

## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### Efforts to Obtain a Political Settlement

Since the introduction of direct rule, the British Government has made a number of attempts to establish a locally elected administration acceptable to both sides of the community.

2. In 1973 a new 78-member Assembly was elected by proportional representation and in 1974 an Executive took office, in which the majority and minority communities were represented. It was forced to resign in May 1974 as a result of a mass strike by unionists opposed to the Council of Ireland proposals contained in the 1973 Sunningdale Agreement. In 1982 another 78-member Assembly was elected by proportional representation to make proposals for devolved government and to monitor the work of government departments. This Assembly was dissolved four years later, following a boycott by nationalist parties and unionist opposition to the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement.

3. In 1991 the four main democratic parties, the Ulster Unionists, Democratic Unionists, Alliance Party and the SDLP concluded that any agreement must address three sets of relationships, - that between the two communities in Northern Ireland, between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. A possible approach to this was drawn up and published by the British and Irish Governments in February 1995 ("Frameworks for the Future"). However, this attracted heavy criticism from Unionists.

4. At the beginning of 1996 agreement was reached on the basis for launching multi-party talks and establishing a Forum for political dialogue

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following elections in Northern Ireland. Elections to the Forum took place on 30 May 1996 and the multi-party negotiations began on 10 June 1996.

5. Discussions ('exploratory dialogue') with Sinn Fein, the Progressive Unionist Party and Ulster Democratic Party had meanwhile continued, to establish how those political parties might join the negotiations. However, the first IRA cease-fire, which started on 31 August 1994, ended on 9 February 1996 with the bombing of Canary Wharf. Sinn Fein thus became ineligible to participate in the Talks, until after the IRA cease-fire was restored on 20 July 1997. Substantive discussions on the three strands began in September 1997. Sinn Fein joined the Talks for the first time on 9 September 1997, and this led to the withdrawal of the Democratic Unionists and United Kingdom Unionists in protest at their arrival.

6. The Ulster Democratic Party were excluded from the process in January 1998, following a breach of the UDA/UFF cease-fire. This exclusion lasted several weeks until the two Governments and the other Talks participants were satisfied that the cease-fire was once again being observed. Sinn Fein were similarly excluded for a short period the following month.

### **The Good Friday Agreement**

7. Following the setting by Senator Mitchell of a deadline of Easter 1998 for the conclusion of the Talks, an Agreement was reached by the parties on 10 April. The elements of the Agreement reflect the three strands identified in the 1991/92 Talks. There is a new Assembly for Northern Ireland, composed of 108 members elected by proportional representation, a North/South Ministerial Council and six implementation bodies (others bodies may be created at a later date) to deal with North/South matters, and a British/Irish Council, involving the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a

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new British/Irish Inter-Government Council to replace the IGC set up under the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985.

8. A number of independent Commissions were also set up by the Agreement. Commissions on Policing and Criminal Justice are scheduled to make recommendations in the Autumn; a Human Rights Commission has been established, and an Equality Commission is soon to be appointed.

9. The Agreement stated that all participants reaffirmed their commitment to the total disarmament of paramilitary organisations and to use any influence they may have, to achieve decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years following endorsement in referendums North and South of the Agreement and in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement. It also provided for the early release of prisoners convicted of terrorist offences.

10. The approval of the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the Agreement was sought in referendums held in both jurisdictions on 22 May 1998. The referendum in Northern Ireland resulted in a 71.1% vote in favour of the Agreement, while that in the Republic of Ireland recorded 94.4% support. Elections to the new Assembly for Northern Ireland were held on 25 June 1998, and its first meeting was held on 1 July. The Assembly consists of 28 Ulster Unionist, 24 Social Democratic and Labour Party, 20 Democratic Unionist, 18 Sinn Fein, six Alliance, four Northern Ireland Unionist, three United Unionist Assembly Party, two Progressive Unionist, two Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and one United Kingdom Unionist member. Agreement was reached on the future structure of Government in Northern Ireland on 15 February 1999, in particular that there should be ten Departments and North/South six implementation bodies.

