



Annual Report 2008

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is a company limited by guarantee.

Company Number: 50088 and registered charity number: CHY5943.

Address: Glencree, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

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Introduction

Like many organisations Glenree goes through periods of growth, as well as phases of contraction. In the first quarter of 2008, several programme funding streams came to an end. This forced upon us a restructuring process. These changes were difficult, resulting in saying goodbye to valued staff members. But it was also a chance to reflect on our work, realign ourselves with a rapidly changing environment, and develop new programmes that build on our experience and learning. We had the chance to pause and take stock during the year, in the hope of coming back up to speed, more focused, more efficient, and more relevant than ever, delivering top-quality programme work in Ireland and internationally.

From evaluations that we have conducted, we know without doubt that there is a great need for the space and method that Glenree offers through its programme work. Young people, teachers, politicians, women's groups, survivors, former combatants, people of faith, business and community leaders, all recognise and articulate in different ways the value of supported and guided dialogue in groups. We are committed to these participants, to all our stakeholders, to our donors, members, volunteers, staff and friends around the world to continue this work that has brought positive change to the lives and communities of so many people. However, as we struggled through to the end of a difficult year with a degree of weary optimism, we did not see the global economic crisis which was on its way, and which made the struggle for survival all the more difficult. In that context, the fact that we did survive is a great tribute to all in the organisation.

Winding Down

The funding cycles of three long-running programmes at Glenree came to an end in 2008, and we were forced to suspend the Churches Programme, the Victims/Survivors Programme, and the Peace Education Programme. In all three cases, we believe that this work continues to be important for Glenree. We closed them of necessity, but only in the hope of re-launching them once more, stronger and more focused than ever.

The Volunteer Programme, which brings a group of people from various backgrounds to live at Glenree for one year to learn about and support the work, was also scaled down from eleven volunteers to four.

2008 Activity

Glencree continued to deliver training, workshops, dialogue sessions and much more, including:

- Training courses for women's groups, north and south, funded by the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- The long-term involvement of our International Programme in Haiti, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Liberia. This international work is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as by Trocaire, Concern, IrishAid, Cordaid, the Van Leer Foundation, and Norwegian Churches Aid, among others;
- Education and Training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding funded by the International Fund for Ireland;
- Final preparations for the proposed Irish Peace Centres Consortium, in partnership with the Donegal Peace Centre at An Teach Ban, the Corrymeela Community, and Cooperation Ireland which will consolidate and embed reconciliation in communities in Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic by bringing together the three residential peace centres on the island. EU funding for this was due to come on-stream in mid 2009;
- Political Dialogue work: we considered the expressed need (from Northern politicians) to re-start this programme, which had lapsed after the Good Friday Agreement. We laid plans to organise dialogues and networking with politicians in Northern Ireland to provide support to the restored institutions there on a range of issues (supported by the Anglo-Irish Division of the DFA).

Above all, our main concentration was on strategic development. We took the opportunity to consult widely with colleagues, partners, funders, and a wide range of stakeholders to develop a strong and future-oriented Strategic Work Plan. This, together with a review of our business plan and the establishment of new funding partnerships, consolidated the basis for a new phase of Glencree's work.

Sad Goodbyes

We very genuinely thank the following highly regarded members of our staff team for their huge contributions to Glencree's work over recent years, and warmly wish them all good luck and fortune in the future:

Martin Shepherd, Seth Gyambibi, Conn Mulvenna, Sorcha Tormey, Sean O'Boyle, Geraldine McAleese, Helen Browne, Wendy Murphy, Jacinta de Paor, Colin Murphy, Katie Rutledge and Sarah Ward.

David Bloomfield
Chief Executive

About us

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is a civil society organisation committed to non-violent, sustainable solutions to conflict. We conduct peace and reconciliation work in Ireland, north and south, Britain and beyond. From the context of the protracted conflict experienced in and between these islands, Glencree works towards understanding complex relationships, as well as cultivating new ones, between all people from all parts of society. The programme work cultivates peace and fosters reconciliation by facilitating dialogues, creating peace education resources, providing training and capacity-building, and much more.

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation was founded in 1974 as a response to violent conflict in Ireland, and in light of a conviction that non-violent solutions must be pursued in order to encourage reconciliation within and between communities. A spirit of commitment to these ideals inspired the foundation of the organisation and continues to motivate its programme work until today.

