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NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

Prominent Members

- Monica McWilliams
- Pearl Sagar

Support in 30 May Election: 1.03%

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition was formed specifically to contest the 30 May elections with the aim of raising the profile of women in politics, and to highlight the contribution women have made to society and can make to political progress in Northern Ireland. The Coalition is made up of women from the home, business, trade unions, community groups, voluntary sector, education and other walks of life. They are Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and Nationalist, Republican and Loyalist.

Standing on a platform of inclusion and consensus, the Coalition's aim in negotiations will be draw together the different views, ideas and options to achieve a workable solution, rather than bring its own fixed agenda on the constitutional question to the table. It supports the development of a Bill of Rights to include civil and political rights, as well as social and economic standards of living. In addition the Coalition looks for a review of policing, the criminal justice system and the position of prisoners. Above all, the Coalition has called for a reinstatement and maintenance of all ceasefires, and no recourse to violence from any quarter.

In 30 May elections, the NIWC was placed ninth in the list of top ten parties. They obtained a modicum of support in all 18 constituencies with above average performances in Londonderry and South Belfast.

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MONICA McWILLIAMS

Chairperson: Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Ms McWilliams is a senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Ulster. She has been a tireless promoter of women's rights for some years. New to the political scene, she is rather anxious about her vulnerability on this account.

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PEARL SAGAR

Elected delegate for NI Women's Coalition

Ms Sagar is a community activist from (Loyalist) East Belfast and is a member of the East Belfast Development Agency.

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[Signed, DFW]

D J MARTIN
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