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**Rights and the Development of  
Constitutional Settlements: Lessons  
from Northern Ireland**

# Rights in the lead up to the Belfast-Good Friday Agreement

- Importance of domestic actors
- 'Normalizing' group-based equality
- External intervention
- Difficult relationship with combatants

# Rights and the Agreement Process

- Section 75 NIA 1998
- Consociational arrangements
- Patten established
- ECHR incorporated
- Bill of Rights
- Inquiries established

# Rights in the post-Agreement process

- Relative success of fair employment
- Proceduralizing equality in section 75
- Reforming criminal justice system
- Agreeing a Bill of Rights
- Dealing with the past

# Protecting autochthonous rights from cosmopolitan “normality”

- Protecting section 75
- Protecting consociational arrangements
- Bringing DUP and Sinn Fein in
- NI Bill of Rights and GB Bill of Rights

# Lessons?

- Rights as the preserve of one community
- Interface of political and legal approaches
- Failure of socio-economic rights, politically
- Stability and peace as human rights aims
- Difficult relations with the “centre”