The Visitor Centre

The Armoury Café is a welcoming and comfortable restaurant and shop at Glencree where you can stop in for a hot meal or drink while exploring the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. Serving traditional and modern fare, all products are locally sourced and, where possible, organic and FairTrade. The Visitor Centre also provides conference facilities and exhibition space that hosts a permanent exhibition on the history of Glencree. Overnight accommodation is available for visiting groups.

The resources and facilities of the Glencree Centre are available to all, and are used by numerous groups. We foster an atmosphere which is welcoming and inclusive, and offer programmes which reflect the belief that constructive ways can be found to deal with conflict and division in a democratic society.

The Place

Glencree is nestled in the Wicklow Mountains in the Glencree valley just 12 miles from the centre of Dublin. The Glencree experience includes appreciating and being part of the beauty of nature. We have nurtured an atmosphere of 'safe space' over the years and our staff, volunteers, council, programme participants and supporters work together towards building a sustainable and peaceful society.

The oldest structures at Glencree were built as a British military barracks in the late 18th century. Between the mid 19th and mid 20th centuries, the premises were occupied by a religious order which ran a reformatory for boys. Thereafter, the buildings were largely neglected. In 1974, the government leased the premises to the Glencree Centre. The Office of Public Works has since restored and refurbished the old buildings.

The People

Staff

Patricia Anderson, International Programme Administrator
David Bloomfield, Chief Executive
Helen Browne, Executive Assistant
Nicky Butler, Executive Assistant
Jane Cahier, Bookkeeper
Gerard Cahill, Financial Controller
Sheila Cannon, Development Officer
Geoffrey Corry, Political Dialogue Facilitator
Jacinta De Paor, Survivors and Former Combatants Programme Co-ordinator
Geraldine Fitzgerald, Administrator
Pat Fleming, Maintenance
Seth Gyambibi, Catering Assistant
John Harding, Churches Programme Facilitator
Eugene Hearne, Receptionist
Phil Killeen, Women's Programme Co-ordinator
Edel Kinsella, Operations Director
Ray Kinsella, Receptionist
Malgorazata Klicka, Housekeeping
Geraldine McAleese, Housekeeping and Women's Programme Facilitator
Conn Mulvenna, Peace Education Manager
Colin Murphy, Churches Programme Co-ordinator
Lynne Murphy, Churches Programme Facilitator
Sean O'Boyle, International Programme Coordinator
Peter O'Hara, Receptionist
Declan O'Sullivan, Maintenance
Eamon Rafter, Education Development and Training Officer
Gareth Rogers, Maintenance
Katie Rutledge, Churches Programme Field Worker
Martin Shepard, Chef
Sorcha Tormey, Peace Education Officer
Wilhelm Verwoerd, Survivors and Former Combatants Programme Co-ordinator
Sarah Ward, Churches Programme Field Worker
Ian White, International Programme Director

Volunteers

2008-2009 Team

Jacqueline McLane
Astrid Hesselberg
Andras Teleki
Orlando Zaddach

2007-2008 Team

Majorie Accy
Courtney Cook
Krystal Cooper
Mira Dabit
Katherine Drop
Nadia Hanifi
Megan Kelly
Kenneth Monette
Kari Pope
Eslin Seide
Amer Zaqut

Glencree Visitor Centre Staff

Theresa Buckley
Charlotte Carolan
Jessica Davis
Joanne Donnelly
Rebecca Drew
Joanna Dutka
Sandra Elworthy
Ewelina Gadek
Susan Hinch
Kimberly Jacobs

Caterina Kane
Amanda Kelly
Eileen Kennedy, Manager
Rose Lee
Rebecca McInerney
Wendy Murphy, Chef
David Perry
Fiona Quinn
Alice Redmond
Bernie Vickers



Some of the Glencree staff and volunteer team at a Review Day in October 2008.