**SUMMARY INFORMATION ON NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)**

Prominent Members:

- David Trimble MP (Party Leader and First Minister (Designate))
- John Taylor MP (Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Party and Assembly Member)
- Ken Maginnis MP
- Jeffrey Donaldson MP
- Jim Nicholson MEP
- Denis Rogan (Party Chairman and Assembly Member ennobled in the Queen's Birthday Honours)
- Jim Wilson (Assembly Member and Chief Whip in Assembly)

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

European Election 1994	23.8%
Entry to Negotiations Elections 1996	24.2%
General Election 1997	32.7%
Local Government Elections 1997	27.9%
Assembly Elections 1998	21.3%
European Election 1999	17.6%

The UUP is the largest Unionist political party in Northern Ireland. It draws its support mainly, but not exclusively, from the Protestant community, and much more from middle class than working class voters, with apathy being the order of the day amongst the former who are much less likely to turn out to vote.

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2. The election of David Trimble as Party Leader in 1995 (replacing James Molyneaux) came as a great surprise to many political commentators and was initially interpreted as evidence of a shift towards a more extreme political position, following a rise in intercommunity tension after disturbances at Drumcree in July 1995. The Party lost ground to the DUP in the Entry to Negotiations Elections in May 1996, and Trimble's room for manoeuvre within the Party was severely circumscribed until subsequent election results (General Election and Local Government Elections) in May 1997 restored the Party's fortunes; only to slide away again in the European Election last month to their lowest ever % share of the vote. This has exacerbated Trimble's difficulties and further restricted his room for manoeuvre on the outstanding issues.

3. Against expectations, Trimble and the UUP leadership managed to keep the Party together through the stresses and strain of the multi-party Talks. The final negotiation of the Agreement, however, proved a severe test of the Party's unity and a number of senior Party members including, 5 of the Party's 10 MP's chose to oppose the Agreement. Vindication of the Party leadership's decision to strike a deal at the time was shown by over 70% support within the Ulster Unionist Council, the ruling body of the UUP and by the 71% support for the Agreement subsequently demonstrated in the Referendum on 22 May 1998, although that support has ebbed away with the lack of movement on decommissioning and the formation of the Executive. Opposition within the Party, however, remained significant and a number of anti-Agreement candidates ran for election to the Assembly. Notwithstanding a serious split in the Party's vote, on the Assembly elections it maintained its position as the largest Party in NI, but saw the SDLP, for the first time, capture the largest share of the vote.

4. A very public row over the non-selection of Mr Jeffrey Donaldson (whom the Party most definitely did not want as an opponent within the Assembly) widened divisions within the Party still further.

5. The internal problems within the UUP were again highlighted during the European election. Notwithstanding the personal difficulties of the sitting MEP, Jim Nicholson, John Taylor publicly refused to endorse him and many within the party gave his election campaign no assistance whatsoever. The

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result, although he managed to get re-elected, was a close call with Sinn Fein's Mitchel McLaughlin pushing him hard and their lowest ever percentage share of the vote recorded.

6. Much UUP thinking is shaped by the need to avoid being out flanked by the DUP, and maintenance of the UUP's position as the largest Unionist Party is a significant consideration in the Party's policy making. The continuing division within the Party over the Agreement remains a serious problem for the leadership, particularly regarding the release of prisoners, Sinn Fein's taking seats in the absence of decommissioning and the proposals for reform of the RUC. The UUP leadership is very well aware that these are issues which it must be careful to avoid giving opportunities to the DUP and other anti-Agreement Unionist parties, and its position must take account of the concern within its own ranks.

7. The political imperative of the UUP is the maintenance of Northern Ireland's position as an integral part of the UK (on the grounds that the UK is a multi-cultural entity and that British citizenship safeguards the civil liberties of all its peoples, whereas Nationalism is seen as confrontational and exclusive). The Party accepts the principle of consent and any change to Northern Ireland's constitutional position must be founded on the consent of the majority - or "the greater number" - in Northern Ireland, based on the right of the people of Northern Ireland to self-determination.

