



*inclusion*

*equality*

*human rights*

*change*

## **Northern Ireland Women's Coalition**

A Radical New Force in Northern Ireland Politics

- > YEARN FOR PEACE?
- > FED UP WITH OLD-STYLE POLITICS?
- > PREFER A NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS?
- > WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN YOUR FUTURE?

### **THE NI WOMEN'S COALITION IS FOR YOU!**

We come from many different political, religious and social backgrounds. We all agree that our community has been ill-served by its "leaders". Many women - and men - are fed up with the male-dominated bully boy ego politics that depend on who can shout the loudest and threaten the most.

We are putting women on the agenda for peace. We want a say in the future.

**The Women's Coalition needs you !**

Join us and experience for yourself a new politics, a new way of doing things, a new vision being nurtured for Northern Ireland. Add your insight to the development of the Women's Coalition. Speak your peace!

To find out more, read on >>>>>

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**NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION**

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Northern Bank, University Street, Belfast - Bank A/C No: 41211986

## About the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

### What we are

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition was formed in April 1996 to represent the interests of women from a wide range of backgrounds and groups. Women have until now been largely excluded from political processes, decision-making and government in Northern Ireland. The Women's Coalition is currently participating in the NI Peace Talks and Forum.

### What we stand for

We are committed to a political platform of inclusion, equality, human rights, and change.

**Inclusion** - Our vision is of a society where:

- > all people have a sense of belonging
- > all viewpoints can be heard
- > every party to be included in negotiations to reach accommodation

**Equality** - equality, non-discrimination and justice as the basis for good community relations

**Human Rights** - Our mandate commits us to:

- > respect for human rights (as in the European Convention on Human Rights)
- > a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland
- > children's rights and young people's rights (as in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

**Change** - We practice a different politics:

- > a politics of accommodation rather than confrontation
- > we are cross-community, representing all backgrounds and shades of political colour
- > we work through common sense, honesty and respect for each other
- > we welcome women and men.
- > we welcome young people.

### What we have achieved

In the short time we have been in existence we have succeeded in:

- > getting 3 women elected -  
Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar elected to the Peace Talks and Forum;  
Anne Carr, our first local Councillor, elected to Newcastle District Council.



## Our contribution

- > our Talks Team is making a positive contribution to the Peace Process
- > we are internationally recognised as innovative and constructive
- > we have brought new faces into politics
- > we are the only party raising the issue of gender fairness in NI politics.

## What next ?

- > we are bringing the Talks to the public through a series of public events
- > we are developing expertise in bringing together women and men from many walks of life to work together
- > we run training to help women develop the confidence and skills to enter politics

## The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition is Unique!

We are the only party to show how important it is that women - 52% of the population - must and will have fair representation. Women are making and will make a huge contribution to NI public life.

## *What can you do ?*

In the Women's Coalition there are all kinds of things you can do, and many opportunities to learn, to contribute and to participate. We want to hear your views. Start by joining today ! **Membership** can mean any of these:

- > just being a member - you will receive regular information;
- > helping with elections - this can be fun!
- > coming to a monthly meeting and contributing to developing our policies;
- > being more involved with working groups (such as the Training Team, Development Group or Administration Team);
- > standing as a candidate in an election - the 70 women who stood in the Talks election were all new to it);
- > offering us skills - such as media, research or organising skills;
- > giving us your support.

## Access:

- > Where possible we run a creche for main events and monthly meetings.
- > People with disabilities are welcome - there is wheelchair access at our monthly meetings.

## Cost of Membership:

Unwaged -	1
Low Wage -	3
Waged -	10

*"More if you can, less if you can't"*

To join please fill in the form overleaf > > > >

I/we wish to join the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number - Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.(if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form a.s.a.p. enclosing a cheque or postal order payable to "NIWC", to:  
Ms. Sybil Moses, NIWC Membership, c/o NIWC, 52 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ.  
*For further information about membership telephone Sybil at 01849-422713.*

NB: Membership is renewable every January.

\* On receipt of this form we will send you an information pack and details of the next meeting of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

