



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING

Annual Report 2017

Change and Challenge





CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
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Change and Challenge....



The last year has again seen a remarkable level of activity for the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, from the excitement of our Van Morrison fund-raiser, to our rapidly expanding international activities and our engagement with ground-breaking digital developments. However across the world, it has been a disturbingly challenging time for those of us committed to democracy and peace building.

Our EU Debate NI initiative was an enormous success, but while Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU the people of the United Kingdom as a whole voted to leave. So now we face a new challenge - how to get the best outcome we can for the people of Northern Ireland - and CDPB is making its contribution to the thinking necessary in London, Dublin, Belfast and Brussels.

On its own Brexit would have been a major challenge, but the elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the second in less than a year, were another watershed. For the first time since partition in a province-wide election the unionist parties saw their majority melting away, and instead of the election enabling a return to a functioning Assembly and Executive, it resulted in more uncertainty. Unless agreement can be reached by the Northern Ireland parties before the end of June, the snap Westminster General Election may well be followed by yet another Assembly Election in the autumn, and neither of these contests is likely to improve relationships at the top political level nor bring a clear resolution of the problems.

Our on-going community programmes like Music Unite continue to do excellent work, but we are faced with the same financial challenges as others in the public and community sectors largely because the absence of a functioning Executive makes significant resource decisions impossible. We have been cooperating with others, and especially with British Council, to

mark the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in April 2018, and if our plans come to fruition we hope that we will be celebrating in the context of more hurdles overcome in the Peace Process and new lessons learnt.

Whatever the challenges at home, they pale in significance against the global canvas. While President Santos received the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the Colombian Peace Process, and we continue to work with our colleagues there on the implementation of last year's agreement between the Government and FARC, there is no hiding the difficulties faced from the beginning of the implementation of the accord. That said, it is one of the few significant peace processes anywhere in the world that is still making progress. Democracy, peace building, and even truth in the public space have faced serious challenges across the world, not just in the descent into chaos in the wider Middle East, but in the unravelling of the European Project, the loss of by the United States of America of any sense of moral leadership, and the host of other crises and conflicts that have arisen on land and sea and in cyber space. Nowhere seems immune or entirely safe.

The Board of CDPB is determined to ensure that we do all we can to contribute to overcoming the problems faced by democracy and peace building at home and abroad, and in addition to internal restructuring we are engaging more closely with our partners, especially the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at based at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford. We will only be successful if we strengthen our network of relationships.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to my Board colleagues, not least Liam Maskey who was with us from the start, but has stepped down from the Board

for personal reasons. I also want to note the wonderful work of Conor Houston who continues with us as Programme Director and Consultant but as his reputation has grown he is unsurprisingly in demand from many other sources, not least with his appointment as a Governor of the Irish Times Trust – congratulations Conor.