### **Ulster Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)**

Prominent Members:

- Rev Dr Ian Paisley MP MEP (Party Leader & Assembly Member)
- Ald Peter Robinson MP (Deputy Leader & Assembly Member)
- Cllr Nigel Dodds (General Secretary & Assembly Member)
- Cllr Rev William McCrea (Assembly Member)
- Ald Gregory Campbell (Assembly Member)

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**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

*European Election 1994	29.2%
Entry to Negotiations Elections 1996	18.8%
General Election 1997	13.6%
Local Government Elections 1997	15.8%
Assembly Elections 1998	18.1%
*European Election 1999	28.4%

(\*European results demonstrate a strong personality vote for Paisley, rather than increased DUP support.)

8. Formed in 1971, the DUP is dominated by its leader, and many of its members are members of Paisley's Free Presbyterian Church. The Party was created to be right wing on constitutional matters, and leftist on social issues; but it is the former attributes which have tended to dominate in a Party which brings an uncompromising and populist style to its politics.

9. The Party's own definition of its objectives focuses mainly on maintaining the constitutional position of Northern Ireland as an integral part of the United Kingdom, and the rule of law in all areas of Northern Ireland. The Entry to Negotiations elections in 1996 prompted a return to more confrontational politics - the Party launched a 7-point "covenant" with the Unionist electorate, the principles of which continue to define the Party's stance. Among the points were - an insistence on Northern Ireland remaining firmly within the UK and a denial of the concept that the Union is in any sense negotiable; the removal of Articles 2 and 3 from the ROI constitution as a precursor to the establishment of normal relations; the elimination of any role for Dublin in the affairs of Northern Ireland; a requirement for all terrorist organisations to hand over their weaponry and dismantle their armies; the application in all circumstances of the principle that it is the people of Northern Ireland alone who should have the right to determine the constitutional status of the province; and a rejection of the Joint Declaration or

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the Framework Documents - subsequently developed into opposition to the Agreement, which remains resolute but not to the point of refusing to take their seats in the Assembly.

10. The DUP continues to castigate the Ulster Unionist Party for being weak on the maintenance of the Union. This reflects an uneasy (often stormy) relationship with their Unionist cousins which stretches back over many years. Withdrawal by the DUP from the Talks and its opposition to the Agreement deepened the division between the parties and relations are at an all time low.

11. The DUP appeal is more complex than a simplistic political approach with fundamentalist theological dogma. While there are doubts about the capacity of the Party to flourish as it has done under any leader other than Paisley, there ought also to be a recognition that the DUP and the certainties it purveys have tapped into a sensitive area of the Unionist psyche (and fundamentalist theology). If Paisley is uncompromising, it is not just because it is his nature to be so: it is also because, for many of the people he represents, compromise continues to be seen as a sign of political weakness. It is also clearly a vote winner, as demonstrated in the European Election, allowing him to claim, with some justification, that he speaks for the majority of Unionists.

### **The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)**

Prominent Members:

- John Hume MP MEP (Party Leader and Assembly Member)
- Seamus Mallon MP (Deputy Leader and Deputy First Minister (Designate))
- Eddie McGrady MP (Chief Whip and Assembly Member)

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- Cllr Mark Durkan (Assembly Member)
- Sean Farren (Assembly Member)
- Brid Rodgers (Assembly Member)

### ELECTORAL SUPPORT

European Election 1994	28.9%
Entry to Negotiations Elections 1996	21.4%
General Election 1997	24.1%
Local Government Elections 1997	20.6%
Assembly Elections 1998	22.0%
European Election 1999	28.1%

12. Founded in 1970 as a radical, left-of-centre Party to seek civil rights for all and a just distribution of wealth, the SDLP has over the last 27 years built on the rising expectations of the Nationalist community. The Party's position on the constitutional debate accepts participation in a cross-community devolved Government as part of an overall settlement. It regards the development of strong North/South linkages, in particular executive powers for implementation bodies, as crucial to the effective working of the Agreement.

13. The SDLP's electoral rivalry with Sinn Fein means that the Party continually needs to ensure its position cannot be portrayed as selling the Catholic community short or resigning from the basic tenets of Nationalism. In particular, the Party consistently asserts a strong commitment to human rights and equality for the Catholic community.

