

## **The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Launches Publication**

### **'Deepening Reconciliation: Reflections on Glenree Peacebuilding'**

**in Belfast**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation will launch its publication '**Deepening Reconciliation: Reflections on Glenree Peacebuilding**' in Belfast to celebrate its 40th anniversary and underline its continued commitment to peacebuilding in Ireland and around the world.

#### **Ahead of the launch, William Devas, CEO of remarked**

"Glenree's work in transforming violent conflict and building peace has been helping to build improbable relationships between people involved in and affected by violent conflict on this island. Because of the sensitive nature of the work much of it has had to be 'under the radar'. While retaining necessary confidentiality we felt it was time for a coherent documentation of our work; '**Deepening Reconciliation**' reveals some of the lessons learned, mistakes made and how our experiences at Glenree might help others."

**Eamon Rafter, Editor of 'Deepening Reconciliation'**, "Glenree's learning suggests that conflict is inevitable but violence is not. We need to help people learn how to manage and even transform conflict through dialogue as part of the process of developing a 'culture of peace'. We still have a long way to go to develop such a culture."

#### **Barbara Walshe, Chair of the Glenree Board,**

"We have lived a mostly peaceful life in the south of Ireland - although there have been traumatic and violent attacks on this side of the Border - often ignoring Northern Ireland as having nothing 'to do with us'. We are though deeply entwined – historically, politically, economically and emotionally. Our job at Glenree is and was to ensure that we don't ignore the lessons learned and the suffering experienced. We continue to facilitate discussion and dialogue in the interests of continued peace on this island and internationally."

#### **Notes for the Editor:**

The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation was founded in 1974 as a response to violent conflict on the island of Ireland, with a conviction that non-violent solutions must be pursued in order to stop the violence and encourage reconciliation within and between communities.

Many politicians, former combatants - republican, loyalist and British state forces -victims and survivors and community representatives had their first connection with 'the other' through dialogues at Glenree. The work was particularly complex and difficult throughout both the 'Troubles' and the early years of the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Glenree's work today focuses on deepening reconciliation and understanding and ensuring that the peace on this island is sustained and nurtured.

Glenree continues to work towards building relationships and understanding between people from across the island from all social, cultural and political backgrounds. It also shares its experiences in other countries to help them resolve their violent conflicts.

The work of Glenree is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Reconciliation Fund.