



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING

Annual Report **2018**

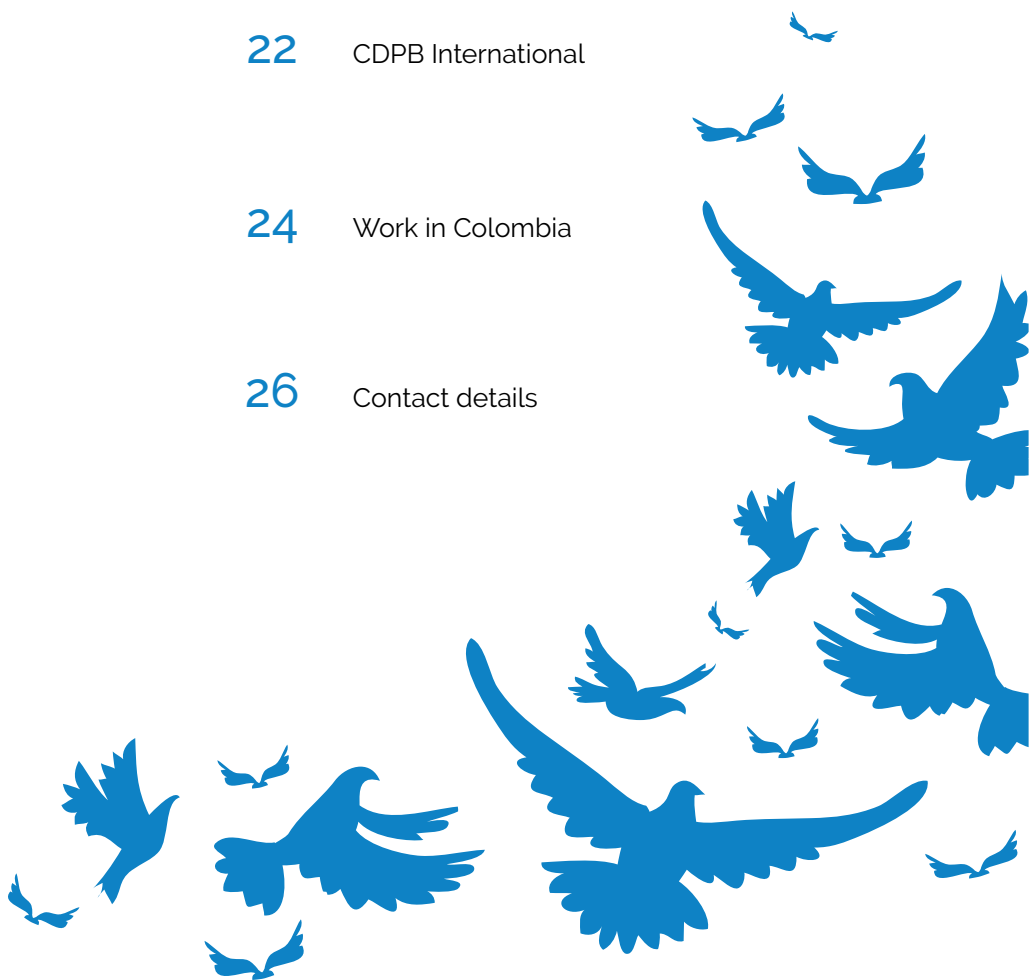




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The challenges of our time...



In my life-time there has never been a greater need, across the world, for people to work for democracy and peace building.

