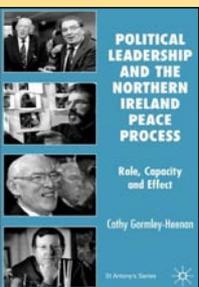
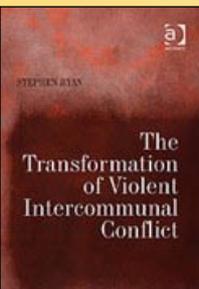
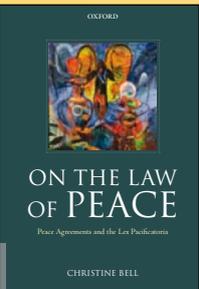
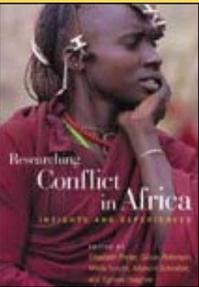


## Addressing Conflict and Building Peace

The University of Ulster is the premier institution on the island of Ireland working in conflict transformation. In line with our vision, 'To be a university with a national and international reputation for excellence, innovation and regional engagement', since the 1970s we have supported researchers and practitioners working to help the region move from violence to peace. This longstanding body of work led to an internationally acclaimed MA in Peace and Conflict Studies in 1987; a UNESCO Chair in 1999 focusing on education for pluralism, human rights and democracy; an LLM in Human Rights and Transitional Justice established in 2005; and the flagship centre of excellence for peace and conflict studies, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), established in 1993 as an associated centre of the United Nations University. The Transitional Justice Institute, the UNESCO

centre, the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages and key individuals across many disciplines also contribute to high quality research, teaching programmes and policy- and practice-focused work in the conflict field.

In the last 20 years the University of Ulster has invested in these areas and has attracted around £20 million to support conflict resolution research, including substantive awards from the Special Programme for University Research, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Department for International Development (DFID), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Royal Irish Academy and the European Union Peace and Reconciliation funds. The work is centred on the university's Magee campus in Derry/Londonderry.



## Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies

The Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies at Ulster is held by the Nobel Laureate Prof John Hume. Funded by the Ireland Funds, the chair has attracted an unparalleled group of international lecturers. The first volume of these lectures is being prepared for publication.

Michel Rocard, Bill Clinton, Bertie Ahern, Romano Prodi, Pat Cox, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kofi Annan, Garret FitzGerald, John Kerry, Mitchell Reiss, Mary McAleese, Dermot Ahern, Maurice Hayes and Kader Asmal.

*'All conflict is about difference, whether the difference is race, religion or nationality... The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace – respect for diversity'*

**John Hume.**



## Special Points of Interest

- CAIN, the internationally acclaimed web resource on the Northern Ireland conflict has attracted over 12 million visitors to date (70,000 per month)
- Over 1000 people have taken our MA in Peace and Conflict Studies or attended the INCORE International Summer School which is now in its 10th year.
- INCORE has hosted over 40 study visits to and from Northern Ireland in recent years to promote lessons learned and share best practice
- INCORE is an associated centre of the United Nations University



# Research

Almost all our research is international and comparative and has both a scholarly and a policymaking focus. In a spirit of local-global interchange, lessons from Northern Ireland are exported and lessons from elsewhere imported. Through our association with the United Nations University, researchers can present their work at UN headquarters and have easy access to UN distribution facilities.



## Peacemaking

Academics at Ulster have engaged in the Northern Ireland peace process, through creating discussion forums, participating in Track One and Track Two negotiations in Northern Ireland, and playing a part in human rights and legal bodies established by the Belfast agreement. Internationally, INCORE has, for example, advised the Basque Government on its peace plan. Staff have worked in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Brazil, Malawi and elsewhere. The Transitional Justice Institute addresses the relationship between minority rights and group accommodation, advising parties and civil society in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Aceh and the Middle East.

## Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Reconciliation and peacebuilding are concepts often seen as divorced from the reality of conflict situations. Staff at INCORE have been instrumental in defining how reconciliation is understood and pursued. The Working Definition of Reconciliation, designed by Ulster academics in conjunction with Democratic Dialogue, has framed the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme in supporting reconciliation in Northern Ireland. INCORE and Transitional Justice Institute staff have engaged in grassroots dialogues with former combatants and victims, aimed at fostering reconciliation and exploring justice in a practical sense. Other cross-cutting themes in this area include:

### Gender

UN Resolution 1325 supports the role of women in peace processes and across the university academics have engaged in relevant research. The Women's Security in Societies in Transition project, funded by the ESRC, involved research among women and men in

Northern Ireland, South Africa and Lebanon, focusing on the post-accord security of women. The report was launched at the United Nations in New York in 2007. INCORE is beginning cutting-edge research on masculinity and political transition. The Transitional Justice Institute scholarship provided definitions of peace agreements used by the UN Commission on the Status of Women in its main report on the implementation of UN Resolution 1325.

