



*Children for Peace*

IN AID OF THE TIM PARRY JOHNATHAN BALL TRUST

**Submission to**

**The Peace II Consultation**

**From**

**The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust**

*September 2004*

**Mission:** Developing peace-building skills ... changing lives

**Vision:** Promoting peace ... building a better future

## **1. The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust**

We are an educational peace charity that aims to inspire and enable people to lead more peaceful lives by helping them understand the nature and causes of conflict.

The Trust was formed after the IRA attack on Warrington which killed 12 year old Tim Parry and 3 year old Johnathan Ball. Based in a purpose built state-of-the-art 'Peace Centre' we are dedicated to working with adults, children and peace organisations with the aim of resolving conflicts at a local, national and international level.

Our vision of 'promoting peace and building a better future' is achieved through our mission to 'develop peace building skills and change lives.' We do this by delivering educational peace programmes and youth exchanges which challenge perceptions and prejudice and aim to encourage tolerance and the acceptance of diversity.

The Trust also recognises the need to learn from past conflicts and does this through its ground-breaking research and support based 'Legacy Project'. This project is the only work in Great Britain that aims to address the needs of victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' who live in Great Britain. This includes former soldiers who served in NI, victims of bombings in Great Britain, bereaved families of soldiers killed in the conflict, emergency services workers who attended incidents and the families of all these people who have also been impacted.

In 2002 the Trust commissioned an independent 'Needs Analysis' of victims of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' who live in Great Britain. The aim of the research was to identify the needs of GB victims/survivors and advise on the options for the forward strategy of the Legacy Project and to point to ways other agencies and policy makers might address the needs identified. The report was launched at a reception held at Westminster in November 2003.

## **2. Our Submission**

The basic premise of our submission is that, when looking at peace & reconciliation in relation to the Northern Ireland conflict, the Peace II programme has left out a very important community – those individuals who have been affected by the conflict who live in Great Britain.

According to our research in the last 3 years the death toll of GB residents resulting from the NI 'Troubles' is estimated at 622, 16% of the total killed. In Great Britain itself 125 deaths have occurred and there have been over 2,000 injuries as a result of paramilitary activity. Many more people have been affected including relatives, friends and colleagues of the dead and injured, witnesses of incidents, those who have been psychologically affected and members of the emergency services who attended incidents.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 'The Legacy – A Study of the Needs of GB Victims and Survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles''. The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust, 2003 [www.childrenforpeace.org/TheLegacy.pdf](http://www.childrenforpeace.org/TheLegacy.pdf)

The Trust is involved in several areas of work with organisations from both Northern Ireland and the Republic. One area is cross-cultural youth exchange programmes such as the Tim Parry Project (see Appendix I), and the Young Citizens at Peace Programme, which bring young people together to discuss the causes of the conflict and look at alternative ways of solving conflict which do not include resorting to violence. The success of these projects is indicated by the feedback from the young people themselves (see Appendix II).

Following a detailed research phase the Legacy Project is now bringing individuals together to gain support from others who share similar experiences, to be trained to give support to other victims and survivors and to advocate for themselves. The project will also signpost individuals to other agencies where appropriate. The aim is to both learn from the past but also offer practical support to victims and survivors. This piece of work will form a work of 'best practice' in dealing with victims and survivors of future terrorist attacks. Feedback from project participants can be found in Appendix IV.

In meeting the needs of victims & survivors in Britain, part of the work of the Legacy Project is addressing the context of their victimhood – the 'Troubles'. For some of the victims and survivors we work with, meeting and sharing their experiences across the wider groups involved with or affected by the conflict, has been key to their making sense of what happened to them. For those in Northern Ireland the decisions made by the British Government, including sending troops, have affected all communities. We work with several organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic to bring people together across the borders. Our cross-islands work has also benefited the communities, as the third element of the conflict can be included in the peace process and aid recovery of victims and survivors across the British Isles as a whole.

While in most cases our partner organisations can gain funding from Peace II to undertake this type of work the Trust cannot, even though the work is of similar scale and importance to these organisations. The only distinguishing factor is that the Trust is a Great Britain-based organisation and therefore not eligible to apply for Peace II funding.

### **3. Consultation Questions**

The Trust has sought to answer some, but not all, of the consultation questions which are directly relevant to our statement above.

#### ***What type of activities should the Programme fund?***

The Trust believes that the Programme should support activities that not only deal with what happened in the past but also work with young people to build a better future. This would include work that brings together individuals from opposing viewpoints to help them understand others' views and look at positive solutions for the future.

