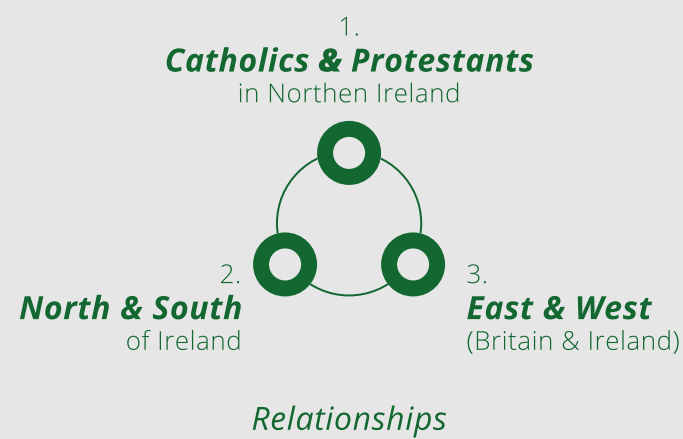


Addressing the Totality of Relationships: Northern Ireland's Path to Peace

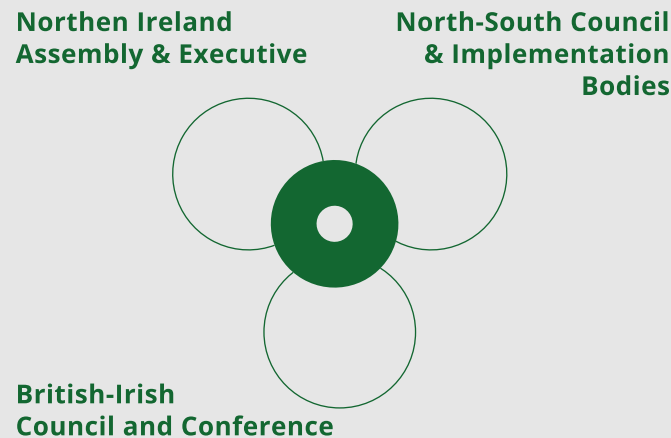
How redesigning the process around three key relationships transformed the conflict into lasting institutions

Decades of violence and mistrust reflected the depth and complexity of division in Northern Ireland. Early peace efforts failed. It was only when the process was redesigned to include all actors, to address all issues and all sets of relationships agreement was possible.



The Three Strands

Each of these relationships became a strand in the negotiations. The talks were structured to reflect this complexity—with both governments and all major Northern Ireland parties engaged in shaping the process.

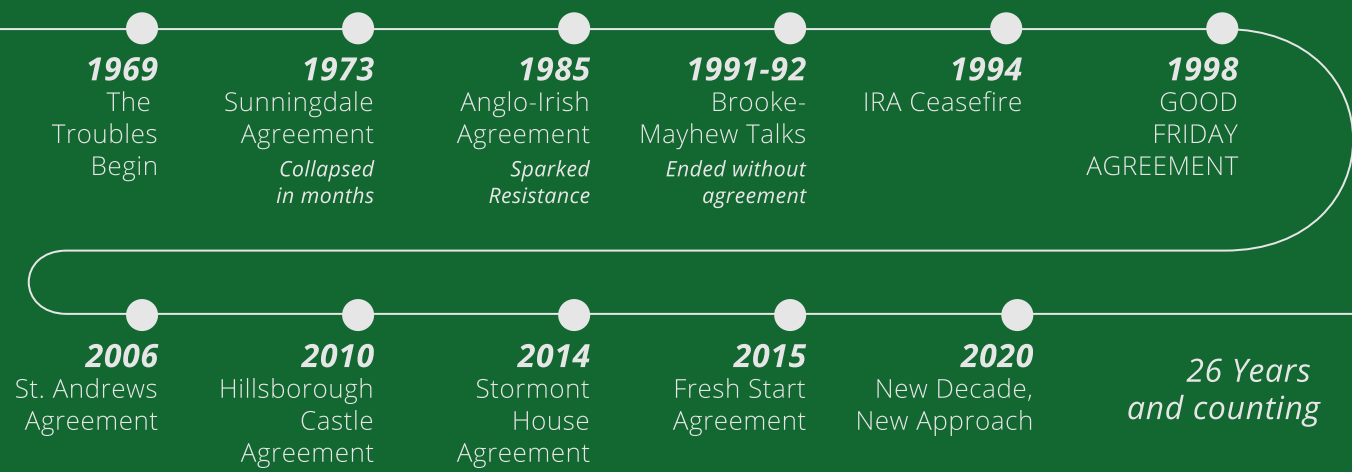


Living Architecture: Resilient Institutions

The Agreement created institutions under each of the three strands—each designed to support and repair the relationships at the heart of the conflict. Built to withstand political instability, these structures still provide the framework for cooperation today.

Timeline: From Deadlock to Agreement

The Agreement was the product of successive approximations. Each new process built on the lessons of the one before.



More than 25 years later, the Good Friday Agreement remains a robust and resilient construct. It is the story of a process that has found a way to endure and prevail. The robustness built into the structures and DNA of the process—including post-agreement—has enabled it to absorb the shocks, setbacks, problems, and pauses that have inevitably occurred.