### Children and Youth

Young people are often sidelined in peacebuilding and Ulster academics have been at the forefront of analysing the impact of conflict on young people and children. The Voices of the Future, Legacies of the Past project run by the UNSECO centre has captured the voices of young people in Northern Ireland and Bosnia-Herzegovina exposed to conflict, generating recommendations on how education can foster reconciliation. INCORE also teaches on ethical issues when researching children, and the UNESCO centre is involved in a project on the role of young people in transitional justice.

### Transitional Justice

How societies deal with a violent past is key to moving out of conflict. Ulster has produced innovative research on transitional justice and staff have engaged with government bodies investigating ways of dealing with the past in Northern Ireland. INCORE staff have trained statement-takers of the South African and Liberian truth commissions. INCORE and the Transitional Justice Institute have engaged in global debates on reparations, gender and transition, security-sector reform, the rule of law and minority rights.

### Intergroup Relations

Reducing prejudice and attitudinal change are vital to lasting peace. Ulster has been at the cutting edge of research on intergroup contact. Since 1989 the University of Ulster and Queen's University, Belfast have been monitoring the social attitudes of people living in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Life and Times survey, established in 1998, annually assays adult public opinion on a wide range of social and political issues. A Young Life and Times survey for 16-year olds and a Kids Life and Times survey are also now included.

## Human Rights

Protecting human rights is essential in any peace process. The Transitional Justice Institute brings together human rights academics across Ireland and globally, and is networked with all the human rights centres in Ireland, the UK and the US. It has addressed the tensions between human rights, humanitarian law and states of emergency and peace agreements, looking to identify constructive relationships between human rights and peacebuilding, and has been awarded the American Society of International Law prize for creative scholarship.

## Development

Development and peace are linked: political conflict and war are a threat to development, while development can help reduce conflict. DFID has provided funding to the UNESCO centre to strengthen the university's commitment to international development. Ulster is also part of a Universities Ireland network, funded by Irish Aid, involving nine universities in Ireland and partners in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. The focus is poverty reduction through research capacity-building. INCORE runs a Trauma, Peacebuilding and Development project exploring the intersection between psychosocial assistance to victims and developmental issues.

# Teaching programmes and specialist short courses

## MA in Peace and Conflict Studies

This course, the first on the island of Ireland, is a taught MA in the School of History and International Affairs. It mixes comparative peace and conflict studies with country- and region-specific focuses, and addresses wider theoretical issues.

The MA in Peace and Conflict Studies has two components: four taught modules that lead to a diploma and an MA awarded for a dissertation based on original research. Scholars from around the world have enjoyed the rich learning environment, which includes a strong practice element. In recent years Mitchell, Chevening and Rotary scholars have added to the high-quality student body.

*'As a Mitchell Scholar from 2005-2006 I was in the PCS Masters program at UU. There, I studied under some of the most well published and experienced peace academics in the world—some who had directly contributed to peace processes, themselves ... This past year I was able to draw upon my MA experience from Northern Ireland while working in Sri Lanka, doing peace education and advocacy for a domestic peacebuilding organisation, National Peace Council.'*

**Ben Cote**, Mitchell scholar.



## LLM in Human Rights

The Transitional Justice Institute, in conjunction with the School of Law, offers an innovative LLM programme, providing a critical understanding of the increasingly complex national and international legal environment of human rights and transitional justice issues.

The programme began in September 2005 and has attracted a broad range of students. Offered on a full-time and part-time basis at the Jordanstown and Magee campuses. It is intended primarily for law graduates, legal practitioners or those with experience working on human rights.



## Summer Schools

2009 will see the 10th INCORE International Summer School and the second year of the Transitional Justice Institute Summer School.

The INCORE Summer School is recognised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations. Practitioners, policymakers and academics from NGOs around the world come to Magee for an intensive, week-long programme providing up-to-date theory linked to case studies. Modules include: reconciliation in societies emerging from conflict; the management of peace processes; Track 2 diplomacy; and evaluation and impact assessment of conflict resolution interventions.