When we started CDPB our focus was largely on Northern Ireland – what we had learned, and what we needed to do to complete the Peace Process. It has been exciting and inspirational to work with colleagues in CDPB, especially our remarkable CEO, Eva Grosman, as well as with friends and co-workers in the public, private and community sectors at home and right across the world. As you will see from even the briefest glance through the pages of this report, CDPB has been active from the Middle East to Latin America, throughout Europe, with colleagues in the United States, the United Kingdom and of course North and South of the border in Ireland. In all these many activities we have seen much to confirm and develop both our understandings of conflict and violence, and also what we might call 'civil paths to peace'. However, as I noted in last year's report, we face huge challenges. How can we contribute to getting devolution in Northern Ireland back up and running? What is it possible to do to improve the atmosphere and attitudes in our divided community? Where can we find the best ideas for achieving an outcome to Brexit that takes us forward and not backward on the island of Ireland and in the United Kingdom? These are tough questions, and the answers involve everyone paying some kind of price, but with the chance of enormous community benefit.

You will see in this report an extraordinary range and level of activity. Some of our work, like Music Unite, has built on the methods and ideas that we have been using for a few years now, albeit with a number of new partners and new types of music. In other areas we have been exploring novel ways of understanding what can be done to capitalize on the extraordinary pace of technological development. There has rightly been much focus in the media on the threats from social media to personal privacy and freedom, and the proper functioning of democracy, and we are very conscious of these challenges, but we also believe that these technologies can bring new options and opportunities for democracy and peace building and we will continue to work on this in the upcoming year. In any report of the past year I must of course draw attention to the cooperation with the British Council and others on the Peace and Beyond Conference in Belfast in April 2018 marking the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. This was a week of amazing events with real political significance and impact and we hope to work further with British Council in the next twelve months.

As we indicated last year the Board of CDPB has decided to engage more closely with some of our partners outside Ireland and especially the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at based at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford and already I look forward to being able to report next year on the new ways in which we are continuing to fulfil our commitment to democracy and peace building.

There are few things that are more challenging, or more worthwhile and necessary, and few colleagues more inspiring to work with than those in CDPB.

Why not join us and make your contribution?

John, Lord Alderdice
Chairman



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.

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:

Dr Terry Cross OBE

ARTIS (Europe)

Belfast Live

Bespoke Communications

British Council

British and Irish Intergovernmental Secretariats

Brown O'Connor Communications

Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflict, Harris Manchester College

Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University

Community Relationship Council

Corrymeela

Danske Bank

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People Plus NI

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Ulster Bank

Ulster University

Washington Ireland Program

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

William J. Clinton Leadership Institute, Queen's University Belfast

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.

CDPB Team

Chairman

John, Lord Alderdice

Directors

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

Professor Deirdre Heenan

Chris Maccabe CB

Tina McKenzie

Executive Team

Eva Grosman, Chief Executive

Conor Houston, Programme Director

Advisory Board Members

Liam Maskey, Community Engagement

ACC Stephen Martin, Policing and Security

Niall Johnston, Parliaments and International Engagement



WIP Interns

CDPB were delighted to continue our strong relationship with the Washington Ireland Program (WIP). This brilliant organisation inspires and develops promising leaders through a programme of personal development, policy debate and community service.

As part of their community service, we were thrilled to have 4 WIP Interns from the Class of 2017 to work with us throughout 2017-18: Tara Grace Connolly, Rachel Watters, Robert Murtagh and Martin McKiernan. They engaged with CDPB as part of our preparations for the major international conference, Peace and Beyond.

We are indebted to them for their professionalism, hard work, passion and incredible enthusiasm. They assisted us in curating the workshops that took place as part of Peace and Beyond bringing their perspective on issues including: embracing our most marginalised, healing the troubled mind, building prosperity in a post-conflict society and culture, change and reconciliation.

Working with the team at the British Council and Michael Foster TV they produced short videos highlighting the views of young people across Northern Ireland as they reflected on their hopes on the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

WIP and CDPB are proud to share a joint aim: to support leaders committed to building a future of peace and prosperity for Northern Ireland. These brilliant and talented young people epitomise this vision and demonstrate CDPB's ongoing commitment to the development of our future leaders.



Projects and Highlights

EU Debate NI

EU Debate NI hosted 5 Roundtable events, which provided a space for informed discussion focused on developing flexible and imaginative solutions for Northern Ireland post-Brexit.

