



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND PEACE BUILDING

Annual Report 2021 - 2022





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Annual Report 2021-2022

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CHAIR'S REMARKS

At this juncture in global political affairs and international relations there has never been a greater need across the world for people to work for democracy, reconciliation and peacebuilding. We have seen such efforts blossom over the last 25 years in Northern Ireland/Ireland and I hope that they will continue to bear fruit to reflect unity in diversity in our restored political institutions. Such work can and should be replicated in other parts of our global world.

This compelling imperative fuelled my desire to accept the invitation to join the Board of CDPB in July 2021 and eventually to accept the unanimous support of Board colleagues to take on the mantle of Chairperson of this important organisation. I was replacing Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP who stood down as Chair and still remains a member of the Board. CDPB owe our thanks and gratitude to Sir Jeffrey and his predecessor, Lord John Alderdice who along with other Board members provided strategic direction to ensure that our organisation continues to fulfil our objectives. We have all been ably assisted by Eva Grosman who is our Chief Executive. Eva is a powerhouse and has provided dynamic leadership in these islands in terms of peace-making and democracy. We and the wider community owe Eva an enormous debt of gratitude and heartfelt thanks. I hope to continue to work with Eva and her team to ensure that the objectives of the organisation continue to be fulfilled.

Our democracy and peacebuilding work has been overshadowed by war in Ukraine in 2022. We have all been horrified by the scenes of mass death and destruction which we have witnessed on our television screens on a daily basis since late February. International efforts are required to work with President Zelensky to ensure that peace and democracy is secured and that the Ukrainian people can return to their homeland through a massive re-building programme for peace, prosperity and infrastructure building.

Our work has concentrated in the past year in the following areas: Fellowship programme which involved young people from across Northern Ireland coming together to work on democratic peacebuilding initiatives. This programme will continue to be delivered and sincere thanks are due to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, Irish American Partnership, our corporate partners and our mentors from business and industry for their advice, sponsorship and unfailing direction and guidance.

CHAIR'S REMARKS continued

Other work programmes included the Unite Against Hate which was supported by the Executive Office.

Our international work focuses on engagement with colleagues in Colombia and work led by Lord Alderdice in Jerusalem.

This year also witnessed the appointment of Reeya Gadhvana as our Head of Programmes and we will continue to work with young people and internships – in fact we will be hosting two young women from Harvard in Belfast during the summer.

Notwithstanding the rigours and challenges of the pandemic over the last couple of years, our work has continued and blossomed. That bedrock of support from the wider community including business and industrial representatives is invaluable on so many levels as we continue our mission and fulfil the objectives of CDPB.

CDPB is one of the most inspiring and worthwhile organisations I have worked with, and I hope to continue to work with Eva, Board members and others to fulfil our commitment to democracy and peacebuilding locally and internationally.

Baroness Margaret Ritchie of Downpatrick

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

**Special thanks to
Moisés and Mimi Lemlij**

Allstate Northern Ireland

ARTIS (Europe)

Belfast City Council

Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

Brown O'Connor Communications

Bullitt Hotel

Community Relationship Council

Craic NI

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Republic of Ireland

Devenish

Dormant Accounts Fund NI

FinTrU

Fujitsu NI

Imagine Belfast

Irish American Partnership

Polish Cultural Institute in London

Political Theology

RSPB NI

Smarts

SONI

St. Benet's Institute, St. Benet's Hall, University of Oxford

The Executive Office's Central Good Relations Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund

Translink

Ulster Carpets

Ulster University

UCD Michael Smurfit Business School

Washington Ireland Program

ABOUT CDPB

In December 2021, the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building was registered as Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC108448.

The objectives of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building are the advancement of:



Citizenship and community development by upholding and sharing the values and principles of democracy in order to build peace, stability and reconciliation; and to support leadership within civil society and political parties to address grievances and to build confidence in political institutions.



Human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by the removal of fear from and offering of hope to divided communities and to create a society with a shared sense of responsibility, opportunity, community and above all a shared sense of humanity, based upon respect for and tolerance of diversity; and to empower and enable communities to develop bespoke solutions that address and remove the causes of division and violent conflict.



