The Troubles – Mediation

3600 lives were taken by the Irish conflict from the late 1960s till 1998. The conflict was settled on the 10th of April 1998 by the Good Friday Agreement which was signed by Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. Many families were ripped apart and anguish and terror plagued the streets of Ireland leaving an ever-existent trail of trauma behind it. The IRA (Irish Republican Army) was fighting against the Northern Irish nationalists, who wanted to stay dependent on Britain. The agreement made all parties involved pay a certain price.

The Good Friday Agreement ended three decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. It demanded sacrifices from all parties involved, with the Republic of Ireland relinquishing its claim over the region, the IRA decommissioning weapons, and the British government reducing its military presence. Power-sharing between nationalists and unionists was established, aiming for peaceful coexistence.

However, challenges persist. Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol have rekindled tensions, while the shared government in Stormont has experienced periods of suspension and intervention. Reforming the agreement is being discussed to address these issues and create a more stable future.

Efforts to address the shortcomings of the agreement, including reforms to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, are crucial for building a more stable and inclusive future. Genuine and sustained dialogue, coupled with a genuine understanding of diverse perspectives, will be essential in overcoming the remaining divisions. By upholding the principles of the Good Friday Agreement, Northern Ireland can continue on the path towards a shared and prosperous future, transcending its painful past and fostering lasting peace for all its people.