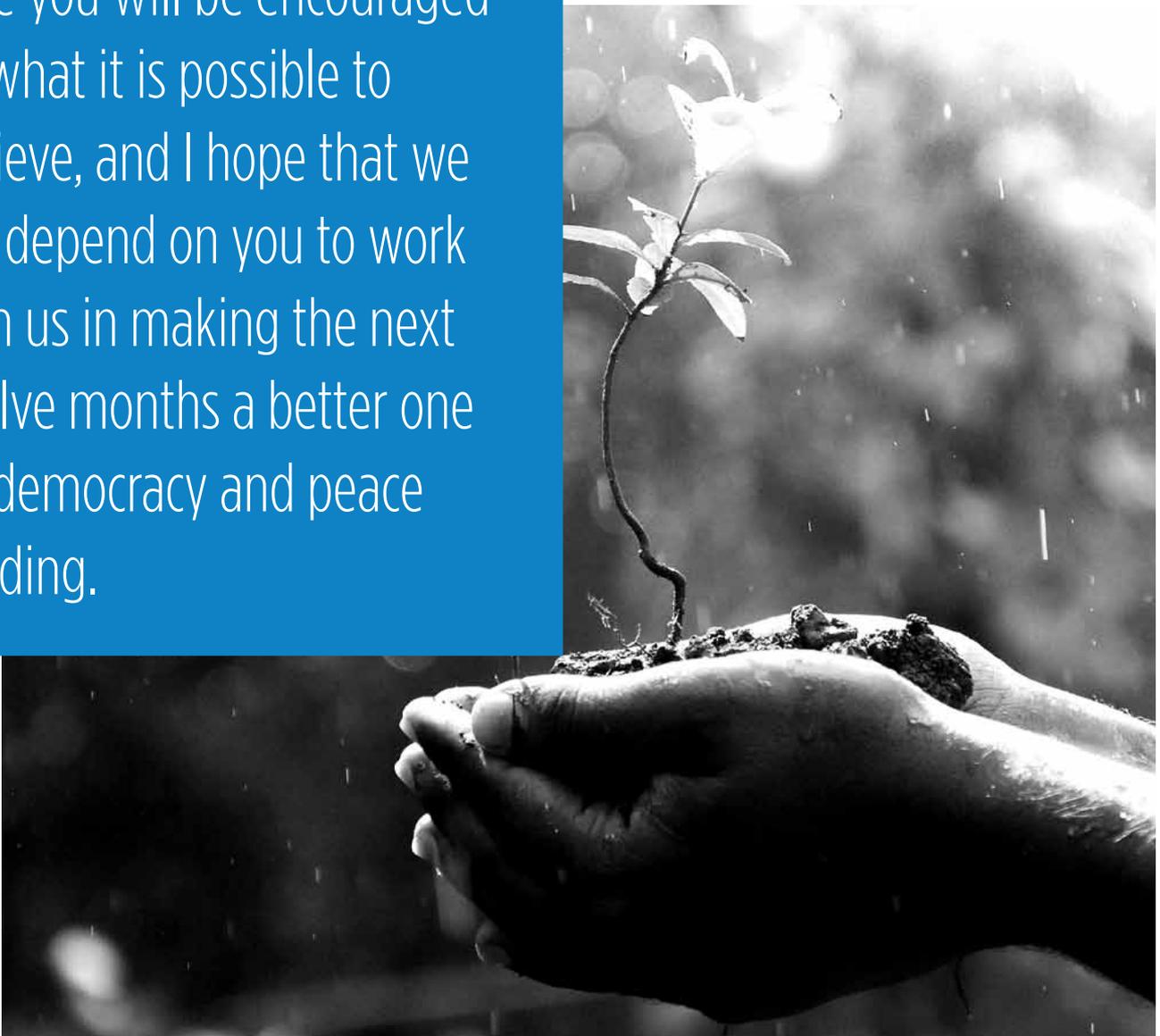
Most of all of course, I am joined by my Board colleagues in expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude to our CEO, Eva Grosman. She carries a prodigious work load with irrepressible charm, extraordinary energy, and a serious and profound commitment to all the causes which the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building was founded to promote.

All of you who know anything of CDPB, know how fortunate we are to have Eva, and as you read in this report about the work of CDPB over the past year, you will see the positive signs of Eva's engagement in every single activity and project.

In this difficult and uncertain time you will be encouraged by what it is possible to achieve, and I hope that we can depend on you to work with us in making the next twelve months a better one for democracy and peace building.

John, Lord Alderdice
Chairman

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Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without assistance from many public, private and community partners. We are truly grateful for all the support, especially from:

British Council
British and Irish Intergovernmental Secretariats
Community Relationship Council
Corrymeela
Department of Foreign Affairs
Diamond Recruitment
Dr Terry Cross OBE
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
MCE PR
Michael Foster TV
Mills Selig
Northern Ireland Assembly Legislative Strengthening Trust / Politics Plus
People Plus NI
Professor David Phinnemore and Dr Lee McGowan
Mitchell Institute, Queen's University Belfast
Ruth Flood Associates
Sir Van Morrison
The Executive Office
U.S. Consulate Belfast
Uber
Ulster Bank
Washington Ireland Program
Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Executive Summary

“Roots & Wings”

The Centre for Democracy & Peace Building (CDPB) enters its fourth year having established firm roots within Northern Ireland - helping to complete the peace process, change attitudes and share our experience internationally.