These Roundtable events involved key stakeholders from across the private, public and community sectors to encourage a solutions-orientated approach, informed by leading academic expertise.

These thematic events focused on how we navigate the Brexit process, solutions for the post-Brexit UK-EU relationship and policy priorities in the context of devolution, and included:

- Trade: Retaining and Enhancing the Competitiveness of NI Businesses
- Ensuring Co-operation and Strategic Partnerships on the Environment and Agri-Food Sectors
- Ensuring Co-operation and Strategic Partnerships on the Environment and Energy Sectors
- Maintaining the Common Travel Area, Citizenship & Rights
- Building Our Knowledge Economy: The Higher Education Solution



Key Observers, including representatives from the NI Civil Service, UK Government and other relevant decision-makers were invited to all events.

The launch 'Navigating Brexit: A Roundtable Series' took place at the Ulster Bank Entrepreneurial Spark and included a briefing from Professor David Phinnemore on the current status of the Brexit negotiations.

'Navigating Brexit: A Roundtable Series' was kindly supported by Diamond Recruitment.





Projects and Highlights

Music Unite

We were delighted to be able to continue our flagship Music Unite programme and provide 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.

We hosted Music Unite event in The Duncairn as a part of Imagine Belfast Festival of Politics and Ideas. The event brought together Patrick Ayrton – internationally renowned conductor, harpsichordist, organist and professor at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague and celebrated German violinist Daniela Helm with Cormeen Rising Sons of William flute band for a very special night of music and friendship.



The evening included an amazing performance by Frasier Hickland, a 19-year-old pianist and organist from Lisburn and a fascinating talk by the award-winning author Clare Mulley about Krystyna Skarbek, Britain's first female special agent during WWII.

We also celebrated the success of 'For Your Freedom and Ours' shared history programme with Maciek Bator.

This project is supported by the Executive Office's Together Building United Community programme.

Special thanks to Nigel Kells, Project Manager and John Higgins, Music Director.





Projects and Highlights

TEDxStormont

Ana Matronic from the world-famous band Scissor Sisters addressed our annual TEDxStormont Women. The Scissor Sisters frontwoman and robot obsessive, Ana Matronic has written about her love of robotics in her book 'Robot Takeover' which looks at 100 of the most iconic robots from popular culture. The book also explores robots in music, art and fashion.

The third in the series of TEDxStormont Women events was organized and curated by CDPB's CEO Eva Grosman. The theme this year is 'Bridges' and brought some of the high-profile speakers from varied backgrounds such as journalism, music, business and the arts to Belfast for this sold out event.

Standing on the iconic red dot, speakers had 12 minutes or less to share their ideas about the ways in which we build bridges, traverse them, and sometimes even burn them, for better or worse.



Speakers included:

- Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder & CEO, Global Thinkers Forum
- June Burgess, Property developer, leadership coach and international equestrian
- Maxine Mawhinney, International journalist, and broadcaster
- Jayne Gallagher, People manager, networker, lover of shopping
- Rosemary Jenkinson, Writer, artist-in-residence, Lyric Belfast
- Clare Mulley, Award-winning author, historian of women and war
- Vanessa Woolf, Professional storyteller
- Lyra McKee, Freelance journalist, writer, editor
- Naomh McElhatton, Digital educator
- Tina McKenzie, Business leader, disrupter, connector
- Ana Matronic, Artist, author, DJ and broadcaster

The event was compered by presenter and event host Sarah Travers.



Projects and Highlights

Digital DNA 2017

We were delighted to host a session on 'Technology, social cohesion and peace advocacy' during Digital DNA. In this digital age, technology is altering how we engage with the world, offering new avenues for social change.

