



The **Challenge** of
Change

a **convention**
about **diversity**
in a society still
struggling
with **division**

Mon 5 to Wed 7 June 2006

Canal Court Hotel Newry

Newry & Mourne District Council
and Belfast City Council
in association with
Louth County Council

Facilitated by
Mediation Northern Ireland

The **Challenge** of **Change**

In this first decade of a new century, Northern Ireland is in a period of profound change. Recovering from the Troubles but not yet enjoying a permanent peace; no longer defined by violence but still noted for its sectarian divisions; performing better economically but heavily dependent on State subvention – these challenges and dilemmas are being compounded by our membership of an expanded European Union and the impact of wider globalization.

- What can we learn from the experience of other parts of the United Kingdom and from the Irish Republic?
- What sense can we make of wider global and European economic trends?
- What impact will our growing diversity have on the question of reconciliation?
- What must we do to respond to the challenge of change?
- And, what can other places learn from the Northern Ireland context?

This convention, which will move between Newry and Belfast, will bring together politicians, business people, public servants, the community, voluntary and faith sectors to discuss concepts, share experiences and examine best practice around issues of Difference, Integration, Diversity and Reconciliation.

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Keynote **Speakers:**



John Paul Lederach Professor of Sociology and Conflict Studies, he is a distinguished scholar and part-time professor of conflict studies at EMU. He was the founding director of the Conflict Transformation Program. He has extensive experience as a

peacebuilding practitioner, trainer, and consultant throughout Latin America, Africa, and the United States.



Trevor Phillips became Chair of the CRE on 1 March 2003, appointed by then Home Secretary David Blunkett. His career in broadcasting includes Head of Current Affairs at LWT, the Editor or the Presenter of The London Programme. At present a Board Member of The Almeida Theatre, Islington; The Bernie Grant Centre, Tottenham; and The Sickle Cell Society. Between 1993 and 1998

was the Chair of the Runnymede Trust.



Dr. Jeff Crisp has worked in the field of refugees, asylum and migration for the past 25 years and most recently has held senior policy positions with the Global Commission on International Migration and UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency.



Eddie McVeigh is Head of the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland. He hails from Killeel and is married with 2 children.

He joined the European Commission in October 2002 after 14 years working for the European Parliament in London, Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg.

Before joining the European Parliament, Mr McVeigh worked for ten years in local government in Pembrokeshire in Wales.



Duncan Morrow is the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council (CRC), the body with primary responsibility for funding and development of inter-community relations practice and policy in Northern Ireland. In recent years, the CRC

has taken a leading role in promoting dialogue to underpin 'A Shared Future', the government's long running strategy to promote improved relations in Northern Ireland.



Brendan McAllister has been Director of Mediation Northern Ireland since 1992. Mediation Northern Ireland is an independent charitable organization for the development of mediation (and associated disciplines) as a contribution to Conflict Resolution and the

promotion of Good Relations in Northern Ireland.

Session One:

Monday June 5, 2006. 2:00 - 3:30

1.1 Faith - Irreconcilable Differences.

David Porter, Director, Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland

Other Speakers TBC

A discussion about sectarianism, its nature; its connection to faith; and its possible impact on inhibiting our development as a diverse society.

1.2 Education - Fostering Respect, Relationships and Responsibilities

Earl Lemon, Principal, Brownlow Integrated College

Gerry Murphy, Principal, St. Joseph's Primary School, Dundalk

Lesley McEvoy, Lecturer in Education, Queens University Belfast

Nichola Lynagh, Community Relations Officer, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education

Showcasing the fostering of positive relationships within the school community when met with the challenges of difference.

1.3 Housing - Learning from Contemporary Research

Brendan Murtagh, School of Environmental Planning, Queens University Belfast

Peter Shirlow, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Ulster

Jonny Byrne, Research Officer, Institute for Conflict Research

An exploration of research into spatial planning and community boundaries.

1.4 Health - Investing in Health

Lynn Donnelly, Manager, Investing for Health Partnership

Tom Frawley, Assembly Ombudsman, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints

A presentation of recent research into the relationship between practice and policy with regard to ethnic minorities.

1.5 Community Relations - Building Shared Space

Duncan Morrow, Chief Executive, Community Relations Council

Mary McKee, Groundwork, Northern Ireland

Dominic Bryan, Director, Institute of Irish Studies

A discussion about how to build spaces which are safe and welcoming for all, freeing the public realm from threat, aggression and intimidation.