Our work in EU Debate NI positively contributed to the Brexit debate in Northern Ireland before and after the referendum. We have had another successful year engaging with Loyalist bands through our impactful Music Unite programme, shared ideas worth spreading through TEDxStormont events and hosted the Women Entrepreneurship Day in Northern Ireland.

We have been involved in many key events including: Rising to Reconciliation with Irish Department of Foreign Affairs; Town Hall meeting in London with President Obama; speaking at Irish Association Conference in Corrymeela with President Higgins; meeting former UK Prime Ministers Tony Blair & Sir John Major about Brexit; engaging with all NI political parties; meeting with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD; meeting with Senator George Mitchell; working in partnership with the U.S. Consulate Belfast; speaking at the RISING Global Peace Forum; attending the annual British-Irish Association conference in Oxford and attending the All-Island Civic Dialogue.

Our international work took us to Lebanon, Tunisia, the U.S. and Colombia where we engaged with political and civic leaders, community groups, former combatants and future leaders. In addition, we hosted many delegations seeking to learn from our experience in Northern Ireland.

We also celebrated the work of the Centre with a very special private concert with the legendary Sir Van Morrison in September 2016. We also warmly acknowledge the achievements of our Chairman Lord Alderdice in being awarded “Excellence in Promoting Peace & Collaboration” by the Global Thinkers Forum and our Director Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP being awarded a Knighthood.



About the CDPB

The Centre for Democracy and Peace Building (CDPB) is committed to completing the peace process; changing attitudes; building a normal society and sharing the experience with others in conflict.

Our Objectives

Leadership

Supporting leadership within civil society and political parties to address grievances and to build confidence in political institutions;

Community

Empowering and enabling communities to develop bespoke solutions that address and remove the causes of division and violent conflict;

Capacity Building

Building the capacity and competency of civil society to engage with the emotional reactions that facilitate growth of violent extremism;

Publishing

Capturing and documenting the lessons and experiences from Northern Ireland and other places which have experienced violent political conflicts;

Knowledge Exchange

Providing a knowledge exchange platform in democracy and peace building;

Research

Facilitating research and discussion in partnership with government and civil society on the development and implementation of policies and programmes that build a shared and united community.

Directors and Executive Team

CDPB Board

Chairman

The Lord Alderdice

Directors

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson
Professor Deirdre Heenan
Chris Maccabe CB

Executive Team

Eva Grosman, Chief Executive
Conor Houston, Programme Director

Senior Advisors

Liam Maskey, Community Engagement
ACC Stephen Martin, Policing and Security
Niall Johnston, Parliaments and International Engagement
Tina McKenzie, Business and Commerce

Project Manager Music Unite

Nigel Kells

Activities

April 2016

- **Screening and community outreach programme launch:** Born & Reared documentary, Lyric Theatre
- **Countering Violent Extremism Leadership Academy,** University of Liverpool, London Campus
- **'Rising to Reconciliation' event** hosted by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, Abbey Theatre, Dublin
- **Town Hall meeting with President Barack Obama,** London

May 2016

- **Launch EU Debate NI Toolkit**
- **EU Debate NI event** with Training for Women Network, Belfast

June 2016

- **EU Debate NI Competing Visions event,** Riddel Hall, Belfast
- Irish Association Annual Conference, Corrymeela, Ballycastle
- CDPB AGM and Strategic Planning Meeting held in Glenariff, Co. Antrim
- **Presentation at Tech For Good at Digital DNA,** Belfast
- **Visit by the former UK Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair,** Ulster University, Derry-Londonderry
- **EU Debate NI event** with Shankill Women's Centre, Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast
- **Event with Alex Salmond MP,** Derry Chamber of Commerce
- **Event with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD,** Ulster University, Belfast
- **Appearance on BBC Radio Ulster** to discuss EU Debate NI
- **CDPB host Inspiring Women Together event** in London, including visits to the UK Parliament and Irish Embassy, London
- **EU Debate NI event at St Michael's Primary School,** Randlestown
- **Launch of the Senator George Mitchell Institute at QUB,** Belfast
- **Dealing with difference in contemporary British society event** at House of Lords, London

July 2016

- **PR Global Tasks event,** University of London
- **What's next for NI business?** Brexit event hosted by CBI