14. On security, the SDLP strongly emphasises the unacceptability of the RUC to nationalists. Informal contact with the police, however, is generally good and SDLP criticism of the security forces is not heard as frequently as previously. The Party does not, however, yet feel able to recommend that members of the Catholic community should join the RUC.

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15. The SDLP is strongly in favour of European Union. The Party believes the importance of Europe is increasing and that this will lead to a reduction in the significance of the border and, consequently, the divisions within the NI community.

16. A unique feature of the SDLP is the personal standing of John Hume, who enjoys enormous international standing and respect. He, together with David Trimble, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year. Within Northern Ireland he is the SDLP's greatest electoral asset and the Agreement has boosted his personal standing further both within Ireland and beyond. He did not quite manage to overhaul Ian Paisley, however, in the European election. Seamus Mallon is also well respected, and has made an impressive start as Deputy First Minister.

17. The SDLP gained the highest percentage of first preference votes in the Assembly Elections and is the second largest party, with 24 seats.

### **Sinn Fein**

#### Prominent Members:

- Gerry Adams MP (President and Assembly Member)
- Martin McGuinness MP (Assembly Member)
- Mitchel McLaughlin (Chairman and Assembly Member)
- Pat Doherty (Vice Chairman and Assembly Member)
- Gerry Kelly (Assembly Member)
- Bairbre de Bruin (Assembly Member)

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**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

European Election 1994	9.9%
Entry to Negotiations Election 1996	15.5%
General Election 1997	16.0%
Local Government Elections 1997	16.9%
Assembly Elections 1998	17.6%
European Election 1999	17.3%

18. Sinn Fein began standing in elections in Northern Ireland in 1981. Its electoral support has grown over the years, peaking with the recent Assembly elections. Sinn Fein draws its support mainly from West Belfast; but it also has a sizeable body of support in Londonderry, Tyrone and South Armagh. Martin McGuinness' election in 1997 has enhanced its electoral performance in Mid-Ulster in particular and the Party looks set to take the West Tyrone seat and possibly Foyle if John Hume stands down, as speculated, at the next General Election. It currently has 74 Councillors elected to 17 of the 26 District Councils across Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland, Sinn Fein's share of the vote had remained consistently low until last month's European Election when it more than doubled to 6.3%. Sinn Fein has 18 members in the NI Assembly.

19. Sinn Fein provides a political voice for the wider Republican movement, which regards Northern Ireland as an artificial and oppressive state. A key political objective, therefore, is the withdrawal of the British from the occupied six counties of Ireland. In recent years Sinn Fein has increasingly articulated a more democratic approach as the best means of attaining the objectives of the Republican movement. In rural areas, the Republican tradition goes back at least to the last century and it is characterised by a fierce determination to see a united Ireland independent of British control. In urban areas, Republicanism results from the trouble on the streets in the late sixties and early seventies. Fear of attack from the other side of the community still runs very high, and there is a general perception of

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discrimination against the Catholic community by the State and its institutions. The urban working class tends to be more politicised and more active in community politics.

20. One of the great strengths of Sinn Fein is its advice centre network and constituency work service. Particularly in West Belfast, the Republican movement is able to take on the role of mediator between constituents and central Government on social and economical issues at local level. In addition to these formal structures, Sinn Fein produces a weekly newspaper, An Phoblacht/Republican News. This informs Sinn Fein members of activity within the Party and highlights issues which the Republican leadership views as significant.

#### **UK Unionist Party (UKUP)**

Prominent Members:

- Robert McCartney, MP (Party Leader and Assembly Member)

#### **ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

1995 Parliamentary By-Election	37.0%
Entry to Negotiations Election 1996	3.7%
General Election 1997	2.1%
Local Government Elections 1997	0.5%
Assembly Elections 1998	4.5%
European Election 1999	3.0%

21. The UK Unionist Party represents an attempt by Robert McCartney to construct his own individual power-base within Unionism, following his departure from the UUP. McCartney was elected to Parliament in the North Down by-election of June 1995 (with DUP support), but his challenging analysis of Unionism - that both traditional Unionist parties have condemned

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the cause they seek to uphold by failing to make Unionism a political philosophy which is capable of winning a wider spectrum of support - has proved to exercise a limited appeal.

