



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING



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AND PEACE BUILDING

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Acknowledgments

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Still I Rise Diversity Storytelling
Terry Cross OBE
Ulster Carpets
Ulster University
Washington Ireland Program



Chairman's Remarks

This past year has brought great challenges for many as together we have faced the impact of a global pandemic. Despite this, CDPB has continued to deliver a programme of activities that bring people together, even if it has often been by virtual means. Our commitment to peace building and the strengthening of democracy remains undiminished.

This annual report provides an insight into our ongoing work, often alongside excellent partners such as Bryan Patten and the Washington Ireland Program, with a focus on empowering the next generation as they take on the baton of peace and step forward to provide the leadership of the future. One of our successful joint initiatives in the past year has been our engagement with Yale University in delivering the 'Democracy, Identity and Civil Society' Program and we hope to undertake further such projects in the year ahead.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to our funders, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Irish American Partnership. They share our desire to foster and promote reconciliation and join in our commitment to investing in our young people. Without the support of people like Aidan Browne and Mary Sugrue we would not have been in a position to deliver so much in these difficult times.

I also wish to place on record our great admiration for the solid leadership provided by our CEO Eva Grosman as she has directed the work of our project teams and helped mentor our fantastic interns and also our appreciation to the members of our Corporate and Advisory Boards. So many people give freely of their time to advise and support the work of CDPB and without them, our achievements would not have been possible.

Looking ahead, our Board has exciting plans for the development of CDPB. We are currently in the process of finalising our charitable status and have plans to develop a new 'Fellowship' programme and an online platform as well as establishing new corporate partnerships that will help make us even more effective in delivering our various projects.

As our peoples begin to emerge from the pandemic and look forward to better times, maybe we have a slightly different perspective on life and are more appreciative of things we once took for granted. Perhaps this offers an even greater opportunity to promote and strengthen the values associated with democracy and peace building and to be agents for change in a way that is truly transformative of how we live and work together.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson



**Our purpose
Our vision
Our mission
Objectives**

About CDPB

CDPB's purpose is to uphold and share the values and principles of democracy in order to build peace, stability and prosperity.

Our vision is to create societies with a shared sense of responsibility, opportunity, community, and above all a shared sense of humanity, based upon a respect for dignity and diversity.

Our mission is to provide innovative programmes and solutions, based on lessons from the Irish peace process, that enable civic leaders to respond effectively to social, political, and economic challenges across the globe.

Objectives

Thought Leadership

Facilitate conversations and research to pioneer new ideas and solutions addressing critical issues that impact the future of democracy and peace-building

Capacity Building

Build the capacity and competency of civil society to engage with the emotional reactions that give birth to and fuel polarisation and conflict

Leadership

Support leadership within the wider civic society to build political and civic systems that are robust to a variety of changes

Community

Empower and enable leaders to develop bespoke solutions that build resilience and understanding in the communities they represent

Knowledge Exchange

Provide a knowledge exchange platform in democracy and peace building



**Directors
and
Executive
Team**

Chairman Emeritus

The Lord Alderdice

Chairman

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

Directors

Prof Chris Maccabe CB, Niall Johnston

CEO and Company Secretary

Eva Grosman

Senior Advisors

Stacy King, Sinead O'Sullivan

TEDxStormont Team

Kaja Choma – Production Manager

Jordan Whitefield – Marketing Manager

Irka Laskowska – Design

Interns 2020 – 2021



Barry Doherty

Barry Doherty from Derry, Northern Ireland, studied History and Politics at Queen's University Belfast and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in International Relations. Barry has a particular interest in conflict resolution, inter-state dialogue, and diplomacy.



Natasha Oviedo

Natasha Oviedo is a current Rotary Scholar and postgraduate student in the Conflict Transformation and Social Justice MA program at Queen's University Belfast. Natasha previously interned at Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Red Hen Press. She also volunteers at Horn of Africa People's Aid NI (HAPANI).



Erin Hallett-Smith

Erin has joined us from Ontario, Canada, where she did her undergraduate degree in Sociology and Psychology. Currently she is working towards her MA in Violence, Terrorism, and Security at Queen's University Belfast.



Leslie Thayer

Leslie Thayer studied political science with a concentration on democratic institutions in East/Central Europe in her undergrad. Currently she is completing a Master's in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's University. Her study abroad experiences have taken her to several different places including the UK, Poland, Italy, and Hawaii.



Phoebe Hagan

Phoebe is a recent graduate from Durham University where she studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Her dissertation examined the barriers to effectiveness of UN Policy addressing Sexual Exploitation and Assault by UN Peacekeepers. She hopes to pursue a masters in the realm of Peace and Conflict Studies in 2021.