In addition, single identity work in Great Britain and cross-region work with victims, survivors and ex-soldiers should be funded to enable those people who have been substantially affected by the 'Troubles', but for the most part ignored by the current process, to participate in a wider peace process.

*Who should benefit from the Programme?*

The Trust does not believe at this stage that the Programme has fully achieved its first criteria of addressing the legacy of the conflict. This is primarily due to the fact that the Peace II Programme excludes a group of people who are living with the legacy of the conflict in their daily lives – that group being those individuals living in Great Britain.

The victims and survivors living in Great Britain have to a large part been left out of the peace and reconciliation process. They are a disparate group who are spread across a large geographical area outside of the Irish borders. The work the Trust is undertaking to find and support this group is an essential part of the peace and reconciliation process and funding should be available to undertake this work via the Peace II Programme.

On a more general note, the Trust believes that all parties who have been affected by or involved in the conflict, whether they are ex-combatants, victims or communities, need to be involved as beneficiaries. If individual groups or communities are left out of the process then their voices won't be heard and the process of peace and reconciliation will not be complete.

Issues such as trans-generational trauma also need to be taken into consideration when looking at beneficiaries. Further work needs to be done with the children of those directly affected by the conflict. This is to ensure that the cycle of prejudice and trauma is stopped and that future communities can live together in peace.

*How should the programme be implemented?*

The Trust is of the opinion that there should be a fair and inclusive number of projects across as many communities as possible. This should include cross-geographical projects and multi-party programmes that bring together the knowledge, experience and expertise of several organisations in order to assist the programme beneficiaries.

## Appendix I

Details of the programme objectives and content for the Tim Parry Scholarship are outlined below.

### Programme Objectives for Participants

- To understand the meaning of culture and cultural heritage.
- To gain a broader perspective on the common experiences human cultures share.
- To gain an appreciation for the importance of stories in our lives and how stories have been used as a form of communication as well as an art form.
- To understand and respect cultural diversity.
- To successfully work in peer groups within and across international classroom forums.
- To play a variety of roles in group discussions; ask questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas; listen in order to understand a speaker's topic, purpose and perspective.
- To develop the skills necessary to engage in a poem's components and thus come to an initial and then refined understanding of that piece's meaning.
- To learn to provide feedback in terms of uncovering the similarities and differences in exemplary and student works, rather than thinking in terms of worth, of various cultural groups and their literary and artistic expressions.

### Programme Content

- Twenty-four young people and three peer educators (nine from each community) participate in the project.
- It is an eleven-day programme with time spent in each of the three communities. To enable the participants to gain a full understanding of the 'Troubles' and its impact on the three different communities, it is essential that the participants experience the history, culture and people from the different areas.
- The first leg of the project takes place in Warrington. It is a four-day exchange.
- The return leg takes place in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and is a seven-day exchange.
- Participants are involved in different activities e.g. group work, discussions and exercises on subject matter e.g. stereotypes, racism and island history etc.
- They have the opportunity to meet with and listen to unionist/nationalist representatives, ex-paramilitary members, former prisoners and politicians.
- Trips to the P.S.N.I., Army and the region of Derry are made.
- A variety of social activities and a trip to the Antrim Coast are also on the agenda.

## Appendix II

Quotations from the Tim Parry Scholarship are below. These are taken from the evaluation feedback forms that are completed by participants at the end of the programme.

*"Although someone once said to die for one's country is the ultimate sacrifice, I now know that to live for one's country is better."*

**Male participant, Northern Ireland**

*"Without understanding and co-operation, goals are unobtainable. Together we can make changes. Now I want to share my new level of understanding."*

**Male participant, Northern Ireland**

*"My eyes were opened to many things concerning the conflicts in Northern Ireland and it helped me to grow as a person, learning not to take things at face value but to delve deeper into reasons behind such things as violence. It has affected my life so much that I have applied to do a degree in Peace Studies and the root of that choice was down to the Trust and the Scholarship."*

**Female participant, England**

*"I learnt so much about Ireland that I wouldn't have been able to experience in England. It also destroyed very strong stereotypes."*

**Male participant, England**

*"Peace is often imagined as being easy but I've learnt that it is not. Peace involves horrible compromises and letting go of all the grief and seeing those who did crimes walk free, It is really hard but worth it."*

