

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

Proposed for inclusion in the agreement

A Civic Forum would be constituted to contribute to the stability and sustainability of a political settlement by complementing the work of the Assembly. It is the parties' aspiration that the Civic Forum would augment the opportunity for active citizenship. It would also help to create confidence among different sectoral interests in the new political arrangements.

The Civic Forum would be elected for a period co-terminus with the Assembly. It would demonstrate a particular commitment to social and economic development, complementing the work of the Assembly through forwarding views, holding consultations and offering expertise; considering actions, proposals or proposed legislation referred to it by the Assembly; policy debate and issue discussion; offering opinion through reports and other channels when asked by the Assembly.

Note: The Women's Coalition also envisages a civic society axis in the North/South arrangements.

2nd April, 1998