

## **THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS**

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### ABSTRACT

*The role of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) is examined within the context of the conflict in Northern Ireland through the perspectives of community groups, civil servants and development officers. Contemporary academic literature on peacebuilding in areas that have experienced protracted ethno-political conflict is related to the experiences of 36 persons with direct experience with the (IFI) funding agency. This paper explains the importance of tailoring economic assistance to the distinctive social needs of the targeted communities and how third parties must consider and include local perspectives in their attempts to build the peace.*

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