



May 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters.

Annual Lecture

We are delighted that our second Annual Lecture will be delivered this year by Clare Short, former Secretary of State for International Development. She will explore the topic, 'No Forgiveness Without Justice?' and will be preceded by two of our story-tellers who will share their own personal journey. With The Independent newspaper acting as our media partner, we're also delighted that Johann Hari has agreed to chair this event.

Date: Thurs 6th October 2011,

Time: 6.30pm, Union Chapel, Islington

For ticket information please check our website from June 1st.

Diploma Course

From September this year and based in London, The Forgiveness Project will be running a one-year part time structured training programme in *Group Facilitation, Conflict Resolution and Counselling Skills*. The course prepares trainees for national accreditation with AHPP and runs from October 2011 until September 2012. The course is relevant to our work because of the high level of facilitation we require to run our prison programme. The diploma is open to anyone working or wanting to work in this area. [Click here](#) more details or email sue@theforgivenessproject.com

Website & New Stories

There are several new stories on the website, among them [Mark Henderson](#) who in 2003 was held hostage in Colombia and then six years later met one of his kidnappers; and [Tracey Ford](#) whose son was murdered in London in 2007.



Prison Programme

We are re-naming our prison programme RESTORE (Restoration-Education-Storytelling-Teambuilding-Openness-Respect-Empathy) in order to more accurately reflect what we do, as sometimes prisoners turn up expecting us to 'teach' them how to forgive! We are now running the programme in 5 UK adult male prisons and one YOI. We've also recently commissioned the Forensic Psychological Services at the University of Middlesex to undertake an evaluation of our work in prisons.

The workshop, which is best delivered as an early intervention, helps to motivate people into making different choices. One prison member of staff recently commented: "Feedback from learners is always complimentary and many participants have said that The Forgiveness Project workshop is without doubt the best, most powerful and useful course they have ever done in any prison."

Schools

Raising sufficient funds to develop and implement our Education Resource Pack for young people has not been easy but we think we are nearly there! "Exploring Conflict Transformation: an inquiry into forgiveness and reconciliation" will be an on-line tool as well as comprising a DVD and a written Teachers' Guide. Alongside the experiences of young people and TFP story-tellers, the resource will offer creative teaching activities to demonstrate ways of incorporating themes of conflict and reconciliation into different curriculum subjects.

USA

The Forgiveness Project has hired a new US Exhibition Coordinator. To hire the exhibition for North America please email [Mark Kidd](mailto:Mark.Kidd@theforgivenessproject.com).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sophie Levy, the previous coordinator for the US, for her dedication and hard work over the past few years.

Fundraising

Six months ago I could barely swim – let alone do the crawl, or even put my face in the water! But I'm about to take part in the one-mile [British Gas Great London Swim](#) on Saturday 2nd July at Royal Victoria Dock to raise money for a story-telling project we're undertaking in Sierra Leone with Fambul Tok – an organisation which models a pioneering, community-led approach to post-war reconstruction. If you interested in learning more – or donating – here's the link.

<http://www.justgiving.com/Marina-Cantacuzino>

The Forgiveness Project is now fully registered with Just Giving, making it easier for people to raise money for us. If you are embarking on a sponsored activity and would like to raise money for The Forgiveness Project, we would, of course, be especially grateful.

Media

The Archbishop of Canterbury's words suggesting that forgiveness can be given too easily prompted much interesting debate before Easter and as a result I was invited to speak on several different radio stations. I have reflected on this issue and written about it on my Huffington Post blog:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marina-cantacuzino/forgiveness-project_b_850156.html

Finally

If you are based in London don't miss Synergy Theatre Project's exciting new venture at the Soho Theatre running from 9-14th May. We collaborated with Synergy in 2008 over The Long Road play. This festival of new plays celebrates the work of five compelling new playwrights - all of whom are prisoners or ex-prisoners. <http://www.sohotheatre.com/pl2070.html>

With all good wishes,

Marina Cantacuzino,
Founder & Director

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