



Minister of State

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Professor Monica McWilliams  
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition  
The New Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
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19th  
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*Dear Monica*

Next week is one of the most critical we have faced in the process of establishing a better future for Northern Ireland. The challenge is a formidable one, but we can and must meet it.

There was general agreement at the round table meetings of parties which I chaired last week that the week should begin with a meeting of senior representatives of the parties. I am writing to propose that that meeting takes place at 10.30 on Monday in room 144 in Parliament Buildings. Mo Mowlam will be there. I hope you will be able to attend.

I do not intend that this should be a long meeting. But it will give an opportunity to establish a focus for our discussions during the week, and give all parties a chance to contribute. The resolution of the remaining obstacles on the path to a transfer of powers is our collective responsibility.

I propose to keep the meeting small, with no more than two senior representatives of each party. Mo will probably wish to make a few opening remarks, then invite contributions from around the table.



There will then be an opportunity for the bilateral contacts that are going to be so important.

Representatives of the Irish Government will, I hope, be available to participate in further discussions during the course of the week, and General de Chastelain and colleagues will also be close at hand.

I look forward to meeting you on Monday.

*Yours sincerely  
Liam*

**THE RT HON PAUL MURPHY MP  
MINISTER OF STATE**

*(approved by the Minister  
and signed in his absence)*