

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition has welcomed what it describes as an unprecedented statement from the IRA.

"It is our belief that this statement is the clearest demonstration yet of the Republican movement's intentions to pursue its objectives by democratic means. We see this statement as a positive response to the request for clarification. We believe that it will enable us to comprehensively implement all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement.

We welcome the acknowledgment that Irish Republicans will work with Unionists and respect their different political objectives. We also welcome the appointment of the two individuals to oversee the process. We have worked with them before and believe them to be credible figures that have the respect of the parties.

We believe this statement represents the type of reciprocity that the peace process has always required and we look forward to others responding positively in the coming days and to the Executive being established on May 22".