Over the years more than 500 people from more than 30 different countries have attended INCORE Summer Schools. The international networking has been much appreciated by participants.



## Specialist Short Courses

INCORE also provides courses tailored for a wide range of groups around the world. Recent specialist courses include the 12-week South Asian Conflict Resolution Programme funded by the British Council's Chevening Scholarship scheme, the Gender Mainstreaming and Conflict Resolution programme, the Kashmir Conflict Resolution programme, and police training and restorative practice programmes.

The University of Ulster is pioneering e-learning through a specialist Masters-level module on Peace and Conflict Research.

The University of Ulster offers unique PhD study opportunities. More than 30 PhD students are focusing on aspects of conflict transformation.

# Conflict Transformation Web Resources at Ulster

The University of Ulster is home to the internationally acclaimed CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet), the largest online repository of Northern Ireland conflict-related materials.

New resources are constantly being made available on CAIN. For example, the AHRC has funded the university to undertake a two-year project on victims, survivors and commemoration. The project will complete in 2009 and will provide a comprehensive web resource within CAIN.

INCORE offers a Conflict Data Service on global conflict issues, which includes the latest information on conflict in specific countries, thematic overviews and interdisciplinary guides. It also publishes the online Ethnic Conflict Research Digest, which reviews the current global peace and conflict literature.

The Transitional Justice Institute, supported by the Nuffield Foundation, has completed a database of 650 peace agreements, and is working to make this a searchable, web-based resource.

ARK is an online resource providing access to social and political material on Northern Ireland.

In 2007 University of Ulster conflict resolution web resources attracted over 100,000 distinct users per month.

## Policy and Practice programmes

The university recognises that research should make a difference to the lives of people in conflict-affected countries and promote evidence-based approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The mission of INCORE's Policy and Practice Unit is therefore to *'Improve the interface between research, policy and practice in the field of peacebuilding and conflict resolution'*.



Recent policy-practice projects at INCORE have included:

### The Northern Ireland Centre for European Co-operation

This three-year project, funded by Peace II through the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, facilitated reciprocal learning between Northern Ireland and the EU, accession countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States. It engaged almost a thousand policymakers, practitioners and researchers in ten countries around Europe and the world, through 29 activities.

### Journeys Out

This Peace II extension project, which ran in 2007 and 2008, engaged a new generation of community leaders in the debate about 'dealing with the past', and involved exchanges with and visits to the Middle East. The project is accredited by the University and is delivered by INCORE (lead partner) in partnership with Intercomm, based in north Belfast, and the Peace and Reconciliation Group in Derry/Londonderry. The project will continue under Peace III programme until 2012 and also include the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation as a cross-border partner.

*'The group returned ... determined to do all we can to ensure that the new society that is emerging, and of which we are a part, is an improvement on that which went before—one that has space for everyone, regardless of race, religion or political ideology ...'*

**Bill Shaw** (Journeys Out Participant)

### Diversity Programme

INCORE, in partnership with the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence in the US, has assisted minority ethnic groups, those working with them and young people in secondary schools in developing the skills required to deal with bias and harassment by delivering training and leadership programmes. To date over 60 trainers have taken part and they have trained over 500 people with a further 285 young people in schools participating.

The **Transitional Justice Institute** has a policy dimension to its research. Staff produced a 2006 report for the International Council for Human Rights Policy, 'Negotiating Justice? Peace Agreements and Human Rights', which has formed the basis for Swiss and Norwegian foreign policy in peace negotiations and human rights. They regularly conduct training on justice and peace issues for mediators.

Ulster has a long tradition of involvement in **Track 2 Diplomacy** and in developing structures and practices that enable diverse people to model new ways of working co-operatively. Global learning and exchange is also at the heart of Ulster's vision.

### Study Visits

INCORE has hosted 40 study visits over the past five years to share lessons between Northern Ireland and other parts of the world, including the Balkans, the Basque country, the Middle East and Asia. The Sri Lankan and Burundian presidents have been among high profile visitors.

This is a two-way process, with Northern Ireland learning from peacebuilding approaches in other regions, and in particular learning about approaches to diversity and multiculturalism that may facilitate our responses to the increasing diversity on this island.

## Contact Us

### INCORE

University of Ulster, Magee Campus  
Derry/Londonderry  
Northern Ireland, BT48 7JL

Phone: +44 (0)28 71375500

Fax: +44 (0)28 71375510

E-mail: [b.hamberg@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:b.hamberg@ulster.ac.uk)

[www.incore.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk)