At Digital DNA we explored how technology can help to foster contact and collaboration between groups in conflict settings and to create new ways for people to influence or take action in their community to promote peaceful attitudes. Panellists included: Louisa Worlidge, Global Lead, Digital, Partnerships and Innovation, British Council; Stephen Shashoua, Founder, Plan C: Culture and Cohesion; Hen Norton – Director and Film Producer; Louise Guido, CEO, M4 Global Partners and Angela Baker, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Qualcomm Wireless. The session was co-chaired by Eva Grosman and Conor Houston, Centre for Democracy and Peace Building.



Projects and Highlights

World Science Forum

Thanks to the invitation from our friends the Global Thinkers Forum, the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building partnered with the WANA Institute and hosted a session at the World Science Forum in Jordan.

World Science Forum 2017 theme was Science for Peace. It engaged the world of science and redefined the global potential of scientific communities and policymakers to bring real change to our interlinked societies.

CDPB was delighted to co-curate and participate in the Emerging Concerns in Managing Radicalisation among Youth session. Panel moderated by Dr Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck, El Erian Fellow, The Carnegie Middle East Center (CMEC), Beirut included: Dr Neven Bondokji, West Asia North Africa Institute; Eva Grosman, CEO, Centre for Democracy and Peace Building; Professor Mike Hardy, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University and Amin Nehme, Lebanese Development Network.



Conor Houston
United Kingdom



Projects and Highlights

One Young World

Conor Houston, Consultant with the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building addressed the One Young World global youth summit in October 2017 in Bogota, Colombia.

The One Young World 2017 brought together over 2,000 young leaders from 190 countries around the world as well as international figures including Kofi Annan, Sir Bob Geldof and President Santos of Colombia.

Conor spoke as part of the 'Peace & Reconciliation' session and delivered a workshop with Belfast entrepreneur Peter Edgar on 'How to drive change: a lesson from Northern Ireland' supported by the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and the British Council.



Projects and Highlights

Crans Montana Forum

On the occasion of the Crans Montana Forum's 28th Annual Session, a Special Programme of the New Leaders for Tomorrow took place in Barcelona in July 2017.

CDPB Chief Executive Eva Grosman spoke at the special session on "Changes, Populist Upheavals and the World of Tomorrow". Among the topics addressed were the European Union, the Brexit and the first few months of the American Presidency.

The Crans Montana Forum is a Swiss Non-Governmental International Organization established in 1986. Its oldest Forums are held each year in Crans-Montana and Geneva . The Forum works with major international organisations, governments, businesses and NGOs.



Projects and Highlights

Peace and Beyond

British Council's international Peace and Beyond conference, organised in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and in association with the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building marked the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement in April 2018.

The conference provided an opportunity to look beyond Northern Ireland – and towards other international models of peacebuilding in countries including South Africa, Colombia, Lebanon, and the Western Balkans.

Speakers included South African advocate Thuli Madonsela, who worked closely with former President Nelson Mandela on the final constitution of South Africa; Professor Monica McWilliams, who played a significant role in the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday/Belfast Agreement and Senator George J. Mitchell, President Bill Clinton's former Special Envoy for Northern Ireland.

Across the three days, there were a series of lectures, plenary sessions, workshops, site visits and cultural events across Belfast around international peacebuilding and will include; a civic reception at Belfast City Hall on the evening of April 10, the awarding of the Christopher Ewart Biggs memorial prize – which is in memory of the UK's ambassador to Ireland, and a series of visits to grassroots organisations. The conference covered key topics including building resilient cities, the role of technology, engendering peacebuilding and marginalised communities.

Build Peace

Following Grosman's attendance of Build Peace 2017 in Bogota, Ulster University in partnership with Build Up and the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, will host the fifth international Build Peace conference in 2018.

Taking place from 29-31 October, the conference will bring together practitioners, activists, academics, policy makers, artists and technologists from across the world to share experience and ideas on using technology, arts and other innovations for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

The conference will host over 300 international delegates and cover three key themes including creativity and reconciliation, inclusion and social cohesion and sustainability and resilience. Across the three days there will be a series of short talks, dialogues, workshops and interactive exhibitions.

