

IRISH CONSTITUTION - ARTICLES 1, 2 AND 3

Existing  
THE NATION

Irish proposal (13.7.94)  
THE NATION

Possible Formulation\*  
THE NATION

Article 1

Article 1

Article 1

The Irish nation hereby affirms its inalienable, indefeasible, and sovereign right to choose its own form of Government, to determine its relations with other nations, and to develop its life, political, economic and cultural, in accordance with its own genius and traditions.

Unchanged

Unchanged

Article 2

The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas.

Article 2

The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas, and is the shared inheritance of all the people of Ireland, in their diverse identities and traditions.

Article 2

The whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas, belongs as a shared inheritance to the Irish nation, in their diverse identities and traditions.

Article 3

Pending the re-integration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the

Article 3.1

Accordingly, the re-integration of the national territory, which is a primary legitimate national objective, shall be pursued only by peaceful and constitutional means, and shall be achieved, in a spirit of concord and reconciliation, only with the consent freely and

Article 3.1

Accordingly, the establishment of a sovereign united Ireland, which is a primary legitimate national objective, shall be pursued only by peaceful and constitutional means, and shall be achieved, in a spirit of concord and reconciliation, only with the

laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect.

concurrently given of a majority of the people in each of the jurisdictions which now exist within that territory.

consent freely and concurrently given of a majority of the people in each of the jurisdictions which exist in Ireland.

Article 3.2

Pending the achievement of the objective above referred to, the laws enacted by the Parliament and the executive powers of the Government shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect.

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Pending the achievement of the objective above referred to, the laws enacted by the Parliament and the executive powers of the Government shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect.

\* Note: On 21 July 1994 the Irish side said they believed the legal effect of this would be the same as their proposal of 13 July but that it was not acceptable politically (by inference, either to Fianna Fail or nationalists in Northern Ireland).