



July 2004

Issue: No. 1

Dear Everyone,

This is the first bi-monthly newsletter which we hope will keep everyone who has supported The Forgiveness Project over the past seven months informed about our progress and activities.

On 25th May we received charitable status (Registered Charity No: 1103922) which now establishes The Forgiveness Project as something much more than just an exhibition. We are also very pleased to announce the support of some extremely distinguished patrons: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rt Hon the Lord Woolf, Anita Roddick, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Tim Newll, Emma Thompson, Simon Fanshawe and Jilly Forster.

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

'The F Word' exhibition opened at the Oxo Gallery in January and grabbed people's attention. 6,000 people visited the gallery. The response underscored the importance of the exhibition as a trojan horse, an entry point, into the bigger picture of The Forgiveness Project.

In March we held a workshop to draw up the defining aims and vision of The Forgiveness Project:

The Forgiveness Project is an organisation working to promote conflict resolution and restorative justice as alternatives to the endless cycles of conflict, violence and crime that are the hallmarks of our time.

By exploring personal stories of reconciliation, and harnessing support from around the world, The Forgiveness Project encourages debate on embracing difference and overcoming division to achieve lasting social cohesion.

3,000 employees and clients at Ashursts international law firm, Publicis, Great Eastern Hotel, Chiswick Park, the International Broadcast Trust, have seen the exhibition when it was held at their premises.

The new touring exhibition pack, which was available from May, has been booked and seen by communities in Shropshire, Stockwell, St Ethelburga's in the City of London and two schools in Oxford and Twickenham. In April we also held a debate at the ICA on Forgiveness & Revenge.

In April 'The F Word' launched in South Africa at the Healing of Memories conference on Robben Island, then subsequently showed at the Anglican cathedral in Cape Town. It now has a permanent home at the Church of the Good Sheppard on Robben Island.

Media coverage to date of the exhibition has provided 30,000,000 opportunities to see.

THE NEXT STEPS

Other than organising the touring of the exhibition nationally and internationally, we are now concentrating on developing a programme for schools and prisons. We are currently researching a Schools Pack to complement Citizenship Studies, and have established a partnership with Brixton Prison and Bullingdon Prison near Oxford to run a pilot prison project at the end of the year. We aim to create an innovative rehab programme, aimed ultimately at reducing re-offending rates.

We are also looking into developing Healing of Memories workshops in England – a process used extensively and effectively in South Africa and Northern Ireland. To this end we will be running our first Healing of Memories workshop in September, facilitated by Alistair Little,

DATES FOR THE DIARY

17-24th July 'The F Word' exhibition will be in Bristol.

27-30 August - "The F Word" will be at Greenbelt Festival, Cheltenham.

14 Oct-8th Nov - 'The F Word' will be showing at the Lanchester Gallery, Coventry University Campus as part of their Peace Month.

On October 12th Jo Berry and Pat Magee will be giving a talk at St James' Church, Piccadilly to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Brighton Bomb.

Later in the autumn the exhibition will be showing in The Netherlands, organised by "Women For Peace".

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

None of this would have been possible without the goodwill and generosity of our sponsors. The Oxo launch of the exhibition took place thanks to the support of Anita Roddick Books, The Forster Company and Passion Pictures.

Since then we have received further funding from Passion Pictures to develop our touring exhibition pack, and last month a successful presentation by Alistair Little and George Ames (chairman of TFP trustees) raised over £5,000 for our first Healing of Memories workshop and DVD.

We are delighted to have received a £7,500 annual grant for the next three years from the McGrath Charitable Trust. The McGrath Charitable Trust normally funds specific projects but felt on this occasion that we needed the money just to keep going. We are very grateful for their flexibility and enthusiasm.

We have also recently received a £10,000 grant from The Allen Lane Foundation, specifically given for a pilot prison project, which we will be implementing over the next nine months. This generous grant allows us to do something significant within the prison service.

Finally, thanks to The Findhorn Foundation in Scotland for their grant of £3,800

which allowed us to take the exhibition to South Africa and leave it there. And also to Anita Roddick's continued support, this time with the aim of collecting more stories in America and launching the exhibition in the US in 2005.

Please also check our website which has all the latest news and which we plan to extensively upgrade in the next few months.

with best wishes

Marina Cantacuzino

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Registered

Charity No: 1103922