Eva Grosman, CEO of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building said:

"We are absolutely delighted that Build Peace will take place in Ulster University's Belfast campus this October. Following successful events in the US, Cyprus, Switzerland and Colombia, it is now time for Northern Ireland to showcase some remarkable projects, to learn and exchange ideas with colleagues from across the globe and to explore how technology, innovation and creativity can re-shape the economic opportunities, economic organisation and economic power that impact how we live together in peace. We are truly grateful for the support from Ulster University and Visit Belfast in securing this significant conference coming to Belfast this year and look forward to developing further partnerships in public, private and community sectors.





CDPB International

As CDPB continues to support the Northern Ireland peace process, we also shared our experience with the international community in countries including the USA, Spain, Jordan, Colombia, Sudan

CDPB engaged with the Global Thinkers Forum, World Science Forum, 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.



The former President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen, HE Ambassador Luostarinen and Professor Hastings Donnan at Queen's University Belfast.



With Dalai Lama during his visit to Northern Ireland.



Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman - Yemeni journalist, politician, human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.



Baltimore 2017. Community cohesion session with colleagues from RISING Global Peace Forum and University of Maryland.



Lucas Carvajal, member of FARC delegation during the peace talks in Havana making contribution to the IFIT session in Barcelona.



Marking International Women's Day at the Women in Culture and Science symposium and Athena40 launch at UNESCO in Paris with Global Thinkers Forum Founder and CEO Elizabeth Filippouli.



Engagement with former President of Catalonia Mr Artur Mas.



ETA disarmament: CDPB's Director Chris Maccabe among the International Verification Commission members.

Work in Colombia

In June 2017, Lord Alderdice and Eva Grosman travelled back to Colombia.

The visit involved lectures and presentations back at the Universidad de los Andes (an event to which we brought over two senior colleagues from Coventry University, Professor Alpaslan Özerdem and Professor Matt Qvortrup) at the Center for Memory, Peace and Reconciliation, Bogota Chamber of Commerce, and also at Rosario University, the Human Rights Institute of the American University of Colombia and with some new contacts in La Paz Querida, Rodeemos el Diálogo, ACIDI VOCA / Partnerships For Reconciliation, the Colombia Brain Trust and the Agencia de Renovacion Territorial.

Lord Alderdice and Eva Grosman also met with President Santos, who meantime had undertaken a State Visit to the United Kingdom, including time in Belfast studying the Irish Peace Process. President Santos was very persuaded of the relevance of our Irish experience to the challenges he was facing in the Colombia Peace Process.

Very importantly, other engagements included meeting with Raúl Rosende, the Chief of Staff of the United Nations mission to discuss the problems of decommissioning the FARC weapons; Frank Perls and Alberto Fergusson, both of whom had been negotiating with the ELN on behalf of the Government; and meetings both in Bogota and in Cauca region with leaders of FARC to discuss their commitment to and involvement in the Peace Process and the transition to democratic politics.

While in Bogota we met with the British Ambassador, Dr Peter Tibber, and his colleague, Adam Forbes, and the Irish Government representative, Pat Colgan, to discuss how we could best develop a programme of assistance for Colombia.

The highest profile event of this visit was a lecture on "Parliaments as Peace-builders" to a large meeting of parliamentarians, staff and members

of the public at the Colombian Senate, organized with the Secretary-General of the Senate, Gregorio Elijach.

A much more private, but nonetheless useful and important meeting was with leading figures of the 'No' campaign, who are opposed to the Peace Process. Given the low opinion poll ratings of President Santos, it seemed very important to engage with them, if the process is to survive beyond the Presidential Elections in 2018.

We are currently working with colleagues in London, Oxford, Belfast and Bogota on a package of interventions, including visits to the UK (including Northern Ireland) for FARC and other participants in the Colombian Peace Process to meet with those in Northern Ireland who have made the transition from terrorist violence to governmental responsibility, and also visits back to Colombia to address the training requests we have received, particularly from those moving into politics.





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