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

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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
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”