



10 Day Study Tour to Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland: How Far Along is the Peace Process?

Participant Biographies:

Ban Al-Mahfodh is the Research Coordinator at the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequence. Ban received her B.A. from the University of Basra in 1997, majoring in English Language and Literature with a minor in Arabic and French translation. She also received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Basra, Iraq, in 2000. Most recently, she received an additional M.A. from Brandeis University where she studied at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Her work at the Heller School focused on issues such as Advanced Study in Sustainable International Development, Conflict Theory, Coexistence Strategies, Art and Peacebuilding, and Development and Conflict. Her master's thesis, *YIELA: A Youth Business Entrepreneurship Model in Iraqi City Slums as a Sustainable Instrument of Peace within the Conflict Situation*, drew on her work in Iraq. Ms. Al-Mahfodh's work experience before coming to the Center includes an internship in Youth and Philanthropy for the Near East Foundation in New York and work as project manager for Save the Children in Basra from 2003-2005.

Karla Alvarez is a program officer for the WorldLink Program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. As the institute's youth liaison, Alvarez works with dozens of middle schools and high schools in the greater San Diego region and Baja Mexico to provide opportunities for youth to discuss and take action on global issues. She volunteers her time to the Cancer Coping Center, Young Professionals for International Cooperation—San Diego (YPIC), Young Nonprofit Professional Network, and serves on the board of directors for Voices of Women, an organization with a commitment to education on international issues and U.S. foreign policy. Originally from Port Chester, New York, Alvarez has also lived in Mexico and France. She is fluent in Spanish and French and studied Italian and Japanese. Her international exposure inspired her to pursue a career in international relations with a focus on Latin America. She received her B.A. in International Relations from the University of San Diego.

Jessica Anderson is the founder and director of Collaborative Transitions Africa (CTA), an organization dedicated to collaborating with local partners to support local transitional justice initiatives in post-conflict countries. She has mainly focused on restorative justice mechanisms in Northern Uganda for the past several years. Before founding CTA, Jessica conducted field research pertaining to issues of conflict, gender-based violence (GBV), and transitional justice in Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda while at Tufts University. Jessica is also currently a Scoville Fellow at the Henry L. Stimson Center's Future of Peace Operations program in Washington D.C.

Andrew Borene is Associate Deputy General Counsel with the U.S. Department of Defense and also lectures as Adjunct Faculty on U.S. foreign policy and the intelligence community at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs. Borene is an attorney, a former

banker, and a veteran U.S. Marine officer with academic and professional management experience in business, law, and government. He spent two years as a public finance investment banker at Wells Fargo & Co. He also served for over three years on active duty as a U.S. Marine intelligence officer, including combat service in Iraq. Borene resides in Washington, D.C. where he supports the Association for Intelligence Officers and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law & National Security with *pro bono* service.

Katherine Boyle will be attending the University of Chicago Law School this fall after spending more than two years as an environment and energy reporter in Washington, D.C. As a graduate student in journalism at Northwestern University, Ms. Boyle covered war crimes trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, and wrote about the peacebuilding process in Bosnia. She has also reported on religion, immigration, and education issues in the D.C. and Chicago areas. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2005 where she completed a senior honors thesis on the tension between civil rights and national security in Ireland, Spain, and the United States.

Timothy Bradley is a graduate of Penn State University (1998) and currently teaches psychology and modern world history at Donegal High School in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Mr. Bradley has had the opportunity to research how conflict impacts population groups through the lens of behavioral science, while visiting areas such as Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, and Central Europe. His affinity for travel and his curiosity about the personal impact of conflict also resulted in unofficial excursions to locations such as Israel and Galatia. His hometown of Mount Joy, and the surrounding area has a history that is deeply entrenched in the Northern Ireland conflict, as the name of the his high school and town both suggest.

Nina Brantley received her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During her undergraduate studies she also completed coursework at Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute and at the Paris Sorbonne University. In 2006, she earned a Master's degree in Global Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research interests include the role of non-traditional judicial systems in post-conflict societies, international criminal courts, international prisons reform, and transitional democracies. She is currently part of the Rule of Law Program at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) where her portfolio includes Sudan, Haiti, and training. Before joining USIP, she worked for the French Department of Culture, the House of Lords in the U.K. Parliament, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and most recently for Freedom House.

