

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 157

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes.

Whereas, 25 years ago, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the “Belfast Agreement”, giving birth to a new era of peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas former Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, Jr., of Maine, was appointed by President William J. Clinton to be United States Special Envoy for Northern Ireland and chaired the peace negotiations, which produced the Good Friday Agreement, marking the end of decades of conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that remains critical to peace in the future;

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement remain to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure enduring peace and stability for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas a restored, fully functioning, Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive are essential to the facilitation of new opportunities and prosperity for the people of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Congress continues to support the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent implementation agreements and arrangements in order to support peace on the island of Ireland;

Whereas the new Windsor Framework, agreed in principle on February 27, 2023, by the United Kingdom and the European Union, will help ensure trade within the United Kingdom remains smooth, while protecting Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom and safeguarding its sovereignty as well as maintaining an open border on the island of Ireland and protecting the integrity of the European Union's single market;

Whereas, despite the historic progress in implementing the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a bill of rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including violence by state and nonstate actors, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement (“Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity”) recognizes “the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity,” and, in 2022, the United Kingdom Parliament passed the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act providing for the official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, and for the appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner and a Commissioner for the Ulster Scots and the Ulster British Tradition;

Whereas Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly;

Whereas Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a special relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on diplomatic, security, trade, economic, and foreign assistance issues: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the
3 signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10,
4 1998, and celebrates the historic compromise that
5 marked the beginning of a new era of peaceful polit-
6 ical engagement in Northern Ireland;

7 (2) welcomes the Windsor Framework agree-
8 ment between the United Kingdom and the Euro-

1 pean Union, and urges all parties to continue to sup-
2 port peace on the island of Ireland and the prin-
3 ciples, objectives, and commitments of the Good Fri-
4 day Agreement;

5 (3) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to re-
6 commit urgently to power-sharing and restoration of
7 a fully functioning Northern Ireland Assembly and
8 Executive;

9 (4) expresses support for the full implementa-
10 tion of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent
11 agreements, including the Windsor Framework;

12 (5) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to
13 work collectively to ensure the implementation of all
14 commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and
15 subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions
16 of the Good Friday Agreement can operate success-
17 fully and sustainably and that ongoing political chal-
18 lenges can be overcome;

19 (6) urges the United Kingdom Parliament and
20 the European Union to support and implement in
21 good faith the new Windsor Framework in order to
22 ensure trade continues to flow smoothly within the
23 United Kingdom and maintain an open border on
24 the island of Ireland, while protecting the European
25 Union's single market;

1 (7) supports the passage of a bill of rights for
2 Northern Ireland and the principle of consent in re-
3 lation to the right of self-determination for all the
4 people on the island of Ireland, in line with the pro-
5 visions of the Good Friday Agreement;

6 (8) calls for continuing attention and action to
7 resolve the injustices of past violence, including vio-
8 lence by state and nonstate actors;

9 (9) observes that victims, survivors, and family
10 members of victims of Troubles-era violence must be
11 able to fully pursue justice;

12 (10) encourages renewed attention to edu-
13 cational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich
14 language, literature, and arts of Northern Ireland
15 endure and are not diminished, in line with the Good
16 Friday Agreement commitments on “Rights, Safe-
17 guards and Equality of Opportunity”;

18 (11) expresses support for the new Windsor
19 Framework, part of the European Union-United
20 Kingdom Withdrawal Agreement, which ensures
21 through international agreement that no “hard bor-
22 der” will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland;

23 (12) greatly values the close relationships the
24 United States shares with both the United Kingdom
25 and Ireland; and

1 (13) takes into account, as relevant, conditions
2 requiring that obligations under the Good Friday
3 Agreement be met as the United States seeks to ne-
4 gotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive
5 trade agreement between the United States and the
6 United Kingdom.

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