1.6 Economic - Collaborate to Compete: The Growing Importance of the Island Economy

Liam Nellis, Chief Executive of Intertrade Ireland

Alan Bridle, Head of Research, Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK

Michael Curran, Director of Services, Louth County Council

1.7 Law and Order - Hate Crime

Neil Jarman, Director, Institute for Conflict Research

Judith Gillespie, Assistant Chief Constable, Rural Region, PSNI

Other speakers TBC

A discussion about the phenomenon of hate crime, with reference to Northern Ireland.

1.8 Special Interest - North West England: Building Relations in Oldham and Burnley

A presentation on progress made since the civil disturbances of 2001.

1.9 Models for Change - Young People Creating Change

A presentation by the Spirit of Enniskillen programme on their work in Northern Ireland and internationally.

struggling with **division**



Session Two:

Monday June 5 2006 4:00 – 5:30

2.1 Faith - Changing Times - examples of good practice

David Porter, Director, Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland
Speakers TBC

Showcasing church based initiatives to respond to diversity.

2.2 Education - Divided Loyalties: Differing Perceptions of Culture

Dan McCall, Education and Training Inspectorate, Department of Education, NI.
An exploration of how identity can be addressed in education.

2.3 Housing - Sectional Symbols

Elma Newberry, Head of Community Cohesion Unit, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Clifford Forbes, Local Strategy Partnership, Craigavon

Frank McCoubrey, City Councillor, Belfast.

A workshop showcasing good practice in inter agency work addressing contentious community issues.

2.4 Health - Hip Ops and/or Community Relations

Clare Armstrong, Health and Social Inequalities Unit, Royal Hospital.
Representative from OFMDFM.

Representative from the Northern Ireland Dept of Health.

A discussion about resourcing the community relations agenda in the Health sector.

2.5 Community Relations - Supporting Communities: coping with change at the local level

Eileen Chan-Hu, Ballymena Community Forum

Bernadette McAliskey, STEP, Dungannon

Billy Hutchinson, Mount Vernon Community Development Forum

Geraldine McAteer, Chief Executive Officer, West Belfast Partnership Board

A discussion on the support that communities need, both incoming and resident, as the population changes.

2.6 Economic - Economic Benefits of Political Stability & the Positive Impact of Ethnic Minorities on the Workforce

Fergal McCormack, FPM Chartered Accountants

Geoff McEnroe, Director, IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council

Chris Gibson, Chairman, Foyle Food Group

2.7 Law and Order - Diversifying the Police

Paul Leighton, Deputy Chief Constable, PSNI.

Senior rep An Garda Siochana.

Senior Police Officer Great Britain.

Senior police reflect on the challenge of internal and external changes in policing.

2.8 Special Interest - Conflict and Health

Mary Black, North and West Belfast Action Zone.

Avila Kilmurray, Director of the Community Foundation for NI.

Rep. From Mental Health Services, North and West Belfast Trust

A Reflection on the Approaches Taken to Address the Impact of Conflict on Health.

2.9 Models for Change - Social Capital Theory: an Introduction

Robin Wilson, Director, Democratic Dialogue

Dave Wall, Voluntary and Community Unit, Department of Social Development

An introduction to the concept of social capital and its implications for diversity.

Session Three:

Wednesday June 7 10:00 – 11:30

3.1 Faith - Minority Faith in a Christian Society

Norman Richardson, Lecturer in Religious Studies Stranmillis College, Secretary of the Interfaith Forum

Speakers from Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum

A discussion with minority faith groups about their experience of life in Northern Ireland.

3.2 Education - Diversity in Education: Meeting the Challenge of Change

Kieran Shields, Special Advisor on Social Inclusion, Southern Education and Library Board

Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Policy Research and Youth, Department of Education

Diane Farrelly, Lecturer and Manager for Life Long Learning, Armagh College of Further and Higher Education

Past experience and new ideas on the challenge of working in a changing educational culture.

3.3 Housing - Housing and Community Cohesion

Paddy McIntyre, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Max Steinberg, Chief Executive, Elevate East Lancashire

A comparative discussion between Northern Ireland and East Lancashire.

