



November 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters.

Website & New Stories

Our newly designed website continues to attract a fantastic amount of traffic from all over the world. We are continually adding new content, with it now being possible to listen to some of the stories. Filmed interviews of some of the other story interviews are on the way. Start looking out for the audio and video icons next to the story portraits.

There are new stories, eight in collaboration with Combatants For Peace from Israel/Palestine, and four in collaboration with Why Me?:Victims for Restorative Justice. Our latest new story is that of Elizabeth Turner whose husband was killed in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. [Link](#)

Clink Lunch with Giorgio Locatelli

On 14th October, Giorgio Locatelli, and the prisoners who work at the Clink Restaurant inside HMP Highdown, cooked and presented lunch for 80 of The Forgiveness Project's specially invited guests. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC gave the main address supported by HMP Governor Peter Dawson and several TFP facilitator/storytellers. The lunch helped raise the profile of the charity's prison programme, and some very much needed funds.

Our thanks go to our co-hosts, Lady Edwina Grosvenor, Lady Judy Moody Stuart, Peter Dawson, Kevin McGrath and Kate Quigley-Ruby. And, in particular, thanks to the McGrath Charitable Trust for sponsoring the event.

Essential Fundraising

Like many charities, the current economic climate has produced a very challenging time for fundraising for The Forgiveness Project, and we are putting in a lot of effort into raising the total funds necessary to complete all our core work in the next financial year. Therefore, any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated. There are several ways in which you can do this:

Make a donation – You can that on our website at <http://theforgivenessproject.com/donate/>

Book the exhibition – All necessary information is at <http://theforgivenessproject.com/exhibition/>

Order a Catalogue or Badge – See our website for details <http://theforgivenessproject.com/get-involved/>

Marian Partington

Our gratitude and congratulations to Marian Partington (whose story is featured on our website, and who frequently works for TFP in prisons - <http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/marian-partington-england/>). Marian has raised over £1,000 for The Forgiveness Project by walking along the old pilgrim route from Aire sur l'Adour in France, to Santiago in the far west of northern Spain, a distance of over 920 kilometres.

Our Prison Programme

In the past year we have run 19 prison workshops in six different UK prisons - reaching 450 adult male prisoners and young offenders. Increasingly prisons are paying either the full amount for this workshop or contributing larger sums towards it. With the government promising a 'revolution in rehabilitation' the workshop is recognised as an effective victim awareness/restorative justice intervention.

Peter Dawson, governor of HMP High Down, where we have worked for three years recently commented: "There is something extraordinary about a course which sets out to ask prisoners to examine the most profound and difficult issues imaginable. ..In my view The Forgiveness Project can start a process of personal reflection without which rehabilitation and restoration are impossible. It is a privilege for High Down to host such a courageous and compelling undertaking."

Exhibition

The exhibition has been as busy as ever and hired out to a wide variety of places. Indeed, over the end of October and into early November, the exhibition was simultaneously hired out in 4 different countries.

As well as venues such as Leighton Park School (Reading) and One World Week in Ilford, one version of the exhibition is five-month long tour of Germany, whilst another is on a month long tour of Donegal in Ireland. In the last week, the exhibition has gone from being at HMP Wormword Scrubs, to Norwich School in Norfolk.

The South African version of our exhibition now has a permanent home on Robben Island.

Schools

We are in the process of raising funds to produce and complete our Education Resource Pack for young people. "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 – Exhibition & Vacancy

In the USA the exhibition continues to be hired out all over the country and the feedback is excellent. Our new website now has a section for potential exhibition hirers, helping to answer and hire and shipping questions

The Forgiveness Project is also looking for a new exhibition co-ordinator for the United States. Although this is not a salaried position, the co-ordinator will keep the majority percentage of all income earned from the exhibition hire.

With very best wishes,
Marina Cantacuzino,
Founder & Director