Education by providing a knowledge exchange platform in democracy and peace building to facilitate 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; to host a fellowship programme to pass on learning from the peace process generation to future leaders; and to capture and document the lessons and experiences from Northern Ireland and other places which have experienced violent political conflicts.

Directors and Executive Team

Chairman Emeritus

The Lord Alderdice

Chair

Baroness Margaret Ritchie

Directors

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

Chris Maccabe CB

Niall Johnston

CEO and Company Secretary

Eva Grosman

Head of Programmes

Reeya Gadhvana

Senior Advisors

Stacy King

Sinead O'Sullivan

Interns 2021 – 2022

Barry Doherty

Barry graduated with a BA in history/politics and an MA in international relations. He works as a policy advisor for the Federation of Small Businesses and has previously undergone a traineeship with the Holy See Mission to the United Nations.

Sarah Montgomery

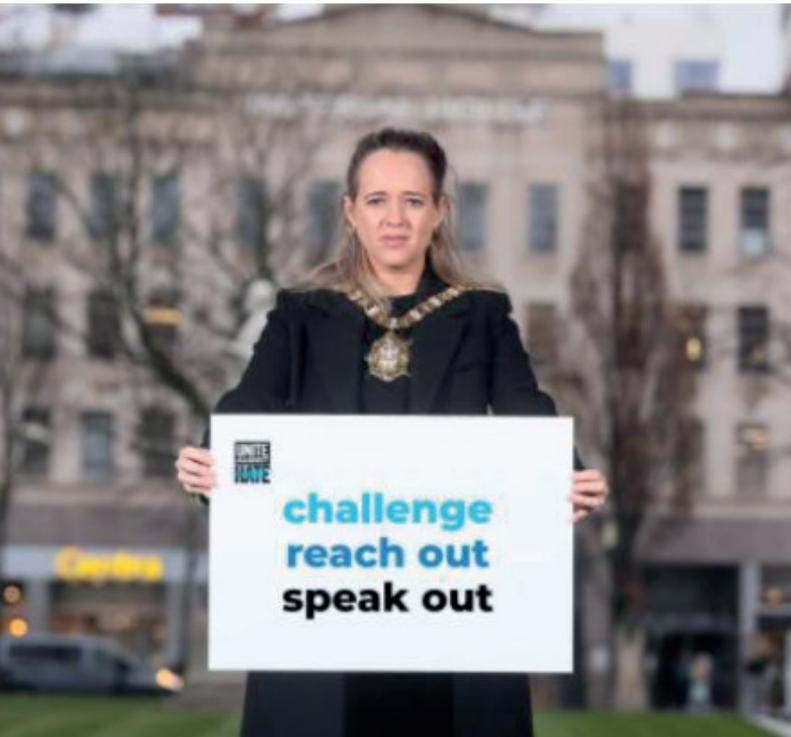
Sarah is from a small rural community in Northern Ireland, at the foot of Slemish Mountain. She previously studied an undergraduate degree in Law with Politics and is currently studying a Masters degree in Violence, Terrorism and Security at Queen's University Belfast.

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).

Tessa Rendina

Tessa Rendina is a current Conflict Transformation & Social Justice MA student studying at Queen's University Belfast. This past year she completed a BSc in Global Management at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Tessa is interested in community development as well as global social justice issues.



PROJECTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Fellowship Programme for political and civic leaders in Northern Ireland

The CDPB Fellowship is an independent and non-partisan executive programme for mid-career political and civic leaders working in Northern Ireland. It aims to strengthen democracy and to ensure that the current and future cadres of political leaders in Northern Ireland are best placed to lead into the next decade and navigate through complexity.

The inaugural programme was delivered in partnership with key stakeholders, policy makers and facilitators from leading academic institutions including Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, and with support from its Advisory Board, including:

[John Healy](#), Managing Director and VP, Allstate NI (Chair)

[Karise Hutchinson](#), Professor of Leadership, Ulster University (Vice Chair)

[Darragh McCarthy](#), CEO, FinTrU

[Deepa Mann-Kler](#), CEO, Neon and Visiting Professor, Ulster University

[David Clements](#), Managing Director, Fujitsu NI

[Nick Coburn](#), Managing Director, Ulster Carpets

[Owen Brennan](#), Chairman, Devenish

[Chris Brown](#), Director, Brown O'Connor Communications (Media and PR)

The Programme began in September 2021 with the commencement taking place at Stormont, followed by a residential session at the University of Oxford where Fellows attended workshops led by world leading academics on topics ranging from systems thinking to conflict and co-operation. The remainder of the Programme saw sessions in Belfast and Dublin, tackling issues including climate change, entrepreneurship and leadership.

