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Country/ entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Joint Statement by the British and Irish Governments and Propositions on Heads of Agreement (Lancaster House)
Date	12 Jan 1998
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s) ()
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Northern Ireland peace process
Parties	British and Irish Governments
Third parties	-
Description	The Joint Statement presents the paper 'Propositions on Heads of Agreement', which sets out propositions for debate and discussion, and presents various elements which taken together presents the outline of an acceptable agreement.

Agreement document [UK_980112_Joint Statement and Propositions of Heads of Agreement \(Lancaster House\).pdf](#)
 [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/ youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.

Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.
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.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

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

Page 1-2, Joint Statement, 5.
 The two governments do not have a problem in clarifying certain matters, for example:
 ...the new British/Irish Agreement will embrace both the intergovernmental Council and the North/South Ministerial Council, which will operate independently in their designated areas of responsibility. And with acknowledging that matters not directly referred to in the paper will be dealt with where it makes sense, for example: Issues where harmonising or cross-border action is appropriate will be dealt with on that basis...

Page 3, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
 ...A new British-Irish agreement to replace the existing Anglo-Irish Agreement and help establish close co-operation and enhance relationships, embracing;
 - An intergovernmental council to deal with the totality of relationships, to include representatives of the British and Irish governments, the Northern Ireland administration and the devolved institutions in Scotland and Wales, with meetings twice a year at summit level.
 - A North-South ministerial council to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government in particular areas. Each side will consult, co-operate and take decisions on matters of mutual interest within the mandate of, and accountable to, the Northern Ireland assembly and the Oireachtas respectively. All decisions will be by agreement between the two sides, North and South.
 - Suitable implementation bodies and mechanisms for policies agreed by the North South council in meaningful areas and at an all island level.
 - Standing intergovernmental machinery between the Irish and British governments, covering issues of mutual interest, including non-devolved issues for Northern Ireland, when representatives of the Northern Ireland administration would be involved...

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
 Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
 ...Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected...

Elections	<p>Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement</p> <p>...Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected...</p>
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	<p>Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making</p> <p>Page 1-2, Joint Statement, 5.</p> <p>The two governments do not have a problem clarifying certain matters, for example:</p> <p>Constitutional change will include changes to Article 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution and to Section 75 of the Government of Ireland Act 1920;...</p> <p>Page 3, Propositions on Heads of Agreement</p> <p>Balanced constitutional change, based on commitment to the principle of consent in all its aspects by both British and Irish governments, to include both changes to the Irish Constitution and to British constitutional legislation...</p>

Power sharing

Political
power
sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
Sub-state level
Page, 1, para 2

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Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement

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Territorial
power
sharing

No specific mention.

Economic
power
sharing

No specific mention.

Military
power
sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human
rights/RoL
general

No specific mention.

Bill of rights/ similar	Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.
Treaty incorporation	Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

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.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or
international
human
rights
institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal
justice and
emergency
law No specific mention.

State of
emergency
provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary
and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and
detention No specific mention.

Traditional
Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

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.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/ rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/ nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion
Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

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.

Transitional justice

Transitional
justice
general

No specific mention.

Amnesty/
pardon

No specific mention.

Courts

No specific mention.

Mechanism

No specific mention.

Prisoner
release

Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	Page 2, Joint Statement, 5. ...The governments wish to make clear that the position and sensitivities of the victims of violence are fully acknowledged and will continue to be taken into account where appropriate.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

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 CAIN Web Service
<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/events/peace/docs/bi12198.htm>