August 2016

- **Launch of Women's Entrepreneurship Day** at Parliament Buildings, Stormont – CDPB Senior Advisor Board Tina McKenzie appointed WED European Ambassador
- **Music Unite event** to mark For Your Freedom And Ours launch in East Belfast



September 2016

- **Launch of EU Debate NI paper:** Establishing the best outcome for NI post-referendum, Ulster Bank, Belfast
- **Meeting with Historic Royal Palaces** to learn about transformation of Hillsborough Castle
- **CDPB joint event** with Washington Ireland Program and U.S. Consulate Belfast for the U.S. Presidential Election at Belfast City Hall
- **Global Peace Foundation International Conference** at Riddel Hall, Belfast
- **Elyse Cherry, CEO Boston Community Capital visit to Belfast;** events with US Consulate and LGBTQ Diversity Network
- **Jennifer Rawlings, filmmaker and comedian event** at Culture Night Belfast
- **TEDxStormont "Imagine" event** at The MAC, Belfast
- **CDPB Dinner & Private Concert** with Sir Van Morrison at the Culloden Hotel, Holywood
- **Peace Day event** at Maze-Long Kesh
- **CDPB meeting with Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA** on Unite Against Hate campaign and hate crime action plan for NI
- **EU Debate NI Brexit Briefing with Acordia Business Network,** North Down



October 2016

- **Lecture by Dr Eugen Koh Art,** trauma & cultural change, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast
- **Art of Change event by Dr Eugen Koh,** 174 Trust, Belfast
- **RISING Global Peace Forum:** Coventry to Belfast – Journeys of Dialogue & Reconciliation at Parliament Buildings, Stormont
- **EU Debate NI meeting with EU Commission Belfast**
- **CDPB visit to USA** – New York & Baltimore – events and lectures
- **British Council reception at The MAC**
- **Belfast Homecoming event** in Titanic Belfast
- **TEDxStormont Women event** at Parliament Buildings, Stormont
- **EU Debate NI Post-Referendum** event with Training For Women Network, Belfast



November 2016

- **Attend All-Island Civic Dialogue** with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD
- **Meeting with Shadow Secretary of State for NI** Dave Anderson MP
- **EU Debate NI event** with Social Enterprise NI & CO3, Belfast
- **EU Debate NI event** with Cathedral Youth Club, Londonderry
- **EU Debate NI event** with Include Youth, Belfast
- **Women's Entrepreneurship Day** at Ulster Bank, Belfast
- **RISING 16 Global Peace Conference**, Coventry
- **EU Debate NI event** with Belfast Royal Academy School
- **Visit to Lebanon** with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD): Participation & tolerance in the Arab region
- EU Debate NI, Ulster University, Belfast
- **Hammamet Conference** hosted by the British Council in Tunisia



December 2016

- **CDPB Chairman Lord Alderdice awarded Honorary Award for Excellence in Promoting Peace & Collaboration by the Global Thinkers Forum, London**
- **Attend Commonwealth** – Asia Young Enterprise event, London
- **Host Dr Ofrit Liviatan**, Harvard University during her visit to Belfast
- **Irish Department of Foreign Affairs Annual Reconciliation Networking event**, Belfast



January 2017

- **Hosted Baroness Alison Suttie**, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for NI during her visit to Belfast
- **Hosted WFD delegation from Democratic Republic of Congo** during their visit to Belfast
- **EU Debate NI attend QUB event** “The UK, Brexit & the UK-Ireland relationship”
- **Meet with Irish Consul-General in New York** to discuss work of CDPB
- **EU Debate NI post-referendum event** with Greater North Belfast Women's Network

February 2017

- **CDPB visit to Colombia** involving three weeks of events and speaking engagements; signed partnership agreement with CEAL at the Colombia Senate
- **Music Unite event with Pride of the Shore Road**
- **Attend the 2nd All-Island Civic Dialogue in Dublin**



March 2017

- **Music Unite event at Loughside Recreation Centre**, Belfast
- Host Westminster Foundation for Democracy delegation from **Indonesia visit to Belfast** – meetings with Attorney-General NI, PSNI and QUB
- **Host Colombian delegation during their visit to Belfast**

