



The 'Where's Our Democracy?' Charter

What is the campaign?

'Where's Our Democracy?' is a campaign focused on improving the quality of democracy in Northern Ireland by restoring the spirit of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement and achieving stable, functioning government in the long term. Improving the quality of our democracy means embedding and enshrining key democratic values and principles within our institutions, including the following:

- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Holding (and upholding the results from) free and fair elections
- Freedom of association, expression and opinion
- Access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law
- Transparency and accountability in public administration

Why is the campaign necessary?

Northern Ireland does not have a stable, functioning government. Rather, the people of Northern Ireland have been stuck in a perpetual cycle of political collapse and are frequently without democratic representation. In 1998, 71% of people in Northern Ireland voted in favour of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement and expressed their support for the establishment of a devolved power-sharing government in Stormont. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Agreement, and yet, 25 years on, many of the commitments made in the Agreement are outstanding. For example:

- Bill of Rights
- NI Civic Forum
- The right of women to full and equal political participation
- The protection and vindication of human rights for all
- A democratically elected Assembly capable of exercising executive and legislative authority

What are we calling for?

The 'Where's Our Democracy?' campaign is calling for the urgent re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Executive and long-term stability for our democratic institutions, in the spirit of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement. This includes ensuring that the people of Northern Ireland have stable democratic representation and government institutions that actively work to uphold the principles and values of democracy. This includes upholding and strengthening human rights and equality protections for all people.

What does a stable functioning government look like?

- Taking a rights-based approach to policy and legislation
- Equality safeguards, not political vetoes
- Breaking the cycle of political collapse
- Collaborative working across government departments and multi-year budgets linked to clear government objectives

What can you do?

Please sign this Charter [here](#) if you agree with the objectives of our campaign and would like to see the Northern Ireland Executive re-established and the spirit of the Good Friday Agreement restored.

If you have any queries regarding this campaign or would like to find out how you can get involved please contact: elaine.crory@wrda.net

Example of signatories to date

1. Elaine Croy, Women's Resource and Development Agency
2. Aoife Mallon, Women's Resource and Development Agency
3. Alexandra Brennan, Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group
4. Kendall Bousquet, Migrant Centre NI
5. Helen Crickard, Reclaim the Agenda
6. Declan Owens, Ecojustice Ireland
7. Siobhán Harding, Women's Support Network
8. Karen Sweeney, Women's Support Network
9. Danielle Roberts, Here NI
10. Aoife Clements, 50:50 NI
11. Anne Mc Vicker, Women's Resource and Development Agency
12. Sarah Stack, Raise Your Voice, Women's Spaces, Women's Resource & Development Agency
13. Clare Anderson, Mas Project, Women's Resource & Development Agency
14. Heather Matthews