

Baroness May Blood, MBE	May Blood was born and raised in a mixed community in West Belfast. She worked in a linen mill from 1952-90 and was actively involved in trade unions, particularly in promoting equality for women. In 1999 she was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Ulster and in recognition of her years of trade union and community endeavours, she was offered a life peerage and a seat in the House of Lords as Baroness Blood of Blackwatertown in the County of Armagh. Blood has received honorary doctorates from Queen's University, Belfast and the Open University. In 2007, she published her autobiography, <i>Watch my Lips, I'm Speaking</i> .
Mr Bob Collins	Bob Collins took up position as Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on 1 August 2005. He worked for almost 30 years at RTÉ and was Director-General there from 1997 to 2003. He was very active in the European Broadcasting Union and was a member of the European Commission's steering group on equality in television. He is Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, a member of the board of the Ulster Orchestra Society and is chair of the jurors of the Simon Cumbers Award that promotes greater attention to development issues in the media.
Mr Jim Fitzpatrick	James (Jim) Fitzpatrick is the Chairman of the <i>Irish News</i> . As an active member of the Newspaper Society, he played a significant role in the development of the regional press in Britain and Ireland. The <i>Irish News</i> has won a number of major national and regional awards including Newspaper of the Year and Regional Newspaper of the Year on numerous occasions. Additionally the paper has been awarded the International Federation of Journalists' Award for Tolerance. He has served as President of the Belfast Chamber of Trade and has played a key role in community development and reconciliation since the 1960s.
Sir Nigel Hamilton	Sir Nigel Hamilton is a graduate of Queen's University and former Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service from 2002-2008. During this time he was also Head of the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and Secretary to the Northern Ireland Executive. On his retirement in 2008, he was appointed Chairman of the NI Council of The Prince's Trust and Chairman of the Bryson Charitable Group. He is a Non-executive Director of the Ulster Bank and of Belfast City Airport. Sir Nigel is the Vice Lord Lieutenant of the City and County of Belfast. He is also President of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union in the season 2010/2011. He was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 2008.
Dr Maurice Hayes	Dr Maurice Hayes is a former Chair of the Forum on Europe. He served in the 21 st and 22 nd Seanad. He has held the position of NI Ombudsman and Boundary Commissioner, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Services (NI) and Chair of the Community Relations Council. A former chairman of The Ireland Funds, he has contributed to major policy reports such as the Patten Commission. He is a regular contributor to the <i>Irish Independent</i> and was a long-serving non-executive director of Independent News & Media Plc. He has published three memoirs: <i>Sweet Killough: Let Go Your Anchor</i> ; <i>Black Puddings with Slim: A Downpatrick Boyhood</i> ; and <i>Minority Verdict: Experiences Of A Catholic Civil Servant</i> . He is also the

	author or editor of works on conflict research, community relations and Irish writing.
Lady Brenda McLaughlin, CBE	Lady McLaughlin was Senior Pro-Chancellor of Queen's University from 2000 until 2007. She is a former Director of Ulster Bank and was Chair of the NI Opportunity Now Campaign for nine years. She served on the Departmental Board of the Northern Ireland Office for five years and is currently Chair of the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland and a member of the Public Services Commission. Her background has been predominantly within the Health Service in Northern Ireland, having served as Vice-Chairman of the Eastern HSS Board and Chair of S&E Belfast HSS Trust. She is a member of the Board of the Ulster Orchestra Society and a former Board member of Business in the Community, the BBC NI Broadcasting Council, Action Cancer, NI Chest Heart & Stroke and Extern. In 2008 she received an Honorary Doctorate (LLD) from Queen's University Belfast.
Mr Liam Maskey	Liam Maskey is the founder of Newington/Cavehill Community Services Association (NCCSA), a founding member of the North Belfast Partnership Board and founder and Executive Director of Intercomm Ireland. His work involves building peace, greater understanding and tolerance across divided communities in Belfast and throughout the world. In 1997 Mr Maskey worked with the trade unionist Brendan Mackin, as a conduit between the INLA and the British government, during discussions that ended with the republican group announcing a ceasefire.
Mr Daithi O'Ceallaigh	Mr Daithi O'Ceallaigh is Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs and the Chairman of the Press Council of Ireland. He is the former Irish Ambassador to the UN in Geneva (2007-2009), the United Kingdom (2001-2007), Finland and Estonia (1993-1998). Following the Anglo-Irish Agreement he became a member of the Maryfield Secretariat and was subsequently centrally involved in the peace negotiations.
Professor Eunan O'Halpin	Eunan O'Halpin is Bank of Ireland Professor of Contemporary Irish History. Educated at UCD and Cambridge and previously Professor of Government at Dublin City University (1998-2000), he has written widely on aspects of 20th century Irish and British history and politics. In addition to supervising PhDs on Irish history, Professor O'Halpin is a member of the Department of Justice Archives Advisory Group and a member and former chairman of the Royal Irish Academy National Committee for the Study of International Affairs, its National Committee for History and its Irish Constitution project board. He is a joint editor of the Royal Irish Academy <i>Documents on Irish Foreign Policy</i> series. He is also a member of the advisory board of <i>The Historical Journal</i> .
Sir Joseph Pilling	Sir Joseph Pilling was Permanent Under Secretary to the Northern Ireland Office from 1997 to 2005. He joined the Home Office in 1966 and held various posts including Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Since 2005 he has been involved in reviews of senior appointments in the Church of England, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Thirty Year Rule on the release of government information, and the governance of London University. He is chair of the Koestler Trust which encourages the arts amongst offenders. He is also a trustee of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mr Trevor Ringland, MBE	Mr Trevor Ringland is a full-time solicitor and Director of Independent News & Media, Mediation Northern Ireland and The Ireland Funds. In 2006 he was appointed a member of the new Northern Ireland Policing Board. Mr Ringland is also actively involved with Peace Players International, an organisation devoted to promoting inter-religious unity in Belfast through sport. In 2007 he won the ESPY Arthur Ashe for Courage Award, with David Cullen. Mr Ringland was awarded an MBE for services to the community in Northern Ireland in 2009.
Mr Peter Sheridan, OBE	Peter Sheridan is the CEO of Co-operation Ireland (a peace-building charity). Formerly an Assistant Chief Constable of the PSNI until 2008, with responsibility for murder and serious crime investigation, much of his service was in Derry/Londonderry. During the review of policing he worked closely with the Patten implementation team for the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland. In 1999 Peter Sheridan graduated from the FBI Academy. He also holds a BSc Honours degree in Applied Sciences, a diploma in Criminology and a Master of Studies Degree from Cambridge University. In June 2007 he was awarded the OBE from Her Majesty the Queen. He is also an Equality Commissioner in NI and Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioner.
Mr William Trevor	William Trevor, KBE (born 24 May 1928) is an Irish author and playwright. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest contemporary writers of short stories in the English language. Over the course of his long career he has written several novels and hundreds of short stories. He has won the Whitbread Prize three times and has been nominated five times for the Booker Prize, most recently for his novel <i>Love and Summer</i> (2009).