Council

Jonathan Murphy, Chair
Manus Hanratty, Vice Chair
Bill Brown, Honorary Treasurer
Jacqueline Nelson, Honorary Secretary
Paddy Crean, Past Chair
Alan Barrett
Tony Carey
Denise Collins
Denis Duggan

John Ewins
Pat Fox
Bronagh Hinds
Isobel Kane
Margaret Murphy
Garry Nolan
Campbell Scott
David Thompson
Rosy Wilson

We are honoured and privileged to have two high-profile individuals support our work:

Patron: President Mary McAleese



Glencree Honorary President: Alfie Kane



Supporters

Glencree's work is made possible by the support of government, businesses and private individuals. The Reconciliation Fund of the Anglo-Irish Desk at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs provides programme funding each year. The Office of Public Works provides invaluable support by maintaining and upgrading the state-owned buildings that house the Glencree Centre.

The European Union Peace Programme has provided significant support for Glencree's programme work since 1998. Specifically, the Irish Peace Centres project is supported by EU Peace funds.

The International Fund for Ireland provided invaluable support to Glencree's Education work, and to the new building project. The new office building has been made possible by a grant by the IFI and is a Legacy Project also benefiting from the support of the Office of Public Works.

The 100 Club and the Friends of Glencree are giving clubs where individuals provide vital annual support to the development of Glencree's work.

Embassies in Dublin are important sources of contact for Glencree's international programme, as well as providing resources to decorate and furnish rooms at the Glencree Centre.

Other important supporters include Concern Worldwide and Trocaire, our partners in international peacebuilding work in Haiti and Afghanistan.

Business Club

The Business Club is a way for businesses to support peace and reconciliation in Ireland, north and south. In 2008, generous donations were given by:

Diageo
Ulster Bank
eircom
AXA
Parc Group
Patrick Lynch Ltd.
Grafton Recruitment
RTE

Gifts in kind were also received from:
Aqua Fire Prevention
Infomarex
King Tree Services Ltd.
Siemens Ltd.
Silentnight
Whirlpool

Company Information

Registered charity number: CHY5943

Company number: 50088

Business Address: The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Glenree, County Wicklow, Ireland

Auditors: Ray King & Associates
5 Bridge Court, City Gate, St Augustine Street, Dublin 8

Bankers: AIB, 100-101 Grafton Street, Dublin 2

Ulster Bank Ltd., 33 College Green, Dublin 2

Solicitors: Arthur Cox
Arthur Cox Building, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Testimonials

“The programme at Glenree has changed my life and the way I think about other people. I have learned to respect others and not to judge.”

Participant in a Youth Exchange Programme at Glenree

“Here in Glenree we can meet as people rather than politicians. My personal political journey has been enhanced by my experiences here”.

Political Dialogue Participant

“I found the experience of engaging with others at Glenree extremely rewarding. We can come here to this beautiful place and talk about ways of making our lives and our communities better”.

Programme Participant

Accounts

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2008

	2008	2007
	€	€
Turnover – Continuing operations	924,046	1,207,200
Direct costs	<u>-</u>	<u>(81)</u>
Operating surplus	924,046	1,207,200
Distribution costs	(636,029)	(1,053,897)
Administration expenses	(627,308)	(721,192)
Other operating income	<u>334,625</u>	<u>387,535</u>
Operating deficit	(4,666)	(180,435)
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>(14,803)</u>	<u>(8,007)</u>
(Deficit) for the year	<u>(19,469)</u>	<u>(188,442)</u>
Accumulated (deficit) brought forward	<u>(252,206)</u>	<u>(63,764)</u>
Accumulated (deficit) carried forward	<u>(271,675)</u>	<u>(252,206)</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above and here have been no discontinued activities or acquisitions in the current or preceding periods.

On behalf of the board

Peter Keenan
Director

Denise Marie Collins
Director

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

Balance Sheet

as at 31/12/08

	2008	2007
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	2,570,167	1,288,980
Current assets		
Stocks	-	7,140
Debtors	227,180	265,491
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>97,884</u>	<u>125,535</u>
	325,064	398,166
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(625,275)</u>	<u>(554,072)</u>
Net current (liabilities)	<u>(300,211)</u>	<u>(155,906)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	2,269,956	1,133,074
Accruals and deferred income	<u>(2,286,987)</u>	<u>(1,130,636)</u>
Net (liabilities)/assets	<u>(17,031)</u>	<u>2,438</u>
Accumulated funds		
Revaluation reserve	254,644	254,644
Income & expenditure account	<u>(271,675)</u>	<u>(252,206)</u>
Accumulated funds	<u>(17,031)</u>	<u>2,438</u>

On behalf of the board

Peter Keenan
Director

Denise Marie Collins
Director