TEDxStormont Summer Camp

In 2020, due to the global pandemic, TEDxStormont went virtual for the first time with a stellar line up of speakers from varied backgrounds such as health, politics, technology, academia, business, and the arts. TEDxStormont, in its eighth year in Northern Ireland, built upon the work of the first-ever virtual TED2020: 'Unchartered', an eight-week programme of talks and conversations streamed across the world.

The TEDxStormont Summer Camp featured bespoke and unique online programme such as Thought for the Day, Coffee Club, Main Stage TEDxStormont Talks, Creative Hub and Gin O'Clock. The week-long 'summer camp' also included 'fireside chat' style conversations with some well-known leaders such as:

- Health Minister Robin Swann MLA with newly appointed NI Mental Health Champion Professor Siobhan O'Neill,
- Former NI Secretary of State, Rt Hon Julian Smith MP
- Managing Director of Allstate NI, John Healy
- Hospitality Sector Leader, Bill Wolsey

TEDxStormont Speakers included:

- Astra McNicholl, Founder and Creative Strategist, Itty Bitty Book Co.
- Aoibhéann McCann, Irish Actress and Activist
- Bláthnaid Carlin, Mother, Doctor, Eco-campaigner
- Candice Mama, Author and Forgiveness Advocate
- E. Louise McCavana, Lawyer, Strategist, Entrepreneur
- Ian Wolter, Award Winning Sculptor
- Matthew Cavan, Actor and Drag Performer
- Professor Karise Hutchinson, Educator and Provost, Ulster University

TEDxStormont Summer Camp was sponsored by Allstate NI, Elemental, Change Your Mind and Inspire Group and supported by Corrymeela, NOW Group, Bullitt Hotel, Hinch, and Bespoke Communications.

 **358**
Zoom participants

 **50,000+**
Facebook LIVE
views

 **22,409**
YouTube views





Hiroshima Resilience Project

Thanks to the support from Community Relations Council, CDPB in collaboration with the Oleander Initiative in Cambridge, MA, USA and Peace Culture Village in Hiroshima, Japan delivered number of interactive Hiroshima Resilience Project workshops between January and March 2021.

The Hiroshima Resilience Project (HRP) paired live online presenters/facilitators with virtual technology to tell the story of Hiroshima, before, during and after the atomic bombing.

The story of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima is of tragedy, catastrophe and loss. However, it is also one of hope, optimism and moving forward. The HRP presents these different but surprisingly complementary narratives in order for participants to gain new understanding of this pivotal event. In doing so, the HRP inspires participants to think deeply about the concept of resilience and its role in their lives and communities.

Throughout this journey, participants follow the story of Toshiko, a 6-year-old hibakusha (survivor) of the bombing. Through Toshiko, participants first experience what happened on August 6, 1945 and then join her and the resilient citizens of Hiroshima to transform their city into the beautiful “City of Peace” that inspires millions around the world today.

The HRP utilizes computer graphics renderings, Artificial Intelligence colourised photos, virtual simulations, rare historical film footage, interactive polls, discussion sessions, and introspective activities on a Google Earth platform.

The Hiroshima Resilience Project is a collaboration between the Oleander Initiative in Cambridge, MA, USA and Peace Culture Village in Hiroshima, Japan. Organised by the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and Craic NI and supported by the Community Relations Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

 **276**
Zoom participants





Unite Against Hate

To mark UN World Children’s Day and Anti-Bullying Week, CDPB was delighted to re-launch our Unite Against Hate website and to share a series of new Friendship Friday resources developed by Kidscape.

The world is becoming increasingly divided. Religion, race and gender have all become polarising fault lines. In a time of heightened rhetoric and behaviour, suspicion, judgement and hate flourish. If hate is not challenged it will destroy our ability to live together.

Friendship Friday encourages everyone to see they have a role to play in creating a world that is friendlier and kinder.

Conversations about bullying behaviour (including racism, sectarianism and hatred) are very important, and teachers, parents or carers are in the perfect position to support and guide young people to help them to develop a better understanding of positive relationships.

To help, Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and Unite Against Hate were thrilled to partner with Kidscape and share a series of their resources focusing on the positives of kind, healthy and happy friendships. These include Being A Good Friend, Telling Tales, What Makes A Good Friend, Put Yourself In My Shoes and Help With Friendship.

To learn more visit: uniteagainsthate.org.uk/resources

The work of Unite Against Hate would not be possible without the support of our friends at Irish American Partnership.





Leadership Academy for Ethnic Minority Leaders

CDPB together with Washington Ireland Program and thanks to the support from the Irish American Partnership provided a unique opportunity to 32 ethnic minority leaders in Northern Ireland.

The 4-week programme included sessions on leadership, strategy, innovation, public affairs and communications, aimed to broaden knowledge and skill of our participants, and help them to address variety of challenges, including racial equality, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the UK exit from the EU.

We are truly grateful to programme facilitators for their in-kind contribution, wisdom and support.