The Programme was finally rounded off by a graduation at Hillsborough Castle, with video message from Minister Coveney addressing the Fellows and attendance from many of the Fellowship's faculty and sponsors.

The programme was supported by Allstate NI, Devenish, FinTrU, Fujitsu NI, Ulster Carpets, the Irish American Partnership, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

For more information please visit fellowship.democracyandpeace.org



Fellowship Programme

for political and civic leaders
in Northern Ireland



”

The Fellowship has provided participants with opportunities to talk about key issues that are important to their communities and the space to think about the kind of leadership that's needed to work through them. I am glad that my department's Reconciliation Fund has been able to support this important work.

At times, it's so easy to focus entirely on differences and divergence. When we spend time with each other, we can recognise the greater agenda of things where we're all working to the same goals. I would like to thank both the Fellows and the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building for their extraordinary work in these challenging circumstances.

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD



”

This year's Fellows have been a credit to themselves and their organisation throughout the programme.

Their open-mindedness, diligence and determination led to invigorating conversations on the collective challenges we face in Northern Ireland and beyond.

John Healy, Managing Director at Allstate NI and Chair of the Fellowship Advisory Board

”

It has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as Vice Chair of the Advisory Board for this year's Fellowship programme. When we set out in this journey, we wanted to start a new conversation in Northern Ireland, one that explores the Spirit of Possibility and the new, innovative method of thinking we need to meet the challenges of today.

With thought-provoking discussions throughout, each Fellowship filled me with optimism that Northern Ireland's future leaders can navigate us through the complexity we are facing in the years to come.

Karise Hutchinson, Professor of Leadership at Ulster University and Vice-Chair of the Fellowship Advisory Board

”

Since the start of the Fellowship programme in September, I have found myself developing and growing in ways which I had not anticipated, learning and unlearning, challenging, and validating. While each Fellow comes from a diverse background, we all share a common goal and purpose: to make this place we each call home better, for everyone.

Dominic O'Reilly, CDPB Fellow



”

I am very proud to be a graduate of the first Fellowship programme. I have formed what would be unlikely friendships and have grown to value difference.

Each event, speaker, and discussion throughout this year's Fellowship has continually shown the value of collaboration to address the challenges we face in Northern Ireland.

Julie-Anne Corr-Johnston, CDPB Fellow



Unite Against Hate

Thanks to the support from The Executive Office's Central Good Relations Funding, the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building delivered **Ending Hate. Embracing Diversity** as part of the longstanding Unite Against Hate campaign.

Unite Against Hate 2021-2022 comprised of four key elements:

- 01 A workshop series led by experts on diversity and inclusion (Deepa Mann Kler), community relations (Sughra Ahmed) and mediation (Dorcus Crawford), teaching attendees the skills to overcome their biases, build braver communities and communicate in a healthy and conflict-free manner.
- 02 Online and on-demand workshops accessible to all for FREE on Unite Against Hate website.
- 03 The Unite Against Hate pledge, asking people to challenge, reach out and speak out against prejudice and hate crime within Northern Ireland. This pledge received support from across the community within NI and across political parties with several MLAs signing to pledge support.
- 04 The Pledge Launch at the Skainos Centre in East Belfast. This day was organised to include panels discussing topics such as challenges to peaceful relations in NI today, as well as the experiences of ethnic minorities in NI. The pledge itself was launched at the event by Lord Mayor Kate Nicholl.

This year we notably held some wonderful partnerships enriching the campaign immensely, notably with our workshop leaders Deepa Mann-Kler (Diversity and Inclusion Specialist), Sughra Ahmed (Founder of Bridging Our Divides) and Dorcas Crawford (Conflict Management Consultant). Diversity Mark NI also held a special place in our campaign as we co-hosted a workshop on conflict and communication with its Head of Business, Nuala Murphy. To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we worked with Imagine Belfast and hosted an event with keynote speaker Lord Boateng.