22. On the constitution, the Party's position is unambiguous and integrationalist - maintenance of the position of Northern Ireland within the UK, and resistance to any expansion of the role of Dublin in the internal affairs of the province.

23. The core of the UK Unionists' analysis is that Government policy towards Northern Ireland amounts to an unavowed strategy of securing the dissolution of the Union by consent. The development by the two Governments of a joint approach to the process of political development is interpreted as facilitating creeping Irish unity and a gradual disengagement of Northern Ireland from the life and politics of the UK.

24. In the Assembly elections campaign, disaffected UUP voters transferred allegiance to the UKUP in large numbers, boosting the Party's vote to 4.5% and giving them 5 seats in total. Much of their electoral gain was probably due to a temporary 'protest' by UUP voters, which may be difficult to maintain. The UKUP is acceptable to disaffected moderate UUP voters in a way that the DUP is not, but there is no sign that the Party's integrationalist message is gaining ground (the Party is in fact inclined to play this down during election campaigns). With the DUP, the Party is likely to continue its opposition to the Agreement within the Assembly.

25. At the start of the year McCartney's fellow Assembly members parted company with him following an acrimonious row, to form their own party - the NIUP led by his former deputy Cedric Wilson. McCartney's failure to attract any significant support in the European election and indeed to have been out-polled by the PUP's David Ervine may lessen his appetite for continued involvement in politics. That, however, remains to be seen.

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**Progressive Unionist Party (PUP)**

Prominent Members:

- Alderman Hugh Smyth OBE (Party Leader)
- Councillor David Ervine (Party Spokesperson & Assembly Member)
- Councillor Billy Hutchinson (Press Officer & Assembly Member)
- William 'Plum' Smith (Prison Spokesperson)

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

Entry to Negotiations Elections 1996	3.5%
General Election 1997	1.4%
Local Government Elections 1997	2.3%
Assembly Elections 1998	2.5%
European Election 1999	3.3%

26. The PUP was founded in the late 1970s following the collapse of the Volunteer Political Party. The core of its support is in Belfast, particularly in the North and East of the City. Although the Party is expanding its structure for the Assembly elections, its impact outside Belfast remains limited.

27. Despite its linkages with the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) paramilitaries the PUP is actively seeking to change its image, and is conscientiously trying to attract a broader (and non-paramilitary) spectrum of support. It acknowledges a Labour oriented outlook, and a belief in "commonality, equality and plurality", founded on a basis of non-sectarianism.

28. On the constitution, the PUP is committed to maintaining and strengthening the position of Northern Ireland within the UK.

29. To the extent that the Party has attempted to develop a social agenda, and is free of some of the more obvious historical baggage of Unionism, it has been hailed as possessing the potential to lay the foundations of class-based politics in Northern Ireland. That remains to be seen. The Party's 3.5% vote in the 30 May 1996 elections represented a

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significant increase in its electoral mandate, and its performance in the multi-party talks (led by Ervine) broadened its appeal outside the traditional Loyalist heartlands. Although the Party did not do as well as it had hoped in the Assembly elections, gaining 2 seats (and a 2.5 % share of the vote) still represented an impressive political achievement. Its future growth, however, remains uncertain: many voters in Northern Ireland are conservative in their habits, and the taint of paramilitary associations may continue to hamper the PUP's progress towards securing more widespread support, although the fact that David Ervine managed to out-poll Bob McCartney gave them cause for celebration and satisfaction. Central to its fortunes will be the maintenance of the UVF ceasefire.

**Ulster Democratic Party (UDP)**

Prominent Members:

- Cllr Gary McMichael (Party Leader)
- Cllr David Adams (Press Officer)
- John White (Prisons Spokesman)

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

Entry to Negotiations Election 1996	2.2%
General Election 1997	Did not stand
Local Government Elections 1997	1.2%
Assembly Elections 1998	1.1%
European Election 1999	Did not stand

30. The Ulster Democratic Party was set up by the UDA (Ulster Defence Association) in 1981 as the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party - the embodiment of the New Ulster Political Research Group. In 1988 the Party changed its name to the Ulster Democratic Party, claiming that it was an independent political grouping with no paramilitary links. Shortly afterwards it began a series of verbal attacks on the leadership of the mainstream Unionist parties; and a degree of circumspection continues to characterise relations between the UDP and the larger unionist parties.

