



## December 2013 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

In our final newsletter of the year I want to wish you all a very happy holiday and a peaceful year ahead.



Next year The Forgiveness Project will be ten years old! This is a massive milestone for me personally but also for all those who are - and have been - connected to the charity, whether through sharing their stories, facilitating our programmes, supporting the operations and strategy or funding the work.

To mark this anniversary we are planning some exciting events throughout 2014 so keep an eye on the website and we'll be sending further information soon. In the meantime...

- The next meeting of the Narrative Practitioners' Forum, a collaboration with St Ethelburga's, will be on Wednesday, 15 January 2014 at the London Inter Faith Centre in north west London. This is an invitation to those who use personal narrative and story in their work to share best practice and learn from each other. [Click here](#) for further details and to register.
- We are hosting a joint screening of a new film, *Beyond Forgiving*, at St Ethelburga's on Tuesday, 21 January 2014 (tickets £10). This is a documentary film which depicts the journey of two of our storytellers - [Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele](#) - to bring healing and reconciliation to South Africa.
- *Beyond Right & Wrong* is being shown at Asthall Manor Ballroom in Oxfordshire on Friday, 31 January as a fundraiser for The Forgiveness Project (tickets are £25 and available [here](#)).
- On Sunday, 9 February we're holding a fundraiser screening of *Beyond Right & Wrong*, a film that follows the stories of a number of people who have worked with us over the years. This will be at the [Lexi Cinema](#) in NW London (tickets £12).

**If anyone is interested in putting on a similar event please contact [rachel@theforgivenessproject.com](mailto:rachel@theforgivenessproject.com) as this is a great way of engaging local communities in issues of conflict transformation as well as supporting what we do.**

## RESTORE programme



*"My time in jail has been full of mixed emotions - anger - tears - funny - crazy - and last of all - touching - as your course has topped off a major change in the way I go through my life, my being and my thought process has done a total 360'. ... I wish you all well in all you do in the future but please continue to do this and tell your stories to others in prison as I don't think even you truly understand the positive impact you all have."* - Course participant in HMP Parc, November 2013

Despite far-reaching changes being rolled out across the criminal justice system in England and Wales, we've managed to maintain several RESTORE programmes running in a number of prisons. RESTORE is a victim impact/ restorative justice programme which continues to receive wide support from participants. We are continuing to develop our work with London Probation in Croydon and Infobuzz in Gloucestershire, as well as developing new models of delivery with a range of community partners and schools.

## New stories

We have collected three new and inspiring stories:



In 2004 Cathy Harrington's 26-year old daughter, Leslie, was murdered in a brutal attack in her own home. It was Halloween night when the killer broke in, also taking the life of another of Leslie's housemates. A year later, after an extensive police investigation, Eric Copple admitted to the crimes. Copple is now serving two life sentences with no right to appeal. [Click here](#) for the full story.



In August 2008 Liz Brereton's 21-year-old daughter, Ruth, was killed in a car crash travelling back from Portsmouth to her home in Croydon. Two years later the driver of the car received a two year prison sentence for causing death by dangerous driving and was banned from driving for two years. He was released after one year. [Click here](#) for the full story.



Dave Dineen first encountered sexual abuse at the age of seven. Through a stormy childhood he found himself placed in the care of a religious institution in Cork. His healing journey has been about learning to live with a difficult past. He is the CEO and Founder of LÁMH Healing Foundation for Cork, Ireland. [Click here](#) for the full story.

## The F Word Exhibition

*"Very profound and deeply disturbing - exactly as it should be. Forgiveness is freedom."*  
Visitor to exhibition, November 2013

In the last few months the F Word exhibition has been to the Munich Carmelite Church, Germany; University of Toronto, Canada; Greenville Yoga, South Carolina; Associated Bank, Minneapolis; Tikun Long Island, NY; Spirit In The House Theatre, Minneapolis; Wolverhampton Interfaith & Regeneration Network, UK.

As part of our 2014 celebrations, all hires of the current exhibitions in the UK will be at the reduced price of £200 per week while we embark on an exciting redesign. We are working in collaboration with University College London and are seeking sponsorship for this project.

Please contact [rachel@theforgivenessproject.com](mailto:rachel@theforgivenessproject.com) with any queries on hiring the exhibition or our new plans.

## Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship



I have recently returned from 5 weeks in Canada and America. I was really fortunate to receive a [Winston Churchill 2013 Fellowship](#) and be given the opportunity to learn about some amazing restorative justice initiatives.

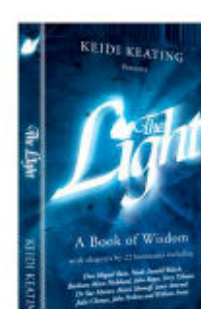
I started out in New York where I saw part of the [TASTE](#) diversion programme in Long Island which invites victims of crime to share their stories with defendants. From there I went to Winnipeg where I learnt about pioneering mediation services, the origins of 'healing justice' and the disproportionate representation of First Nation people in the Criminal Justice system.

I also visited Minneapolis and Texas where I met some of the leading researchers and practitioners in the field of restorative justice. In Texas I was invited to take part in the faith-based [Bridges to Life](#) programme which operates in 30 of the State's prisons and involves victims in the process of story-telling and facilitating. Then on to O'ahu (Hawaii) where I witnessed a pioneering Restorative Justice Solution-Focused Practice programme for women prisoners, learnt about the [Huikahi Reentry Circle](#) process and took part in an uplifting celebration at Honolulu's Supreme Court which welcomed parolees back into the community in front of family members, community leaders and attorneys.

More detailed reports will be available soon but whilst there I wrote two blog posts which you can read, one on [The Legacy of Canada's 'Cultural Genocide'](#), and the second, [From Death Row to Restorative Justice](#).

## Other News

The Diploma in Group Facilitation, Conflict Resolution and Counselling Skills, now run by NAOS, is taking place in London from January 2014 until November 2014. There are a couple of places still remaining so if you are interested please visit [NAOS](#) and complete the application form on the page.



We are delighted to have been chosen as one of seven charities to benefit from a new project, The Light. The Light is a collection of essays from 22 contributors, all material is new and has been donated by best-selling authors such as Neale Donald Walsh, Don Miguel Ruiz, Marci Shimoff, Barbara Marx Hubbard and John Perkins. Also included is a chapter on The Paradox of Forgiveness from Julie Chimes whose story features [here](#).

The Forgiveness Project will receive 20% of the total profits. To buy a copy of the book [click here](#).

We would like to say a big thank you to the Investment Management Association who made us charity of the night at their annual dinner and invited [Peter Woolf](#) to give a talk. This one night raised an amazing £7,800!

Fundraising events like this really support TFP to do innovative pilots and take our work to an even wider audience. Please contact [rachel@theforgivenessproject.com](mailto:rachel@theforgivenessproject.com) if you are interested in running any fundraising events.

## Become a Supporter...

Finally, my thanks go to all those who currently support The Forgiveness Project - without you these 10 years would not have been possible. Supporters receive discounted tickets to events and other special offers and we are planning an extra special event for 2014. If you feel inspired by what we do, we would love you to join our [Supporters' Programme](#) and help ensure that we carry on for another ten years!

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful 2014!

Warmest wishes,  
Marina Cantacuzino

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