agreement signed in Dublin on 8 March provides for the establishment of the North-South ministerial council and implementation bodies, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference...</p> <p>Page 2,  ...The following institutions will then be established: the NorthSouth Ministerial Council, the North-South Implementation Bodies, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference...</p>

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## Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references</p> <p>Page 2,  ...On [date to be set] nominations will be made under the d'Hondt procedure of those to take up office as ministers when powers are devolved...</p>
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.

Constitution Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making  
Page 1,  
...Balanced changes to both the Irish Constitution and to British constitutional legislation based on the principle of consent, have been approved and are now ready to take effect...

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## Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→General Sub-state level Page 2, ..Around the time of the act of reconciliation, powers will be devolved and the British-Irish Agreement will enter into force...  Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition Sub-state level Page 2, ...On [date to be set] nominations will be made under the d'Hondt procedure of those to take up office as ministers when powers are devolved...
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

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## Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

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### **Rights related issues**

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

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## Rights institutions

NHRI	Rights institutions→NHRI→Mentions of NHRI Page 1, ...The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has been established and its members appointed, and the new Equality Commission has been legislated for. Comparable steps by the Irish Government are well under way...
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

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## Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Criminal Justice System reform Page 1, ...Steps have been taken towards normalisation of security arrangements and practices, while the Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland and the review of criminal justice are both well advanced in their vital work...
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction    Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development  
Page 1,  
...The commitments in the Agreement in relation to economic, social and cultural issues, including as regards the Irish language, are being carried forward, though much of this work is inevitably long term...

National economic plan    No specific mention.

Natural resources    No specific mention.

International funds    No specific mention.

Business    No specific mention.

Taxation    No specific mention.

Banks    No specific mention.

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## Land, property and environment

Land reform/ rights    No specific mention.

Pastoralist/ nomadism rights    No specific mention.



Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible  
Page 1,  
...The commitments in the Agreement in relation to economic, social and cultural issues, including as regards the Irish language, are being carried forward, though much of this work is inevitably long term...

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police Page 1,  
...Steps have been taken towards normalisation of security arrangements and practices, while the Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland and the review of criminal justice are both well advanced in their vital work...

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

Page 1-2,

...Against this background there is agreement among all parties that decommissioning is not a precondition but is an obligation deriving from their commitment in the Agreement, and that it should take place within the time-scale envisaged in the Agreement, and through the efforts of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning.

Page 2,

...Sinn Féin have acknowledged these obligations but are unable to indicate the time-scale on which decommissioning will begin. They do not regard the Agreement as imposing any requirement to make a start before the establishment of the new institutions...

Page 2,

...The UUP do not wish to move to the establishment of the new institutions without some evident progress with decommissioning...

Page 2,

...We believe that decommissioning will only happen against a background where implementation is actively moving forward. Continued progress in establishing the new institutions will in itself create confidence. On the other hand, it is understandable that those who take the next steps in implementation should seek to be assured that these steps are not irrevocable if, in the event, no progress is made with decommissioning...

Page 2,

...At a date to be proposed by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning but not later than [one month after nomination date] a collective act of reconciliation will take place. This will see some arms put beyond use on a voluntary basis, in a manner which will be verified by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, and further moves on normalisation and demilitarisation in recognition of the changed situation on security...

Page 2,

...By [one month after nomination date], the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning will make a report on progress. It is understood by all that the successful implementation of the Agreement will be achieved if these steps are taken within the proposed time-scales; if they are not taken, the nominations mentioned above will fall to be confirmed by the Assembly.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/  
rebel and  
opposition  
group  
forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal  
of foreign  
forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/  
organised  
crime

No specific mention.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

Transitional  
justice  
general

No specific mention.

Amnesty/  
pardon

No specific mention.

Courts

No specific mention.

Mechanism

No specific mention.

Prisoner  
release

Page 1,  
...Numerous prisoners, in both jurisdictions, have benefited from  
mechanisms providing for their accelerated release...

Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	<p>Page 1,  ...The needs of victims of violence, and their families, including those of the disappeared, are being addressed in both jurisdictions, though we acknowledge that for many their pain and suffering will never end...</p> <p>Page 2,  ...In addition to the arrangements in respect of military material, there will at all times be ceremonies of remembrance of all victims of violence, to which representatives of all parties and the two governments, and all churches, will be invited...</p>
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	<p>Transitional justice→Reparations→Symbolic reparations</p> <p>Page 2,  ...In addition to the arrangements in respect of military material, there will at all times be ceremonies of remembrance of all victims of violence, to which representatives of all parties and the two governments, and all churches, will be invited...</p>
Reconciliation	<p>Page 2,  ...At a date to be proposed by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning but not later than [one month after nomination date] a collective act of reconciliation will take place. This will see some arms put beyond use on a voluntary basis, in a manner which will be verified by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, and further moves on normalisation and demilitarisation in recognition of the changed situation on security...</p>

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## Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Irish Department of Foreign Affairs

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