



Northern Ireland
Assembly

25 YEARS

A New Beginning

The Belfast Good Friday Agreement and transformative change promise power and solidarity

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The Agreement at 25

Transformative change

Sandoval's typology – ordinary, structural (institutional), fundamental

Promise

Power

Solidarity



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Promise

Powersharing, border poll, cross-border, policing and justice
Human rights and equality
Economic and social issues
Participatory modes of governance



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Language

Hierarchy and imprecision in the language
Prioritization of civil and political
Bill of Rights



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Lack of Enforceability

No dispute mechanism

UK Internal Market Bill, NI Protocol Bill



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Proceduralism

Section 75 Northern Ireland Act

Powersharing

Cross-community voting rules, petition of concern
St Andrews changes
Keep both sides happy
Gendered aspects
Different parties



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Power structures

Formal and informal power structures

Civil service

Patriarchy



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Civil society

Strategic litigation
Civil society platforms
Networks



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Conclusions

Identified some of the barriers to transformative change

Cautionary notes

- Political nature of agreement

- Limits of law and rights

- Fundamental changes takes time



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