Embracing diversity and uniting against hate is crucial in Northern Ireland because we know the consequences of prejudice, discrimination and hatred. We must embrace and support our minority communities and show them that Northern Ireland has learned from the past, and is now a place where diversity is celebrated, not rejected.

Baroness Ritchie, CDPB Chair

To find out more about the campaign and to access our free workshops visit www.uniteagainsthate.org.uk.



94 people

attended our online workshops led by experts on diversity and inclusion, building braver communities and mediation.

308 people

have signed our pledge so far committing to challenge, reach out and speak out against prejudice and hate crime within Northern Ireland.

8,447 people

visited our Unite Against Hate Twitter page during the campaign.



”

At one point I was sitting in the panel thinking that as a child I never believed that our stories and experiences would hold weight.

I appreciate that we were given the opportunity for that. It felt very healing.

UAH panellist at the pledge launch event, We Are Here.



”

Really enjoyed the science at the start [of the bias session].

Always had a bit of an idea about where bias came from but hearing the science behind it, for me, was fascinating and opens up an avenue of discussion I had never contemplated before.

Workshop attendee

”

The workshops fascinated me immensely, they were very intellectually stimulating and one of the most rewarding things I had done in a long time and the panellists were inspiring and it was great to see the work that they were doing.

UAH Panellist at the pledge launch event and workshop attendee

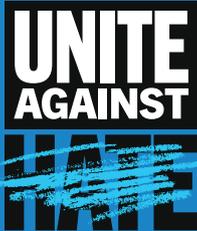
”

I really enjoyed the session today; glad I could make it.

It has given me loads to think about.

Workshop attendee





Unite Against Hate Pledge 2022

Each of us has a duty to challenge, reach out, and speak out to Unite Against Hate and end prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.

By making this pledge, I promise to:



Challenge, recognise, and address my own prejudices and misperceptions.



Reach out to and learn from those I see as different.



Speak out for diversity and inclusion and not stand by when I witness or experience discrimination in any form.

You can sign the pledge at:
uniteagainsthate.org.uk/pledge



TEDxStormont Studio

Throughout Summer 2021, TEDxStormont published 12 standalone TEDx Studio talks by speakers from many disciplines and backgrounds to share new and fresh ideas.

This series of talks was aimed at encouraging the public to have a better understanding of themselves and the world around them, while also bringing together brilliant minds to change attitudes on some of today's most pressing issues.

The dozen speakers covered a variety of topics including accents, entrepreneurship, resilience, storytelling, the role of the media in post-conflict societies, creativity, shame, trauma, forgiveness, and the art of the impossible.

TEDxStormont Studio was supported by Allstate NI.



TEDxStormont Studio continued

Adam McGibbon

Award-winning campaigner and writer published by The Guardian, The Independent and The New Statesman.

Adriana Morvaiova

Champion for diversity, equality and inclusion in NI's tech industry, and a board member of Mediation Northern Ireland.

Anthony Miller

Celebrity columnist, media commentator and almost-qualified barrister.

Debbie and Julie McGlade

Strand Hair salon owners, entrepreneurs and hair stylist.

Eileen Chan-Hu

Founder of award-winning training and educational social enterprise CRAICNI, trustee of New Europeans, vice-chair of the Migrant and Minority Ethnic Council NI.

Gareth Patterson

Qualified medical doctor, member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and founder of NI Coffee Maps.

Gráinne Maher

Couture milliner and accessories designer. Most recently adding art fabric and wallpaper designs to her portfolio, Gráinne is the curator of the Irish Millinery Collective, and a member of the British Hat Guild.

Hen Norton

Director, producer and writer. During 2020 Hen founded discussion platform Six Strangers, providing a private, digital space for small groups of individuals to have conversations about what it is we share.

Holly Perreault

Survivor of childhood sexual and emotional abuse, co-facilitator of the first Adult Survivor of Child Abuse (ASCA) meeting in Northern Ireland.

Leo Brown

Athlete, accountant, tech enthusiast, footballer for Ards FC, tech company co-founder and a youth ambassador for the Rio Ferdinand Foundation.