- Professor Karise Hutchinson
- Deepa Mann-Kler
- Claire Sugden MLA
- Philip O'Callaghan
- Chris Brown, Brown O'Connor
- Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International
- Professor Marc Ventresca
- Thangam Debbonaire MP

In addition, we have run series of lunchtime Pop Up Leadership Academy open sessions, chaired by our 2020 Alumni including:

- **Forgiveness:** Candice Mama in conversation with Lilian Seenoi Barr, NW Migrants Forum
- **Storytelling:** Abdul Rahman Malik, Yale University in conversation with Natasha Oviedo, QUB
- **Dignity:** Donna Hicks, Harvard University in conversation with Adriana Morvaiova, Diversity and Inclusion Champion
- **Twitter Best Practices:** Niamh McDade, Deputy Head of Public Affairs at Twitter UK in conversation with Ani Kanakaki, Groundwork NI



32

Leadership Academy participants



4

online lunchtime pop up session



647

online participants





Re-thinking Solidarity

Following the success of the first webinar, which marked the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Solidarnosc – the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc, which led to the collapse of communism and a peaceful transition to democracy across Central and Eastern Europe, CDPB launched Re-thinking Solidarity series.

Re-thinking Solidarity brought together leading academics, historians, philosophers, theologians, social activists, policy makers and legislators to engage in thoughtful reflection and re-think what solidarity means today, in light of a variety of societal changes, the current geopolitical situation and the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

We have explored the idea of solidarity in the context of religion and inter-faith dialogue; environmental and financial sustainability; politics and political psychology; and equality and social justice.

The series of webinars were chaired by CDPB Chairman Emeritus Lord Alderdice and will be subsequently published as a series of essays, and when it is possible, CDPB and its partners will convene seminars in Oxford and Rome.

Re-thinking Solidarity was organised by the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and the Political Theology, in partnership with St. Benet's Institute, St. Benet's Hall, University of Oxford and The St. John Paul II Institute of Culture at Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas Angelicum in Rome, and supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

 **649**
Zoom participants

 **15,456**
Facebook LIVE views





Imagine Belfast

We were delighted to partner with Imagine – the Belfast festival of Ideas and Politics and co-host three event during the festival including Hiroshima Resilience Project, Ballet Black: Like Water and System Innovation: Why now, why you? panel discussion.

Ballet Black: Like Water

Like Water is a hypnotic short film shot on a deserted beach, where gentle waves slowly fold and unfold on the sand, it features five Ballet Black dancers, whose deeply expressive movements respond to a powerful and poetic text by the young South African actress Asisipho Malunga.

Performance followed by discussion with Ballet Black's Founder, CEO and Artistic Director Cassa Pancho MBE, writer and poet Nandi Jola, poet and youth activist Anesu Mtowa, and Sinead O'Sullivan, Senior Fellow, MIT and Senior Advisor, CDPB.

Learn more about Ballet Black at: www.balletblack.co.uk

System Innovation: Why now, why you?

Charles Leadbeater presented a framework for system innovation which explained why it is needed so urgently, who is involved in making it happen and the collaborative action required to bring it about. Urban Villages case study was presented by Linsey Farrell, Director, Urban Villages Initiative and Communities in Transition, The Executive Office. The session was chaired by Stacey King, Senior Executive at a leading tech company, Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute and Senior Advisor to CDPB.

Learn more about System Innovation at: www.systeminnovation.org



TEDxStormont Countdown

In October 2020, we have hosted hybrid TEDxStormont Countdown event from Smarts HQ in Holywood, Co. Down. Countdown is a global initiative to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis, turning ideas into action.

TEDxStormont Countdown heard from leading thinkers and doers about what a cleaner, zero-emission future can be, through inspiring examples of current progress underway, and compelling reasons why now, as the world recovers from a different global shock, is the time to act.

Local voices such as Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon MLA; Steven Agnew, Head of NI Renewables Industry Group; Dr David McGowan, climate and energy engineer at SONI; and Professor John Barry, Director of the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action at Queens University Belfast took part alongside contributions from RSPB NI and Business in the Community NI.

Globally recognised filmmakers and entrepreneurs, The Scott Sisters also made an appearance. The sisters talked about how they used their experience of travel and research into climate change to design problem-solving travel goods to drive positive change, reduce plastic pollution and improve people's lives.

The event also had a host of international and well-known faces beamed in as part of the global push for greater understanding of climate emergency activism and to shine a light on the need for fresh thinking. They included: The Duke of Cambridge, HRH Prince William, EU Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen and Australian born, Hollywood actor, Chris Hemsworth.

We also had a special appearance from Irish Ambassador to the US, Daniel Mulhall, who has discovered newfound fame with his Covid-19 lockdown poetry and literature recitals via social media. Ambassador Mulhall read a selected poem to celebrate nature for the virtual audience.

