

Principal issues to be resolved:

Responses by Participants

Alliance:

- “1. The constitutional claim (Articles 2 and 3)
2. North/South Structures
3. Assembly/form of government for NI
4. Safeguards for minorities.”

Labour:

- “1. Endorsement of the principle of consent. A united Ireland can only come about with the consent of a majority in NI.
2. A NI assembly with power sharing and appropriate safeguard, checks and balances.
3. Fundamental changes in policing arrangements in NI.
4. Amendments in Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic of Ireland’s constitution.
5. Closer Anglo-Irish relations with appropriate institutional arrangements.
6. Cross-border institutions with executive powers including an organisation for security, social and economic co-operation.”

PUP:

- “1. Will there be an Assembly in Northern Ireland?
2. Will there be special relationships between the people of Northern Ireland and the people of the Republic of Ireland?”

Sinn Fein:

- “1. Demilitarisation including, in particular, the release of those imprisoned as a result of the conflict. This can and should be acted on immediately.
2. An equality agenda encompassing rights, safeguards and justice issues.
3. Sovereignty. This issue goes to the heart of the political difficulties we are attempting to resolve.
4. Constitutional Issues and in particular the British legislation underpinning the union, ie the Act of Union 1800, the Government of Ireland Act 1920 and the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973.
5. New Arrangements arising from the resolution of the sovereignty and constitutional issues.”

SDLP:

- “1. Future arrangements for Northern Ireland: nature and composition of institutions; functions and responsibilities, relationships with other institutions.
2. Future North-South arrangements: nature and composition of institutions; functions and responsibilities; relationships with other institutions.
3. Future Irish-British arrangements: nature and composition of any institutions(s); functions and responsibilities; relationships with other institutions.
4. Constitutional issues: any amendments to the Irish Constitution, to the Government of Ireland Act and other constitutional legislation.
5. Rights and Safeguards: protection of human, civil and cultural rights; constitutional and institutional safeguards for agreed new arrangements.
6. Validation of agreement.”

UDP:

- “1. Nature of Northern Ireland governmental structures and how they can command widespread support.
2. Nature of relationships between Northern Ireland government and other regions of the United Kingdom.
3. Nature of any relationship between the jurisdictions of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between other UK regions and ROI.
4. What protective mechanisms can be agreed to address rights issues?”