TEDxStormont

Leading thinkers, innovators, artists and entertainers from the UK, Ireland and the United States shared ideas worth spreading and imagined the kind of future we could have together as a society, here in Northern Ireland and beyond. In 2016-17 we hosted two TEDx events:

TEDxStormont “Imagine” event

The MAC Belfast | 13 speakers | 300 attendees

Speakers:

CEO Boston Community Capital | Vice-Chancellor Queen's University Belfast | Economist | Faith Leader | Junior Minister | Singer | Comedian | Yoga teacher | CBI Chairman | Senior Executive from Twitter | Director RISING Global Peace Forum | Space Company CEO | Award-winning Choir. Hosted by William Crawley, BBC



TEDxStormont Women event

Great Hall Parliament Buildings, Stormont | 15 speakers | 200 attendees

Speakers:

Minister for Justice | Surgeon and Airline Captain | Chair of Age NI | Health Advocate & Personal Growth Enthusiast | Perinatal Mental Health Advocate | Regional Operations Manager, Alzheimer's Society | Drag Queen and BBC Journalist | Deputy CEO, Contact NI | Peak Performance Coach and Best-selling Author | Award Winning Photo Journalist | Burlesque Dancer | Lawyer and Senior Partner | Singer-Songwriter. Hosted by Sarah Travers



TEDxStormont Women presents a wonderful opportunity to hear from some fantastic women from the worlds of politics, business, and entertainment and beyond as they share their ideas worth spreading. **Eva Grosman, Curator TEDxStormont**



We're proud to support our local communities and TEDxStormont Women is an excellent way to do that. This event provides people with the opportunity to hear from some truly innovative and insightful speakers and build on the energy and enthusiasm generated by the most recent event at the MAC **Richard Donnan, Head of Northern Ireland at Ulster Bank**

EU Debate NI

EU Debate NI sought to create the space for informed debate through flagship events, research, online engagement and community outreach across NI to promote a national conversation about Brexit.

“ We developed a public conversation which we called EU Debate NI. I pay tribute to Eva Grosman and Conor Houston from CDPB that I run in Belfast. This became the major initiative in Northern Ireland: a public conversation, not campaigning for one side or the other, but enabling people from all sides and with all views to come together in public and engage on the legal, constitutional, educational, agricultural, industrial, economic—all aspects of the question. It meant that in Northern Ireland the debate was able to be conducted without some of the rancour and vitriol that there was in other parts of the UK. **Lord Alderdice, House of Lords debate** ”

“ CDPB’s workshop on “Brexit and Your Community” was not only timely, but very informative and thought provoking for the many grassroots women who attended. **Patricia Lewsley-Mooney CBE, TWN Chairperson** ”

“ CDPB led a workshop for CO3 and Social Enterprise NI on Brexit and its implications for the Third Sector. It offered thoughtful questions, expertise and clarity on an issue which is surrounded by uncertainty. Their insightful presentation allowed members space and opportunity to consider relevant questions regarding Brexit. The feedback from members has been extremely positive, so much so, that I have received several requests to organise a follow-up event in 2017. **Nora Smith, CEO CO3** ”



20 events | **1500** attendees
2 Research Papers | Online Toolkits |
30k + accessed Online Resources

Music Unite

Music Unite – CDPB’s flagship programme provides opportunities to the members of Loyalist Flute Bands to engage with musicians from diverse backgrounds and cultures, develop new skills, explore their identity, challenge stereotypes and increase their sense of belonging.

In 2016-17 we engaged with Pride of the Shore in Belfast, Cormeen Rising Sons of William in Armagh and Gortagilly Coronation in Moneymore. The programme was coordinated by Project Manger Nigel Kells and Creative Director Leonie McDonagh.

“ The tunes we learned are ones everyone knows, everyone likes – regardless of where they come from or what age they are.

Band member Pride of the Shore

“ It was a Saturday evening and the band were in great form and obviously keen to perform their new songs. The overall sense was that the band members got a taste of the potential of their band – a moment of pride in themselves. The atmosphere was positive and the room was transformed – there was a real feeling of joy in the performance.