**Male participant, England**

*"Don't give up on peace! If 28 people from such entirely different backgrounds as us – Catholic, Protestant, Agnostic, Irish, British, Nationalist – can develop friendships then there is no reason why the rest of us can't – it's better, it's nicer and it IS worth it!"*

**Female participant, Republic of Ireland**

*"It has opened my mind to the Troubles and has enticed me to move on and try to do my bit to end the Troubles. I will now go and devote myself to help resolve them."*

**Male participant, Republic of Ireland**

*"It has helped me to understand opposing views and how to respect people's opinions, whether they are the same or different from my own."*

**Female participant, England**

*"Trust, friendship and forgiveness seem very simple to some but for others they form the biggest obstacle to peace."*

**Female participant, Northern Ireland**

*"Nothing seems easy anymore. I'm not as quick to form opinions and I understand my opinion is not the only one nor is it always the 'right' one."*

**Female participant, Northern Ireland**

## Appendix III

### The Legacy Project

*"This Government is determined to keep victims' needs high on its agenda and do all it can to ensure victims' voices are heard. The 'Troubles' have had a devastating impact on the lives of so many people in Great Britain but their continued suffering has not been forgotten. The work of the Legacy Project will help us to identify and meet those needs."*

**Dr John Reid MP, Former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, visiting the Peace Centre 04.10.02**

Trauma in victims of major terrorist attacks is now recognised internationally but very little has been done to assess the levels and seriousness of the impact on victims of the 'Troubles' in Great Britain. The armed forces and their families have also been greatly affected by incidents both in Britain and Northern Ireland. We feel confident that our work will lead to a change in the way that social and medical services help victims and survivors who are still suffering many years after the events.

The Legacy Project works with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). The project, based at the Peace Centre, Warrington, is aimed at those individuals and communities affected by bereavement, injury or trauma that is directly linked to the 'Troubles'. The project supports:

- Former soldiers who served in NI and their families
- Victims of bombings in Great Britain and their families
- Bereaved families of soldiers killed in the conflict
- Emergency services workers who attended incidents

Since the launch of the project the Trust has developed its national and international reputation as a leading player in the field of victim support, advocacy and direct services for victims of the 'Troubles' in Great Britain.

We have carried out an extensive needs analysis and 'The Legacy - A Study of the Needs of Victims and Survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'' was launched at the House of Commons in November 2003. The victims and survivors from Great Britain who have been affected have never had an opportunity like this to have their voices heard. Most of these people have had little or no support, and our report hopes to address that by providing recommendations to Government and agencies so that we can work together to improve support services for victims. With a further 3 years funding from the Northern Ireland Office, the Legacy Project is now moving into a new phase of direct support and advocacy for and on behalf of GB victims and survivors. We will provide direct support that is not already available, such as bringing people together to share experiences and support each other, and work with agencies to influence policy. We are also looking to establish a memories and archiving project.

## Appendix IV

### Aims & Objectives of Legacy Project Residentials

#### Aims:

- To allow victims / survivors / veterans to identify others with similar backgrounds
- To allow victims / survivors / veterans to gain support from shared experiences
- To allow victims / survivors / veterans to become prepared for widened dialogue

#### Objectives:

- To create safe space for storytelling
- To build a sense of trust for victims / survivors / veterans in working with 'Troubles'-related dialogue and storytelling organisations
- To begin and/or further individuals' journeys towards understanding and healing

### Quotes from Project Participants

*"It has been a thought provoking weekend."*

*"It's the start of bringing about change in attitudes amongst decision makers and funders."*

*"There was a good structure to the weekend. It was well facilitated – focused and safe."*

*"There was plenty of space to explore questions and issues."*

*"I feel excited by the report and hope that the next victims will get a better deal than us"*

*"It has been an eye opener for me to hear how people here have been treated – it's disgraceful."*

*"We have shown that you can be a victim AND do something about it."*

*"It has been a humbling experience."*

*"The passion of the group was inspiring."*

*"I was very apprehensive about coming this weekend – it has changed my mind and helped put me back together – I just hope I can go on staying involved and contribute."*

*"It has been great seeing new people change and grow in confidence and awareness."*

*"This (the storytelling) was the most important aspect of the weekend, because the veterans clearly had memories of incidents and issues from the conflict that have affected their lives ever since – and still do so today."*

*"To meet, hear and have dialogue with a group of ex-British soldiers. To relate to the group by listening to their story on how they coped with their time in Northern Ireland and since they became a civilian. The key to this is to relate, to repair and reflect, and to be respected and recognised." (Expectations of the weekend)*