Martina Purdy

Former BBC political correspondent and author, a pilgrim guide with the Saint Patrick Centre, leading and promoting a new Irish Camino – St Patrick's Way.

Patrick Dexter

Irish cellist whose online recitals recorded at a picturesque County Mayo cottage have reached millions of viewers across the globe.



Kaja Choma
(1991 - 2021)

In August 2021 we received the devastating news that Kaja Choma passed away. Words cannot express our sadness about the loss of Kaja, our valued teammate and a former TEDxStormont speaker.

Kaja was a talented, articulate, dynamic, generous and wise soul who we miss dearly.

You can visit Kaja's Book of Condolences at:
kaja.tedxstormont.com

Lost Treasures of the Revolution: The Graphics of Solidarity 1980 – 1989

The Centre for Democracy and Peace Building partnered with the Polish Cultural Institute in London, hosting a unique 'Lost Treasures of Revolution' exhibition at St. John's College, University of Oxford, Coventry Cathedral and Ulster University in Belfast.

The exhibition brought together 26 Solidarity poster designs reproduced from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum alongside a selection of original badges and rarely seen underground stamps that bear witness to the grassroots creative spirit of the movement in the 1980s.

Solidarity was one of the biggest social movements of the 20th century. As the leading political force opposing communism in Poland during the 1980s, it paved the way for the peaceful transition to democracy in 1989. This exhibition explores the role that graphics played in building the movement and sustaining it during the difficult days of government repression and martial law. From its iconic logo to spontaneous poster designs and underground ephemera, Solidarity's printed graphics created a rich visual culture of resistance that spoke to people from all walks of society. By getting involved in making and circulating these items, often at great personal risk, many ordinary people participated in the collective and transformative work of opposition.



Belvedere Forum Warsaw

Eva Grosman, CDPB CEO attended and spoke at the Polish-British Belvedere Forum in Warsaw. The Belvedere Forum is a leading annual British and Polish dialogue that seeks to strengthen the extensive social, economic and political partnership between the two countries, and it brings together representatives from a wide range of backgrounds, including academia, business, media, think tanks, NGO's, culture, and the diaspora.



The Forum is co-hosted by Chatham House and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM).

Leadership in Arts and Culture Visitor Programme

Leadership in Arts and Culture is a 3-day visitor programme developed by the Polish Cultural Institute in London in collaboration with British Council in Poland and the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building.

The programme explored how international cultural cooperation and diplomacy work in practice and provided opportunities to engage with world's leading institutions and experts, including the V&A, the National Gallery and Tate Modern. It also included meetings at the Palace of Westminster and the Polish Embassy in London.

Participants included directors of the Polish national museums and leading cultural institutions. The next phase of the programme will take place in December 2022 in Oxford.



TEDxStormont COUNTDOWN and COP26

TEDxStormont COUNTDOWN returned in 2021 with a number of events and initiatives aimed at highlighting the climate crisis in a run up to COP26 in Glasgow.

TEDxStormont hosted Shaping Our Electricity Future: Have Your Say – an online event focused on energy, partnered with RSPB NI Artist of the Year competition, and delivered a live event at Stormont coinciding with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

At the main event Belfast Lord Mayor, Kate Nicholl delivered a TED talk on her commitments to making Belfast a greener society while looking to what more local governments can do to promote positive climate changes.

Group Chief Executive of Translink, Chris Conway joined the event to discuss how Northern Ireland's transport systems can evolve to become greener and more bio-diverse to help meet net zero targets.

Podcaster and climate change activist Rosalind Skillen explored the climate crisis through the lens of intergenerational justice, asking us to assess the future cost of our present actions.

Sustainability advocate Susan McEwan drew on her experience in peacebuilding and reflecting on some of the thinking that has emerged following Black Lives Matters, and looked at the idea of a coalition for conscious sustainable living.

John Gilliland, Director of Global Agriculture and Sustainability at Devenish Nutrition explored how businesses are looking at green and sustainable business models to help the bid to cut carbon emissions by 2050.

Audience members also heard from Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, Poet Nandi Jola, Head of RSPB NI, Joanne Sherwood and Diversity & Inclusion Specialist, Deepa Mann-Kler.