3.4 Health - Working in Partnership For Health

Elaine McCarthy North and West Belfast Health Action Zone

Highlighting a model for partnership designed to promote health delivery.

3.5 Community Relations - Coherent Community Development and Good Relations Practice

Diane Greer, Workers Educational Association

John Loughran, Intercomm, Belfast

Lee Reynolds, Community Conventions and Development Company

Exploring the changing dynamic between 'bridging' and 'bonding' social capital in community development and good relations work.

3.6 Economic - Responding to a Changing Society: Good Practice in Business

Conor Patterson, Chief Executive Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency

Rory Galway, Equal Opportunities Manager, Bombardier Aerospace

Other Speakers TBC

A discussion on the impact of economic and political change on the evolution of good business practice.

3.7 Law and Order - Restorative Justice: a role for responsible citizens

Community Restorative Justice Ireland and Alternatives

Speakers TBC

A panel discussing restorative justice and community cohesion.

3.8 Special Interest - Minority Ethnic Conflict in Birmingham

Kirk Dawes, Director, West Midlands Mediation Transformation Service

John Curtis, Home Office Regional Director, Government Office West Midlands

Reflections on recent communal conflict in Birmingham.

3.9 Models for Change - A Working Model of Reconciliation

Brandon Hamber, Independent Consultant

Grainne Kelly, Independent Consultant

Presenting a discussion of a definition of reconciliation which has been

Convention Schedule

Monday 5th June

9.00am Registration

9:30 - 10:00 Introductions/Welcome

Mayor, Newry and Mourne District Council

Lord Mayor, Belfast

Chairman, Louth County Council

10:00 - 11:00 Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jeff Crisp, Former Director, Policy and Research,
Global Commission on International Migration

Eddie McVeigh, Head of Office, European
Commission Office Northern Ireland

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 -11:45 Respondents

Jackie Harrison, Director of Policy, IBEC/CBI

Frances McCandless, Director of Policy,
Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action

11:45 - 12:10 Round Table Discussion

12:10 - 12:45 Plenary

12:45 -1:45 Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 Workshops, Session 1

4:00 - 5:30 Workshops, Session 2

7.30 Civic Dinner, Canal Court Hotel, Newry
(Hosted by Newry & Mourne District Council)

Speaker: Brendan McAllister,
Director of Mediation Northern Ireland

Tuesday 6th June

9.00am Registration

9:30 - 10:00 Opening Addresses. Representatives
from the British and Irish Governments

10:00 - 10:30 Keynote Speaker

John Paul Lederach, Professor of International
Peacebuilding, Notre Dame University

10:30 - 10:45 Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet

10:45 - 11:00 Dr. Atuallah Siddiqui, Islamic
Foundation, United Kingdom

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 11:45 Respondents

Arlene Foster, Public Representative

Denis Bradley, Political and Social Commentator

Bishop Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland Bishop
of Clogher

11:45 - 12:25 Round Table Discussion

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 Depart by coach for Belfast

2:30 - 4:00 Choice of Site Visits in Belfast.

1. Managing and Regenerating the Interface
Location: Suffolk/Lenadoon

2. Transforming Conflict at the Interface
Location: Short Strand/Inner East Belfast

3. Economic - New Horizons
Location: To be confirmed

4. Health -
Location to be confirmed

5. Housing -
Location: Tour North and West Belfast

6. Sport For All
Location to be confirmed

5:00 - 6:30 Stormont - Political Panel

6:30 Depart by coach for City Hall

7.00 Civic Dinner, City Hall, Belfast
(Hosted by Belfast City Council)

Speaker: John Paul Lederach, Professor of
International Peacebuilding, Notre Dame University

10:30 p.m. Depart by coach for Newry.

Wednesday 7th June

9.00am Registration

9:45 - 11:15 Workshops, Session 3

11:15 - 11:45 Break

11:45 -12:30 Keynote Speakers Trevor Phillips,
Director of the Commission for Racial Equality

Dr. Duncan Morrow, Chief Executive of the
Community Relations Council

12:30 - 12:45 Respondents:

Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner, Northern
Ireland Human Rights Commission

Dr.Ramon Kapur, Chief Executive of Threshold,
Mental Health Charity

Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner of the Equality
Commission for Northern Ireland

12:45 - 1:30 Round Table Discussion

1:30 Convention Closes

Lunch

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