



November 2012 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters.

Evaluation: prison programme

On 18th October at the House of Lords, we launched the independent evaluation of our RESTORE prison programme. We have been really encouraged by the findings of this research since it indicates that the intervention has the capacity to affect a prisoner's attitude towards crime and therefore may have a very real effect on recidivism. The research was carried out during 2011-2012 by the [Forensic Psychological Services \(FPS\)](#) at Middlesex University. The House of Lords event was hosted by our patron Lord Stone of Blackheath and we were delighted that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Jeremy Wright MP, considered it worth his while to attend. He congratulated The Forgiveness Project for the charity's "imaginative approach" to criminal justice.

Dr Joanna Adler from the FPS concludes in her report: "Given the low numbers of prisoners and young offenders being followed up, we had not felt it likely that there would be sufficient variance within the cohort to show change before and after the intervention. However, the impact of RESTORE seems to have been big enough that the changes were quite substantial and we found a statistically significant difference; this is very positive outcome of the evaluation."

To read the executive summary click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read the full report.

TFP Resource for Teachers

We are excited to announce that our new web based teaching and learning resource will be launched in spring 2013. The resource has been developed in partnership with Bristol-based Education specialists [Visible Thinking](#) thanks to funding from the [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#) and additional support from [CIT](#). A series of residencies, pilots and test interventions have taken place in a number of schools and colleges across the UK. The results of these, including invaluable feedback from teaching staff and students, are being used to refine the materials still further, while the mechanics of the downloadable resources are currently being finalised.

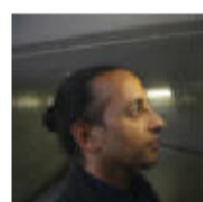
For further information and to sign up for email alerts visit our [schools page](#).

Corporate Courses

Through the [Cranfield Trust](#) we have been provided with some invaluable expertise from volunteers at the leading management consultancy firm, PA Consulting. Our initial aim is to design a developmental workshop utilising conflict resolution and storytelling techniques to help build high performing teams for public and private sector organisations. This is an exciting new development for The Forgiveness Project.

New Stories

Check out some of our most recent stories –



In July 2008, Shad Ali, a British Pakistani from Nottingham, was violently attacked when he came to the rescue of two Pakistani women who were being racially abused by a passing pedestrian. Click [here](#) for the full story.



Sebastian Marroquin is the son of the infamous Colombian drug baron, Pablo Escobar, who at the height of his career controlled 80% of the global cocaine market. In 1993 Escobar was killed in a gunfight with Colombian police. Exiled in Argentina, Sebastian has spent his adult life carving an alternative path in a bid to break the cycle of retribution. Click [here](#) for the full story.



Satta Joe was a victim of the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991-2002). The organisation [Fambul Tok](#) emerged as a unique approach to community reconciliation in post-conflict Sierra Leone and has helped rebuild many lives, including that of Satta Joe. Click [here](#) for the full story.

Exhibition

"The exhibition is enormously powerful and healing vicariously even just reading about it. Continue with your good work!"

Visitor to The F Word Exhibition in Essex Church, London – September 2012



In the UK The F Word exhibition has been seen at Southwark Council HQ in London, Lymington New Forest Hospital, the offices of the London Probation Trust and spent three weeks touring the borough's of Antrim, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey in Northern Ireland. All the hires for the next few months are private so if you would like to see the exhibition why not consider hiring it yourself? To find out more information please email rachel@theforgivenessproject.com.

In the US, the exhibition has recently been displayed at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and at Concordia University. The exhibition will be touring the Minnesota Department of Corrections in November though this will be closed to the public. For enquiries into hiring the exhibition in the US or Canada please contact our Louisa at consultantshext@gmail.com.

The F Word exhibition continues to tour the world. It was exhibited in South Africa at the University of the Free State as part of a week of 'Artistic Social Justice' organised by the [International Institute for Studies in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice](#).

We are also delighted that The F Word exhibition has now been translated into French and had its debut earlier this month (see below for further details). More information on hiring the French edition of The F Word will be available on our website in the new year.

Events - past and present

On the 13th September I had the privilege of speaking at the UN in New York. I was there because an upcoming documentary called [Beyond Right and Wrong](#) was being shown to help introduce a new resolution on "Forgiveness and Reconciliation" for the General Assembly's consideration. We were fortunate that the [Secretary General Ban Ki-moon](#) was also present and commented afterwards that "the greatest barriers in life are not walls around buildings, but walls around hearts".

In June I was invited to speak in Kigali at an international workshop proposed jointly by the [National Unity and Reconciliation Commission](#) (Rwanda) and the [Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace](#). 'Healing the Wounds of History: Addressing the Roots of Violence' set out to explore the psychological roots of violence in recent Rwanda, and to identify new modalities of healing.



I was also delighted that The F Word exhibition has now been translated into French and was launched in France at the beginning of November at the annual ['Days of Forgiveness'](#) conference (Les Journées du Pardon) where I talked about forgiveness in prisons and ran a workshop.

28 September - 4 October 2013

We are very pleased to be working with the Findhorn Foundation on an International Autumn Conference: *"Forgiveness the Great Undoing"*. Click [here](#) for further details and to book a place.

Recruiting a new Managing Director

Having been at the helm of The Forgiveness Project since founding the charity in 2004, and as we approach our tenth anniversary in Jan 2014, it feels like the right time to begin to reposition our principles and values. For this reason we are now looking to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity by seeking to employ a Managing Director who will take on the operational responsibility for The Forgiveness Project with a view to becoming Executive Director.

For further information see our [website](#).

Donation for TFP from *If You Sit Very Still*



Vala Publishing are offering copies of Marian Partington's superb memoir *If You Sit Very Still* for £15.99 (inc UK p&p) out of which a £3 donation will go to The Forgiveness Project: To buy a copy and support TFP click [here](#).

The book chronicles the events surrounding Marian's sister Lucy's disappearance, the discovery that she was one of the victims of serial killers Fred and Rosemary West, and Marian's subsequent healing journey.

And finally

We are hugely indebted to [Frankie Owens](#) who has just completed his walk of 1170 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End to raise money for The Forgiveness Project. Along the route he was joined by fellow walkers wanting to hear his story, and he also gave talks to universities and probation teams about [The Little Book of Prison](#), a "beginner's guide" based on his own experience.

It's not too late to [support Frankie's incredible effort](#).

Please also consider joining our [Supporter's Programme](#). Without the support of individuals from all round the world who believe in what we do, we wouldn't be able to continue our work.

Warmest wishes,
Marina Cantacuzino

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