



September 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The Forgiveness Project has some exciting London events coming up this autumn:

Tuesday 13th October 2009

25 years after the Brighton Bomb: Forgiveness?

On the week marking the 25th anniversary of the Brighton bomb we are holding a discussion in the House of Commons Grand Committee room with Jo Berry, whose father was killed in the Brighton bomb, and Pat Magee, the former IRA activist responsible for planting the bomb. The event is hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues.

For more information contact: info@theforgivenessproject.com

Wednesday 21st October 2009

Circles UK Conference: exploring the restorative nature of Circles of Support & Accountability

Circles UK supports groups of trained and supervised volunteers providing structured support and holding to account a sex offender living in the community.

TFP Seminar: "Repairing the Harm"

Presented by Marina Cantacuzino and Bernd Leygraf, Consultant Psychotherapist

For information: www.circles-uk.org.uk

Is there any place for forgiveness in the midst of violent conflict?

In conjunction with the UK Jewish Film Festival and UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum we will be hosting a discussion with Robi Damelin and Ali Awwad, two enormously inspiring speakers committed to promoting reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge from both sides of the divide.

Place: St Ethelburgas Centre for Reconciliation & Peace

Time: 6.30pm

Suggested donation: £5

www.stethelburgas.org.uk

Thursday December 10th 2009

Exploring Forgiveness: facilitating discussion through story sharing

A day's workshop exploring the nature of forgiveness and alternatives to revenge which draws on the learning, resources and personal stories from The Forgiveness Project. Participants are invited to examine forgiveness as a tool for healing past wounds both in their own lives and the lives of others.

Cost: £50

Place: St Ethelburgas

Time: 10-5

Facilitators: Marina Cantacuzino (TFP director) and Bernd Leygraf, consultant psychotherapist.

To book a place on the course contact: simon@theforgivenessproject.com

Media

You can follow TFP updates on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/ForgivenessProj>) and also I now have a blog on what's been described as America's "online powerhouse" - The Huffington Post.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marina-cantacuzino/beyond-good-and-evil_b_278151.html

New Stories

Some of you may remember the story of nurse Magdeline Makola that hit the headlines last Christmas when she was abducted from her flat in Scotland and locked in the boot of her car for ten days. Magdeline miraculously survived and recently shared her story with The Forgiveness Project.



<http://www.theforgivenessproject.com/stories/Magdeline-Makola>

Prisons

We continue to work regularly at HMP High Down in Sutton and in October will be doing our first workshop for Vulnerable Prisoners (a group made up largely of sex offenders). In June we did our first workshop for juveniles at Ashfield prison in Bristol which followed a successful awareness raising day for staff. We have also been invited back to Guys Marsh prison in Dorset to run three more workshops over the next 9 months. I recently received an encouraging letter from a prisoner who did our first workshop at High Down two years ago. He wrote....."My observations are that prisoners are generally the most cynical cross section of society I have ever encountered but when they are inspired it's quite moving and in my nearly three years at HMPs the most inspired I've seen them is in praise of The Forgiveness Project."

Four more extremely moving and provocative films made by prisoners have come out of High Down's digital media course, taught by Alastair Pirrie. The aim of this follow-on course has been to allow prisoners to explore forgiveness and reparation through the form of digital media. Committing their stories to film is a powerful way for prisoners to strengthen victim empathy and convey remorse.

Words - <http://www.theforgivenessproject.com/news/>

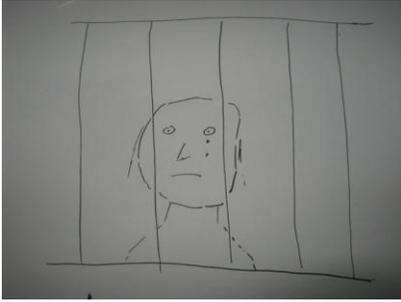
Sorted - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hG7CXyj1NgM>

Consequences - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvRBodVH7-k>

Identity - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kk5EgOkxY78>

Schools

For the past two years we have been concentrating on our prison programme but in June we piloted our schools programme in two **Bristol** secondary schools. Using workshop materials including film, music and visual storyboarding, our aim is to provide teachers with creative & innovative approaches to the broad topic of forgiveness.



a drawing by a member of the DICE (Diversity Inclusion Challenges Education) group from Bristol's City Academy.

Community workshops

The Forgiveness Project ran its first workshop in the community at The Pieran Centre, Bristol, in June. This consisted of an afternoon session exploring the work of The Forgiveness Project through story, film, mapping exercises and sharing views on the nature of forgiveness. The response from participants was unanimously positive. As one participant said: "It was powerful, moving, informative - a wonderful exceptional workshop." The next workshop is in St Ethelburga's in London in December.

Funding

Finally, we are as always extremely grateful and indebted to our funders without whom we would not be able to continue our work. A very special thank you to: The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for funding the new post of Project Coordinator - to which Simon Marks was appointed this June. Thank you also to The McGrath Charitable Trust, The Henry Smith Charitable Fund, the Wates Foundation, the Monument Trust, Coutts and Passion Pictures.

with very best wishes

Marina Cantacuzino
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