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31. The origins of the Party in Loyalist paramilitarism continue to be reflected in its support. Although its 2.2% share of the vote in the 30 May 1996 election represented a considerable improvement on previous performances, its support remained rooted in Loyalist working class areas - North and East Belfast, the Loyalist housing estates of South and East Antrim, and around Gary McMichael's personal sphere of influence in Lisburn. There is no evidence of a breakthrough based on widespread acceptability of the Party. The decision not to contest the 1997 General Election, and to concentrate instead on the local government elections (LGE), was a recognition of this hard reality, and was a factor in its poor results (1.2%).

32. Like the PUP, the UDP claim that the real mandate they possess - is the influence they exercise over the Loyalist paramilitaries, and the continuance of the Loyalist ceasefire. Their failure to gain any seats in the Assembly election, and consequent departure from the main NI political stage, must put this at risk.

33. The political ideas of the UDP still derive from the document "Common Sense", drawn up by John McMichael (father of Gary) in 1987. This was predicated on the assumption that compromise and accommodation have to be reached between the two communities regarding the continued existence of Northern Ireland ("co-determination"); and that the mechanisms for achieving this balance consisted of devolved legislative government based on proportionality, consensus and shared responsibility; a written constitution agreed by both communities, plus a Bill of Rights; and a supreme court charged with responsibility for upholding the constitution and the rights of individuals.

### **Alliance Party**

Prominent Members:

- Cllr Sean Neeson (Party Leader and Assembly Member)
- Cllr Seamus Close (Deputy Party Leader and Assembly Member)
- Cllr Mrs Eileen Bell (Assembly Member)

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**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

European Election 1994	4.1%
Entry to Negotiations Election 1996	6.5%
General Election 1997	8.0%
Local Government Election 1997	6.6%
Assembly Elections 1998	6.5%
European Election 1999	2.1%

34. The Alliance Party was formed in 1970 to appeal to moderate opinion in both Protestant and Catholic communities.

35. In October 1988 the Party produced a major policy document entitled "Governing With Consent" which set out to produce a summary of conclusions following a review by senior party officials of arrangements for the future government of Northern Ireland. This included reaffirmation of devolution of power to a Northern Ireland Assembly within the United Kingdom as the best way to achieve political progress in Northern Ireland, and a clear recognition of the importance of a guaranteed role for the minority in any future devolved administration, whilst accepting that the Irish Government should have a right of consultation on matters affecting Northern Ireland. This document remains the basis of Party policy.

36. The Party gained only a small number of seats in the Assembly (6), insufficient to give it any ministerial portfolios (though it could pick up one seat if the DUP declined to take its share). Lord Alderdice's decision to step down as Party Leader and take up the post of Interim Presiding Officer of the Assembly was badly received by the remainder of the Party. The new Party Leader, Sean Neeson has not got off to a good start. He decided to run, in the absence of any other "centre" candidate, in the European election and recorded Alliance's worst ever electoral performance. This is likely to intensify internal debate regarding the future direction of the Party.

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**Northern Ireland Women's Coalition**

Prominent Members:

- Professor Monica McWilliams (Party Leader & Assembly Member)
- Jane Morrice (Assembly Member)
- Kate Fearon
- Barbara McCabe

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

Entry to Negotiations Elections 1996	1.03%
General Election 1997	0.4%
Local Government Elections 1997	0.5%
Assembly Elections 1998	1.6%
European Election 1999	Did not stand

37. The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition was formed specifically to contest the 1996 Entry to Negotiations Elections, with the declared aims of raising the profile of women in politics, and of highlighting the contribution women could make to political progress in Northern Ireland. The Coalition is made up of women from business, trade unions, community groups, voluntary sector, education and other walks of life. They are Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and Nationalist, Republican and Loyalist. They support the Agreement.

