

The Good Friday Agreement: preserving peace in our time

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It's hard not to identify as Irish with a name like mine. As a British and Irish passport holder I live happily with my shared identity. I am delighted that my children can do the same, having acquired that right from their mother, who is Irish. Ireland matters to me. A lot.

In that case so too does the the Good Friday Agreement. Few things really bring 'peace in our time'. This agreement did. A lot of deeply flawed people made big compromises to achieve them. I applaud them for doing so. As a result of it nationalists could largely ignore the divide in their island and loyalists had the promise that Northern Ireland would survive as long as most wanted it.

But what made all that possible was the EU single market and customs union. I stress, not one, but both. And now those in favour of Brexit have made clear that they are willing to sacrifice that Agreement for the sake of Brexit. I am truly horrified at the idea. I thought we had suffered enough of The Troubles. Seemingly that is not true.

I could analyse this further, but do not need to do so. Sean Danaher has ably done so at Progressive Pulse. [Might I ask you to continue reading there?](#) This really matters not just to Sean, me and millions of others of those who identify as Irish in all the ways that can mean, but to the peace of the UK as well.

Some prices are not worth paying. Losing the Good Friday Agreement is a price not worth paying for Brexit.