The winners of RSPB NI's Artist of the Year unveiled their artworks.



Imagine Belfast

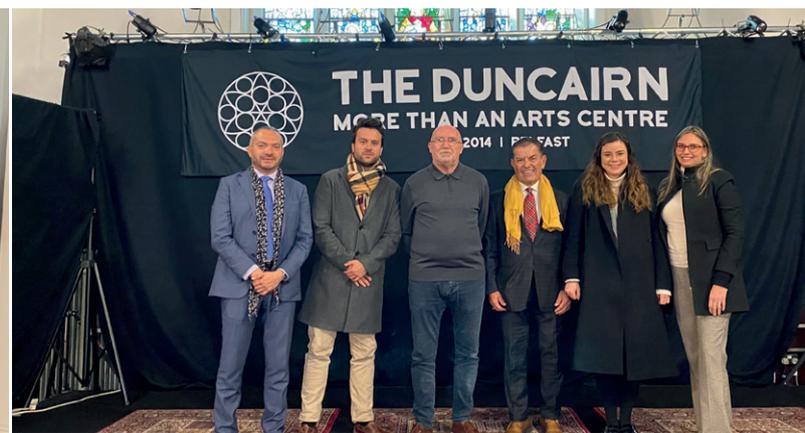
The Centre for Democracy and Peace Building was delighted to partner yet again with the Imagine Belfast Festival of Ideas & Politics to co-host two events.

Lord Boateng in conversation with Alfred Abolarin, Chair of the Migrant and Minority Ethnic Council Northern Ireland – an event to marking The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the “Anything But Steady” book launch by Dr Ofrit Liviatan, Harvard University in conversation with Professor Pete Shirlow.

Colombian Ambassador visit to Northern Ireland

The Centre for Democracy and Peace Building facilitated the visit of the new Colombian Ambassador to the UK H.E. Mr Alvaro Gomez Jaramillo and the Director for Reincorporation and Normalization Mr Andres Stapper and other officials. The aim of the visit was to share NI peace building experience and to develop and strengthen links between Northern Ireland and Colombia.

The delegation engaged with Rev Bill Shaw, 174 Trust, the Independent Monitoring Commission, including meeting with the Commissioner Monica McWilliams and the UK and Irish Joint Secretaries, and the NI Housing Executive CEO Grainia Long and Director Jennifer Hawthorne, followed by a visit to Titanic Belfast.



Jerusalem's Holy Places

Emeritus Chairman, Lord Alderdice, continues to work on democracy and peace building in various parts of the world.

CDPB is assisting him in a project addressing the conflicts over **Jerusalem's Holy Places**, which follows on from earlier work he did on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Lord Alderdice is currently working on this challenging peace building venture with two distinguished colleagues - the Jewish academic, Dr Ed Kessler, President of the Woolf Institute at Cambridge, and faith and community leader, Imam Monawar Hussain, Muslim Chaplain to Eton College and Founder of The Oxford Foundation. In recent visits Lord Alderdice and his colleagues have met with Israel's President, Isaac Herzog, and Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, as well as Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders, the Jerusalem police, and significant NGOs, academics and activists.

The work is being supported by a charitable trust founded by Peruvian psychoanalyst, Dr Moisés Lemlij and his wife, Mimi, and is expected to continue for some time.



Truth is

We all know what racism is
We've all heard something we should have stood up to
Behind closed doors
With loved ones
Or even amongst our peers.

Have you ever watched the sun rise and wonder how lonely it must be
Do you ever think of snow drops pushing through hard ground
Have you ever followed a snail trail till the end
Or watched a spider build a web

Truth is

We never see a bee as trespassing when entering our home
Or call a butterfly a foreigner
We never call flowers by other names but what they really are
Or tell the sky when its grey
to go back home

So
Why are we quick to judge one another
To hate?

Challenge your misperceptions
Reach out and learn from those you see different
Speak out for diversity and inclusion

For inside of each and one of us is a twine of compassion
to sow brokenness
and to heal

Let's end racism.



*by Nandi Jola,
written for and recited at
the Unite Against Hate
Pledge Launch,
We Are Here.*

CONTACT DETAILS

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Centre for Democracy and Peace Building



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