

GFA25 and the Island of Ireland

University College Cork
Monday 22 May 2023

No. 1 Lapps Quay
UCC Centre for Executive Education





Overview

Commentary on the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (GFA) typically and traditionally focuses on how it impacts on Northern Ireland. However, at the heart of the 1998 Agreement are the principles, institutions and processes which encompass the ‘totality of relationships’ on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain.



The Agreement, therefore, continues to be consequential for the Republic of Ireland, as much as for Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK – along with the rest of the European Union and the US, as most visibly demonstrated by President Biden.

In its 25th anniversary year, UCC aims to consider what the Good Friday Agreement means for our jurisdiction. This is important in the context of developing a deeper understanding of the past, present, and future for the Agreement across the entire island and not just in Northern Ireland.

The intention is to spark discussion and understanding of the Agreement’s key role, in all its dimensions in continuing to underpin peace and prosperity.

In addition to two outstanding keynote speakers sharing their perspectives on this challenge, this anniversary event will bring together a panel of experts for a moderated discussion considering different aspects of the Agreement, and including from a Cork perspective. The panel will address what has been the impact for the city and wider local economy; for all-island cooperation and relations; and for specific sectors and interests across Irish society.

The event is supported by the Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA), the ARINS project and the Department of Foreign Affairs.



Programme

- 9:15am Welcome, **Professor John O'Halloran**, President of UCC
- 9:20am Opening address, **Michael McGrath**, Minister for Finance
- 9:40am Keynote 1, [Professor Brendan O'Leary](#) (University of Pennsylvania)
'Permanent Negotiation? Looking Back at the Good Friday Agreement and Forward'
- 10:40am Coffee/tea break
- 11:00am Keynote 2, [Danny McCoy](#), Chief Executive, Ibec
'GFA25: The Economic and Prosperity Dimension'
- 12:00pm Panel discussion *'GFA25 in all its dimensions'*
Moderator **Sam McBride** (Belfast Telegraph/Sunday Independent)
[Michael D'Arcy](#) (Centre for Cross Border Studies)
[Eileen Weir](#) (Shankill Women's Centre)
[Amanda Dunsmore](#) (artist and curator of *Agreement*)
Denise Walshe ([Lakeland Dairies](#))
- 1:15pm Closing remarks: **Dr Mary C. Murphy** (UCC) & **Dr Barry Colfer** (IIEA)
Lunch