Member of public attending performance by Pride of the Shore at The Times Bar Belfast

“ The combination of crisp Blood and Thunder marching band flute with the iconic Rock sound of electric guitar, subtly accompanied by a combination of rock drum kit and marching side drum kicked the night off in spectacular fashion. It was fantastic!

Member of public attending event at Loughside Community Centre



20 workshops | **3** bands |
90 participants | **4** public events |
500+ reached | **10k +** online
participation

Women Entrepreneurship Day (WED)

Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED), the world's largest entrepreneurial and financial empowerment initiative, recently appointed country ambassadors to oversee and coordinate activities in over 144 countries worldwide, supporting, empowering, and celebrating women entrepreneurs on every continent.

CDPB CEO Eva Grosman has been the Northern Ireland WED Ambassador since 2015 and our Senior Advisor Tina McKenzie acted as WED Ambassador for Europe in 2016.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2016 was hosted and supported by the Ulster Bank in their Belfast HQ. Event speakers included Lord Alderdice (CDPB Chairman), Cathy Martin (WED Ambassador for Ireland and founder of CMPR) and Brenda McLaughlin CBE (NI Trustee on the National Board of NSPCC) and Karen Lawther, Head of Markets NI, Ulster Bank.

“We take pride in supporting initiatives like WED which offer people the chance to learn, connect and gain confidence from some truly inspiring speakers.” **Karen Lawther, Head of Markets NI and Chair of Focused Women, Ulster Bank**

“While in some areas of work life the particular contributions of women, and the proper regard for women as equal citizens is increasingly recognised, other areas of the economy still deny themselves the business advantage that women's creativity brings to the top table. Women's Entrepreneurship Day gives us a chance to remind ourselves and others of the exciting successes of women as entrepreneurs in social, economic and public life.” **Lord Alderdice, CDPB Chairman**

Unite Against Hate

In 2014, the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building took an initiative to re-launch the award winning Unite Against Hate campaign. The UAH campaign continues to raise awareness of hate crime among the general public, to address under-reporting of hate crime and to promote the benefits of diversity among people in Northern Ireland via social media. In 2016 UAH established a partnership with the For Your Freedom and Ours educational project.

W: www.uniteagainsthate.org.uk | Twitter: @Unite_NI

Art, Trauma and Cultural Change

CDPB hosted lecture and workshop with Dr Eugen Koh – a psychiatrist, psychoanalytic psychotherapist and artist who has worked over the past decade with traumatised communities, assisting them to explore the use of their art and culture in healing collective trauma.

Culture is the shared element of our everyday life that holds and nourishes us. It influences the way we think and feel, and the way we are with each other. It is not easily seen and we don't think of questioning it. It is simply 'our way of being'. When communities are repeatedly traumatised by conflict over a long period their culture is damaged and changed, rebuilt over the rubble of the conflict and trauma. Peace built on such cultural ground is uncertain and fragile.

As a result of Dr Koh visit, CDPB published a paper, which discusses the impact of trauma on culture and the possible role of the arts in addressing the deeply embedded residues of conflict and trauma from the Troubles of Northern Ireland. It considered how the arts, being a critical interpretative instrument of culture, can lead the way towards creating a stronger cultural ground for peace-building.

W: www.democracyandpeace.org/publications

Sharing the Northern Ireland Experience

In recent years there has been significant international interest in learning from the Northern Ireland experience of peace-building. Work has been undertaken in countries and regions as diverse as Burma, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Cyprus, Moldova, Colombia, the Middle East, Libya, Tunisia, Nagorno Karabakh, Kosovo and the Basque region. There have been hundreds of delegations from these and other conflicts that have visited with us in Northern Ireland to benefit from our expertise and experience in subjects like peace-building, conflict transformation, security normalisation, countering violent extremism etc.

As CDPB continues to support the Northern Ireland peace process, we also shared our experience with the international community in countries including the USA, Lebanon, Colombia, Morocco, Tunisia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Singapore and Australia.

CDPB engaged with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Justice for Colombia and the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at the Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford and other partners to develop and deliver international programmes.

In February 2017, during the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building visit to Bogota and Cali, CDPB signed a partnership agreement with the Centre for Research and Higher Legislative Studies at the Colombian Senate to develop and deliver joint outreach and capacity building programmes.

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Contact details



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