A specially composed mini opera "Final Act: Unexpected Changes" was premiered at the event. This unique production brought together technologists from NASA, MIT and Google in collaboration with globally renowned musicians to explore the human emotional cost of the interaction of technology and climate change.

The TEDxStormont Countdown event was delivered in partnership with SONI the Electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland, committed to transforming the power sector from fossil fuels to a clean energy system, as a direct response to the climate crisis.

 **249**
Zoom participants

 **8,547**
Facebook LIVE
views





Diversity Storytelling and Friendship Fridays

CDPB and Unite Against Hate have partnered with Still I Rise – Diversity Storytelling to encourage the education of diversity and racial inclusivity among children.

Throughout the month of March 2021, Unite Against Hate and Still I Rise hosted storytelling sessions and shared resources focusing on the positives of kind, healthy and happy friendships.

On Fridays everyone was encouraged to participate in the #FriendshipFriday initiative, use online resources, including colouring sheets, learn about the diversity and share what makes us different and unique.

Aimed at children aged 5-11, parents, teachers and young people were encouraged to promote racial diversity and the importance of social inclusion to children from an early age. Still I Rise – Diversity Storytelling is a project set up during the pandemic which promotes the reading and sharing of literature which celebrates diversity, tolerance and acceptance within society. Working with children, sessions focus on creating a kinder, generation through reading books where their own experiences are represented and a sense of belonging and empowerment is created.

Co-founder of Still I Rise – Diversity Storytelling is anti-racism and diversity campaigner Orla McKeating who delivered a pioneering talk on the issues of social stigma, especially around race in Northern Ireland, to a packed audience at TEDxStormont in 2019. Since then, Orla has become an advocate for race inclusion, especially for women and children in BAME communities.

Diversity Storytelling and #FriendshipFridays have been supported by Belfast City Council, Community Foundation NI and Irish American Partnership.



176

live sessions
participants



5000+

accessed toolkit





International Women's Day 2021: Mo Mowlam Lecture

The personal and political legacy of former NI Secretary of State Mo Mowlam was the subject of a virtual event hosted by The Centre for Democracy and Peace Building to mark International Women's Day 2021.

Held via Zoom, the event featured an informal conversation between Professor Monica McWilliams, Co-Founder of The Women's Coalition and Henrietta Norton, film director and stepdaughter of Mo Mowlam.

In an intimate, insightful discussion, Monica and Henrietta considered Mo's personal and political legacy in successfully negotiating the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, and paid tribute to the key role that Mo, Monica and other women had in the peace process that is too often forgotten.

"Over 15 years after her death, Mo Mowlam is still regarded as one of the most influential politicians to have participated in Northern Irish political life. She was a determined, passionate, and thoughtful woman who, as Northern Ireland Secretary, was a crucial architect of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. Personally, Mo was a phenomenal woman and faithful friend, who I miss dearly."

"This event celebrated not just Mo, but other women peacebuilders who are often erased from the history books. International Women's Day offers the perfect opportunity to pay tribute to these women and their pursuit of peace in the face of misogyny and discrimination. I enjoyed speaking with Henrietta who is in the process of directing a film about Mo's life, work and the women around her that made peace possible in Northern Ireland."

Professor Monica McWilliams, Former Leader of the Women's Coalition and close friend of Mo Mowlam

"Without Mo, there would be no peace process in Northern Ireland. Working closely with Monica and others from the Women's Coalition, Mo appreciated that for the process to work, women's voices needed to be heard. She worked closely with victims and survivors from both sides and was rewarded for her work with the signing of the Agreement over 20 years ago."

"International Women's Day is the time to highlight the often-neglected impact that strong, formidable women such as Mo can have on politics. This event explored the practical efforts of women like Monica who worked tirelessly to achieve peace in Northern Ireland, whilst also remembering Mo and her role in Northern Irish history."

 **382**
participants

**Henrietta Norton, filmmaker,
and stepdaughter of Mo Mowlam**



**Celebrating
Mo Mowlam**



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING

and Women Peacebuilders

**Hen Norton in conversation
with Monica McWilliams**

Monday, 8 March
6pm - 7pm

**#IWD2021
#ChooseToChallenge**



Hen Norton



Monica
McWilliams

Centre for Democracy and Peace Building is a company registered by guarantee in Northern Ireland no. NI623554.

Registered office:

Centre for Democracy and Peace Building
c/o K Magill and Company
2 Church Street
Ballygawley BT70 2HB
Northern Ireland

Office address:

Centre for Democracy and Peace Building
Blick Studios
46 Hill Street
Belfast BT1 2LB
Northern Ireland

E: info@democracyandpeace.co.uk
W: www.democracyandpeace.org

Twitter: @CDPB_NI

Facebook: @DemocracyandPeaceNI

LinkedIn: Centre for Democracy and Peace Building



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