

<b>Country/entity</b>	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Joint Declaration Issued by The Prime Minister Rt John Major MP and the Taoiseach Mr Albert Reynolds TD (Downing Street Declaration)
<b>Date</b>	15 Dec 1993
<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)**

Commonly referred to as ‘the Troubles’, the most recent conflict over the territory of Northern Ireland can be framed as beginning in 1968 and ending with the Belfast Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement) in 1998. While the genesis of the conflict was closely related to pressures for the state to reform with relation to discrimination against the (minority) Catholic population, the core issue of the conflict as it proceeded was the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, which was contested between the unionist/loyalist (mostly Protestant) majority, who wanted the territory to remain as part of the United Kingdom, and the nationalist/republican (mostly Catholic) minority, whose goal was to unite the six provincial counties with the Republic of Ireland. The thirty years prior to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement were marked by inter-communal violence, active paramilitary groups, and the deployment of the British army in the province. Mediation by international actors, and dialogue between the British and Irish governments, and between the IRA and its representatives and the British Government eventually resulted in a ceasefire respected by the majority of combatants. Talks led to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement which established a power-sharing system of governance between nationalist and unionist communities.

Close  
Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998)

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Northern Ireland peace process
<b>Parties</b>	The Taoiseach, Mr. Albert Reynolds, TD; the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Major MP
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Declaration by the Taoiseach and Prime Minister setting out principles for a charter for peace and reconciliation, including the principle of consent and self-determination.

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**Agreement document**

[UK\\_IE\\_931215\\_Downing Street Declaration.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**Women, girls and gender**

**Participation** No specific mention.

**Equality** Equality→Equality (general)  
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...must, consistent with justice and equity, respect the democratic dignity and the civil rights and religious liberties of both communities, including:...the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, sex or colour.

**Particular groups of women** No specific mention.

**International law** No specific mention.

**New institutions** No specific mention.

**Violence against women** No specific mention.

**Transitional justice** No specific mention.

**Institutional reform** No specific mention.

**Development** No specific mention.

**Implementation** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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