



## May 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends,



To celebrate our tenth anniversary, we decided rather than run an annual lecture this year we would get people talking about Forgiveness by holding 10 'Conversations' each with key speakers on different themes. These are being held monthly at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in London.

The remaining talks are:

- **16 JUNE: What happens when unresolved trauma is allowed to fester between generations?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **14 JULY: Can revenge work?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **18 AUGUST: What's the point of punishment if society won't forgive?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **15 SEPTEMBER: Can you move on without forgiveness?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **13 OCTOBER: Does knowing a person's story make it harder to hate them?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **10 NOVEMBER: How do words help relieve pain?** [Click here](#) for more details.
- **1 DECEMBER: Should you forgive the unforgivable?** [Click here](#) for more details.

Doors open at 6pm with the conversation beginning at 6.30pm.  
Tickets cost £11 and all proceeds go to The Forgiveness Project.  
The talks are not recommended for children under 12 years.

### 'Beyond Forgiving': film and speaking tour

We are delighted to be partnering with Initiatives of Change and The Wilderness Foundation to support the current UK speaking tour of Ginn Fourie & Letlapa Mphahlele, the South African protagonists of the award winning documentary feature [Beyond Forgiving](#). The main London event will be chaired by Terry Waite on Tuesday 27 May at the Royal Geographical Society.

[Click here](#) for tickets and for details of all dates.

### Tutu's Global Challenge

We are also honoured to have been invited to be a partner organisation of the [Tutu Global Forgiveness Challenge](#) launched this month. The 30-day Challenge represents forgiveness in action and was largely inspired by the book [The Book of Forgiving](#) written by our Founding Patron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho. It was wonderful that the work of The Forgiveness Project is acknowledged in this recently published book.

### Narrative Practitioners' Forum: Annual Summit

During the past two years we have collaborated with St Ethelburga's, the London Interfaith Centre and the Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace to create a forum where those working with narrative can share ideas. We are now holding a summit on Saturday 7 June in NW London to map out some of the diverse approaches to this work. [Click here](#) for further details and to book.

### Also...

- We have been helping to promote the [FilmRaise](#) social action campaign to ensure that the pioneering film [Beyond Right and Wrong](#) continues to get the global reach it deserves;
- We have been welcomed as a 'peace partner' by Karen Armstrong's important organisation, the [Charter for Compassion](#);
- In April The Forgiveness Project was part of an international Symposium acting as a springboard to action on establishing a [Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation](#) in 2015. The Symposium took place in Birmingham, UK, and was co-sponsored by the Fetzer Institute, the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ) and the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace.

## Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship 2013



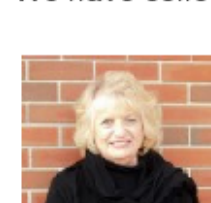
My report focusing on my Fellowship last year is finally written and published.

The aim was to examine how non-profits and state government departments were using restorative justice for the rehabilitation of offenders both in custodial and community settings, and to examine what could be learnt to improve and develop The Forgiveness Project's own restorative justice offender programme, RESTORE.

[Click here](#) to read: *Transforming Lives through the Power of Personal Narrative*.

## New stories

We have collected seven new inspiring stories including:



In November 1984 Wilma and Cliff Derksen's 13-year-old daughter, Candace, went missing on her way home from school in Winnipeg. For the past three decades **Wilma Derksen** has influenced victims, offenders and her local community by writing and speaking on the subject of forgiveness. [Click here](#) for the full story.



**When Samantha Lawler's** father murdered her mother in Florida in 1999, he was sentenced to a life in prison without parole. 13 years later Samantha visited him in prison – an event which would change her life. [Click here](#) for the full story.



In 1993 **Mary Johnson's** only son, 20-year-old Laramion Byrd, was murdered. The perpetrator was 16-year-old **Oshea Israel** who received a 25 year sentence. Many years later Mary visited Oshea in prison and since his release in 2010 they have lived as neighbours in Minneapolis. [Click here](#) for the full story.



In April 1994 over a 100-day period, nearly 1 million Rwandans lost their lives in ethnic violence. Among the dead were several members of **Jean Paul Samputu's** family. [Click here](#) for the full story.



During the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Stanislav Krezic** fought against the Bosnian Army on the front lines around the divided town of Mostar. Stanislav Krezic was taken prisoner and held for five months in his own village by men he knew. [Click here](#) for the full story.

