



## November 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters.

### New Play



*UNPROVOKED* is a new play written by Kathrine Smith and based on the story of [Mary Foley](#) – whose 15-year-old daughter was murdered in 2005. For the past two years Mary has worked with The Forgiveness Project as a speaker and facilitator on our prison programme. In collaboration with the Metropolitan Police and with support from the Roundhouse in London (where the play will be showing on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November) we are proud to present this powerful work which explores the complex nature of teenage female violence and the courage of a mother who overcomes bitterness and anger in order to forgive.

To find out more...<http://www.roundhouse.org.uk/whats-on/productions/unprovoked>

Image: Photo by Ashen Venema / Design by Emily Allchurch

### Annual Lecture



On 6th October we held our second annual lecture at the Union Chapel in Islington to an audience of nearly 500 people. The lecture 'No Forgiveness Without Justice?' was delivered by [Clare Short](#), who was accompanied on stage by three remarkable people who had lost loved ones to violence and terrorism: [Colin Parry](#) whose son was killed in the 1993 IRA Warrington bomb, [Elizabeth Turner](#) whose husband was killed in the World Trade Centre on 11th September 2001, and [Bassam Aramin](#), a Palestinian whose 10-year-old daughter was killed by an Israeli soldier. After the event, many people emailed or wrote to tell us how the evening had moved and inspired them - one person in particular summed up the mood: "I will always be grateful to the people who shared their experiences and traumas, their coping mechanisms, their different ways to move on, their understanding that forgiveness is a living changeable electrical charge, that it isn't quantifiable. I learned that forgiveness is a place to open up a dialogue, to begin a communication to ask could there possibly be a way forward that is not filled with regret, darkness and anger."

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To read [Clare Short's lecture](#) [Click here](#)

Image: Colin Parry, Bassam Aramin, Marina Cantacuzino, Elizabeth Turner, Clare Short & Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

### Diploma Course

On the last weekend in October we held the first weekend of our new one year part-time structured training course in Group Facilitation, Conflict Resolution and Counselling Skills. The Forgiveness Project is running this in association with the training, therapy and consulting organisation, [NAOS](#). Demand for the diploma far exceeded places available and we're delighted to have applications to carry forward to next year's course. I think everyone taking the diploma will agree that it was an exciting start to what promises to be an extraordinary year ahead.

To enquire about the 2012 Diploma please contact [rachel@theforgivenessproject.com](mailto:rachel@theforgivenessproject.com)

### New Stories

TFP was honoured and privileged to be invited to the Google Ideas [Summit Against Violent Extremism](#) in Dublin in June. For me it was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with several remarkable survivors of political violence who had shared their stories with The Forgiveness Project. But I also got to meet some other remarkable people who have turned their back on violence – for instance former white supremacist [TJ Leyden](#), and [Sammy Rangel](#) once a brutal gang leader with a killer mentality, now spending every waking hour fighting for peace. Both these men gave their stories to The Forgiveness Project and there will be more stories from the Summit to come.



Images: Left - T J Leyden / Right - Sammy Rengel

We will also soon be posting several stories from [Fambul Tok International](#), a Sierra Leone based organisation which runs a brilliant programme helping former enemies live peacefully together again. In June I just about managed to complete the one-mile British Gas Great London Swim which I swam in order to raise funds for story-collection in Sierra Leone.

### Prison Programme

The evaluation we commissioned from the University of Middlesex Forensic Psychological Services is nearly completed and we look forward to sharing the preliminary results with our supporters and funders very shortly. In the meantime we've continued to roll out our RESTORE victim empathy/restorative justice programme. This year has been our busiest yet with 25 workshop residencies completed since January in seven different UK prisons. We are fortunate to have a unique mix of facilitators - with every team made up of at least one ex offender and one victim of crime. We even have Dave Williams - an ex prison officer -working with us now. At a recent Restorative Practices conference in Hull, myself, [Peter Woolf](#) and Dave ran a very successful workshop on Victim Awareness and Restorative Approaches for the Serving Prisoner.

For anyone wanting to read more about RESTORE – here is a link to a paper I gave about the programme at the 4<sup>th</sup> inter-disciplinary global conference on Forgiveness held in Oxford in July. [http://issuu.com/marinacantacuzino/docs/sep\\_30\\_2011\\_forgiveness\\_marina\\_cantacuzino\\_ebook\\_p?mode=window&backgroundColor=%23222222](http://issuu.com/marinacantacuzino/docs/sep_30_2011_forgiveness_marina_cantacuzino_ebook_p?mode=window&backgroundColor=%23222222)

We were also delighted to receive some funding from the Home Office through the Communities Against Gangs, Guns and Knives Fund to develop our work at Ashfield YOI and take it into the community.

### Schools Programme

We are delighted to have received funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (with some additional funding from the Network for Social Change and the Christian Initiative Trust) to complete our teacher's resource which has been in development for a couple of years. Essentially this will be a downloadable resource of filmed stories and activities which we plan to pilot in a number of schools from September 2012. The resource will use the true-life stories of adults and young people to inspire dialogue, and will place the themes of justice, revenge, reconciliation and forgiveness across curriculum areas. We hope that the resource will present young people not only as authors of their own stories and projects, but also as inspirational teachers to other young people.

### Exhibition

The F Word exhibition is a vital part of our work and continues to tour the UK and beyond inspiring groups and communities to explore the issue of forgiveness. It is the foundation for all our work and a valuable resource, providing a profound focus for thought and debate; as one visitor said: "Probably the most important exhibition I've ever seen."

We currently have exhibitions for hire in the UK, Germany and the US, if you are interested in hiring one or just want to find out more, please email: [rachel@theforgivenessproject.com](mailto:rachel@theforgivenessproject.com).

### Finally

Like many charities in the current climate, TFP is working under the continual challenge of sourcing funding for its core work. To help us ensure that we will always have an abundance of valuable contacts and funding solutions to help propel TFP towards achieving its mission and objectives, we are launching a Supporters' Programme.

We'd be grateful if you could look out for the email from us regarding the programme in the next few weeks, and in advance, our thanks as always for your support.

Very best wishes,

Marina Cantacuzino

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