38. In the 30 May 1996 election, the NIWC was placed ninth in the list of top ten parties, entitling them to 2 seats in the Talks. They obtained a modicum of support in all 18 constituencies with above average performances in Foyle and South Belfast. One NIWC candidate - Anne Carr - was elected (to Down District Council) in the Local Government Elections on 21 May last year. The Coalition had a very well run Assembly election campaign and were

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successful, to the surprise of many, in gaining 2 seats for Monica McWilliams (S Belfast) and Jane Morrice (N Down).

**United Unionist Assembly Party**

Prominent Members:

- Denis Watson (Party leader and Assembly Member)
- Fraser Agnew (Assembly Member)
- Boyd Douglas (Assembly Member)

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

Assembly Elections 1998	2.0%
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39. Messrs Watson, Agnew and Douglas successfully stood as Independent anti-Agreement candidates in the Assembly elections in June 1998, subsequently they decided to band together as the UUAP and this was recognised by the Initial Presiding Officer on 21 September 1998.

40. More recently Denis Watson was elected General Secretary of the Orange Order and is preoccupied with seeking a resolution to Drumcree which effectively allows a parade on the Garvaghy Road.

41. The UUAP are opposed to Sinn Fein sitting in the Executive without IRA decommissioning.

**Northern Ireland Unionist Party**

Prominent Members:

- Cedric Wilson (Party leader and Assembly Member)
- Paddy Roche (Assembly Member)
- Roger Hutchinson (Assembly Member)
- Norman Boyd (Assembly Member)

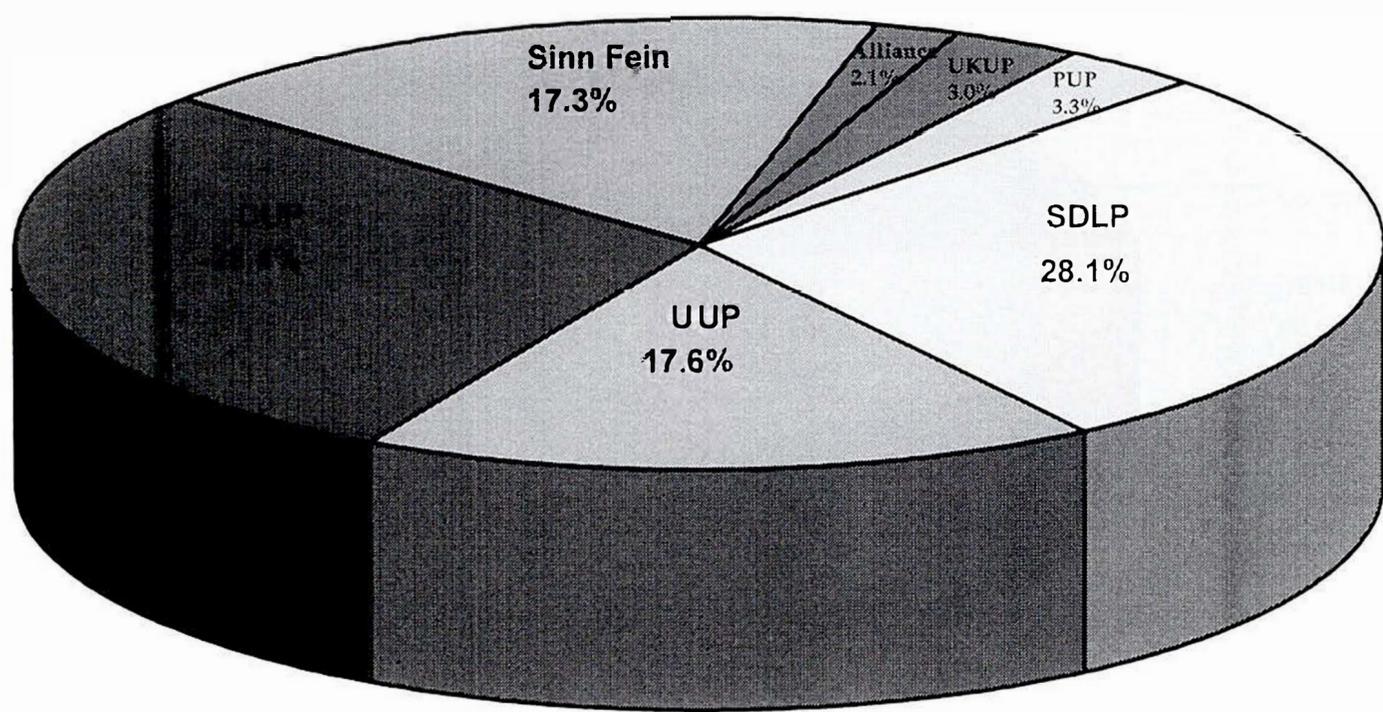
<b>Electoral Support</b>	Unknown
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42. Following a strained relationship and disagreements with UKUP leader Bob McCartney, Messrs Wilson, Roche, Hutchinson and Boyd parted company from the UKUP to form the NIUP on 18 January 1999.