## The F Word Exhibition

*'Many thanks for the opportunity to hire an exhibition such as this. It really is a gift.'*  
– Keble College Chapel, Oxford, hired in March 2014.

This year in England, The F Word has been displayed at Keble College Chapel in Oxford, Liverpool Hope University, Frinton Free Church in Essex, Langley Academy in Slough, Southwark Council in London, Saint Laurence Church in Reading and at All Saints Church Centre in Crowborough.

We also currently have exhibitions based in the US and Canada, Germany, France, South Africa, Sweden, Kenya and Libya.

For more information on the exhibition and to see future engagements visit our [website](#).

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 very fortunate to have Katie Nairne, a very talented masters student doing Museums Studies with the University College London, undertaking her placement with us and has been tasked to help us update and redesign The F Word exhibition.

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

## RESTORE: "Outstanding Rehabilitative Work"

We are absolutely delighted that The Forgiveness Project was highly commended for its "outstanding rehabilitative work" in HMP Parc by the Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Rehabilitation 2014. We received the award from Lord Ramsbotham at the House of Lords in February for our RESTORE offender programme. The award, supported by the Prison Reform Trust, recognised RESTORE's use of real stories to help offenders reflect on their behaviour and motivate them to change.

Despite a period of relative uncertainty within the Criminal Justice sector in England and Wales due to the implementation of the [Transforming Rehabilitation agenda](#), we continue to run RESTORE in a number of prisons and in partnership with London Probation in Croydon. In May we also started working for the first time in a women's prison in Gloucester, Eastwood Park.

## South Africa: 'Freedom - our responsibility'

I will be representing The Forgiveness Project at the 'Freedom – our responsibility' conference in South Africa at the end of September. The conference will provide a platform for pioneers and leaders to present and share practical models, experiences and ideas which bring freedom, peace and prosperity to communities - thus contributing to the vision of a new Culture.

If you're interested in attending you can find more [details here](#).

## Canada: Exploring Forgiveness: The F-Word Retreat

Two of our storytellers [Shannon Moroney](#) and [Katy Hutchison](#) are holding a Forgiveness Retreat in August 2014 in Algonquin Park, Canada.

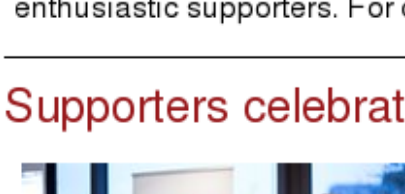
In this weekend retreat, Shannon and Katy, women affected by violent crime, restorative justice advocates, authors, speakers and close friends, create a space for you to explore the forgiveness process. For more information visit: <http://northernedgealgonquin.com/forgiveness-retreat.html>

## DIPLOMA: 2015 - London

In 2011-12 we ran our first diploma in Group Facilitation, Conflict Resolution, and Counselling Skills in partnership with NAOS. The course was a great success and together we ran a further two courses, working with over 100 students in total.

We are now handing over the running of this course entirely to NAOS while remaining strong and enthusiastic supporters. For details of the upcoming diploma [click here](#).

## Supporters celebrate 10th anniversary

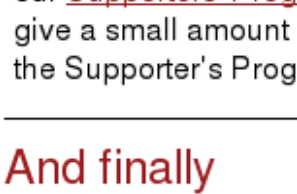


On 23 April many of The Forgiveness Project's key supporters, funders and contributors over the last ten years gathered in central London to celebrate the charity's successes. Around 70 people attended the special event which was held in the Grosvenor Office and was sponsored by The Westminster Foundation and Lady Edwina Grosvenor, one of our patrons. Peter Woolf and Will Riley shared their powerful story of [Restorative Justice](#).

As well as reviewing the past I talked about the charity's plans for the years ahead and highlighted how The Forgiveness Project wouldn't be where it was today without the generosity of our supporters.

If you would like to help us increase The Forgiveness Project's reach please consider joining our [Supporters' Programme](#). This is where individuals, who feel strongly about what we do, can give a small amount regularly to support the work. This charity is not easy to fundraise for and so the Supporter's Programme really is in many ways the lifeblood of the organisation.

## And finally



It struck me as I was thinking of the last ten years that none of the work would have happened without the charity's other Founding Patron, the late Anita Roddick, who funded the inaugural exhibition and whose spirit lives on in the work. I think of her passion and determination as I think of the next ten years.

Warmest wishes,  
Marina Cantacuzino

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