

solely on Hume's contributions or the outcomes in terms of political party power-sharing. Only by expanding the understanding of the process, and including the role of women in this process, can a full acknowledgement of women's contributions be achieved.

An article such as this can offer only one perspective of the valuable contribution of women to the Northern Ireland peace process. However, through the analysis of the contributions to the Agreement and subsequent *Act* it can be seen that there was a feminized process and outcome, and this is something which needs to be incorporated, or at least acknowledged, in future mainstreamed literature on Northern Ireland.

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¹On the front page of the Agreement, it is entitled simply, The Agreement. Its fuller title inside is: The Agreement. Agreement reached in multi-party negotiations. The popular nomenclatures, Belfast Agreement/Good Friday Agreement reflect the document being reached in Belfast

on Good Friday (April 10) 1998. Some people use the popular names interchangeably. Others see in them a unionist (or Protestant) and nationalist (or Catholic) preference.

²This has been the case even by those who have traditionally excelled at providing a gender perspective in Northern Ireland scholarship such as Wilford; Wilson.

³With the exception of the Democratic Unionist Party, led by Ian Paisley, who refused to participate once Sinn Fein was included in the negotiations.

⁴McCrudden is the main exception in the literature on this point.

⁵While many women continue to hold reservations regarding the impact this merger will have on gender issues and developments, it does appear that since the appointment of key women from the Equal Opportunities Commission to the Equality Commission and its Commissioners Board, these fears have relaxed amongst some, while criticisms of the Commission have not been voiced or highlighted in the way it was first expected.

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for Holofernes

Prozac can consume
the flames of purgatory.
Only death can drown
the fires of hell, the place
where crimson-haired Judith
dwells.

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