43. At its launch, Cedric Wilson, subsequently confirmed as its leader, reiterated the NIUP were anti-Agreement, committed to the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Ulster, and revitalisation of the Union between NI and GB.

44. The NIUP has yet to submit itself to the electorate to test its electoral strength.

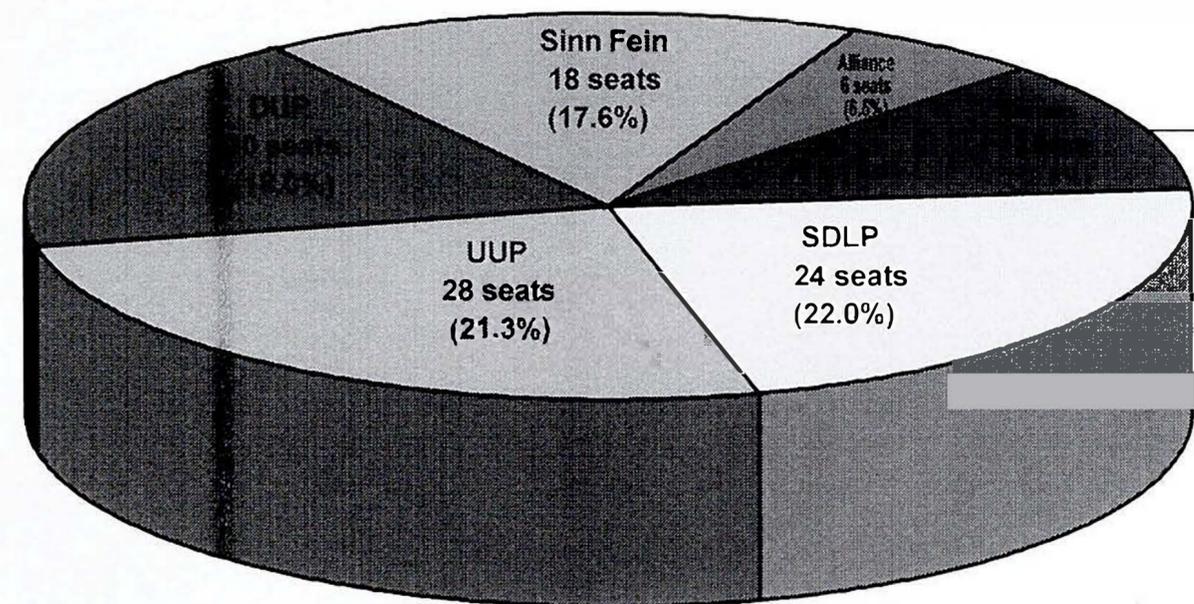
# 1999 European Election



1st Preference Vote - % of Poll  
Turnout 57.8% - Sitting MEPs Re-elected

Natural Law 0.2% (Not shown on Pie Chart)

# 1998 Assembly Elections



Others	Seats won	Percentage
UKUP	5*	(4.5%)
PUP	2	(2.5%)
NIWC	2	(1.6%)
UU/UU	1**	} (2.0%)
United Unionist	1**	
Unionist	1**	
	12	10.6%

\* 4 left UKUP to form NIUP (18/1/99)  
 \*\* Formed UUAP (21/9/98)

NB 4% of the vote went to unsuccessful candidates  
 There is a total of 108 seats in the Assembly