Erin Breeze is the Executive Director of the Denver-based international non-profit organization Seeking Common Ground (SCG). This organization's mission is to build partnerships between individuals from conflict areas worldwide and throughout the United States in order to create a more just, inclusive, and peaceful world. Their flagship program, Building Bridges for Peace (BBfP), serves Israeli, Palestinian, and American teens. In 2000, she was selected as an inaugural George J. Mitchell scholar, a program of the U.S.-Ireland Alliance. In 2001, she completed her MA in Peace and Development Studies from the University of Limerick. Her graduate research centered on the complexities of implementation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Ben Emery works in the field of restorative practices. Restorative practices draws on the principles and practices of restorative justice for use beyond (and including) the criminal justice setting. Restorative circles led him to transformative mediation and non-violent communication. In June 2009, he completed a Master's of Restorative Practices at the International Institute for Restorative Practices Graduate School. During his study, Emery was also a full-time restorative youth counsellor at an alternative high school serving Philadelphia's at-risk youth. His counselling team facilitated restorative approaches to conflict as it arose among teenagers who had been suspended from various public schools or referred by juvenile court.

Michael English is a PhD student at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. He holds a Master's of Science in Conflict Resolution. His interests and research focus on the role of identity in conflict, divided societies, nationalism/ethnic conflict, and perceptions of war and peace. His previous research focused on the prospect of creating sustainable interethnic relationships in the wake of a peace settlement on the island of Cyprus.

Kowsar Gowhari comes from a political and religious Iranian family and has been involved with politics and social matters from childhood. In 2003 she graduated from the University of Art in Tehran, where she founded two student organizations and coordinated many cultural and political programs. She is currently a graduate student in the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program at Columbia University and works for Eurasian Foundation in Washington, D.C. In Iran, she worked for several reformists' newspaper and the nonprofit Mum-Iran. While in the U.S. she has worked for several democracy- and peacebuilding organizations such as Young Voter Strategies, Search for Common Ground, and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). In Washington D.C., she co-founded "Setade Ma" a campaign for two reformist candidates Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi. The campaign launched several global photo shoot projects, and designed a tele-campaign with the cooperation of several campaigner groups inside Iran. After the election, she joined the group D.C.-based "Where is My Vote?" managing the news section and daily news letter of their website.

Jennifer Hazen holds a PhD in International Relations, with a specialization in conflict studies. She has spent the past seven years working overseas on issues of conflict and peacebuilding. Ms. Hazen is currently a senior researcher at the Small Arms Survey in Geneva, Switzerland. In this post, she has managed a number of research projects on violence in Nigeria, southern Thailand, and the southern Philippines. Previously she worked as an analyst with International Crisis Group in their Sierra Leone office.

Michelle Neyland has long been interested in the "Irish Troubles" after hearing stories of her grandmother's childhood in Northern Ireland. She received her B.A. in Hispanic Studies with a minor in Business Management from the College of William & Mary. Michelle's interest in peace and conflict studies grew while she participated in an internship related to the terrorist train bombings at the Archive of Mourning in Madrid, Spain. Michelle then received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to Costa Rica, which allowed her to pursue her Masters in Media, Peace, and Conflict Studies at the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica. While at UPEACE, Michelle studied peace theory and practical conflict transformation, focusing on the impact of the international media on worldwide conflicts and the

potential of new forms of media for peacebuilding. Since graduating, Michelle worked for the U.S. Association for the University for Peace (UPEACE/US) where she founded a digital learning program called PeaceRooms in a 5th grade at-risk Washington, D.C. classroom. She now works as a government contractor and manages a social network community of over 12,000 international members.

Deirdre O'Brien holds a law degree from City University of New York Law School and Master of Law (LL.M) in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland, Galway, Irish Centre for Human Rights. She has a background in post-conflict efforts, having worked with victims and families in Northern Ireland at the Pat Finucane Centre and the Committee on the Administration for Justice. In addition, Deirdre interviewed witnesses and victims for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Diaspora Project and was part of the first ever U.S.-Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Public Hearings. Most recently, she worked in the Office of the Prosecutor, War Crimes Unit, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the trial of Momir Pelemis, former Deputy Commander and Chief of Headquarters of the First Battalion with the Zvornik Brigade, and Slavko Peric, former Assistant Commander for Security, accused of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Reilly O'Connor has been involved in numerous political campaigns and while his work is primarily focused on the American political process, he has long been drawn to the challenges faced by communities divided on religious-political lines. In 2005, he co-authored an article exploring the impact of religious fanaticism on political life and how a community can attempt to raise itself from violence and commit to peaceful coexistence. Mr. O'Connor has a X.X degree from XXXXXXXXXXXX University, etc.

Stacie Pettyjohn is currently completing her dissertation at the University of Virginia and will begin work as a Transatlantic Post-Doctoral Fellow for International Relations and Security at the RAND Corporation in October. Her dissertation, *Talking with Terrorists: American Policy toward the PLO, Sinn Fein, and Hamas*, explores U.S. policy toward engaging with groups considered to be nationalist terrorist organizations. It also explores whether an American policy of engagement can help to transform a nationalist terrorist organization into a legitimate political party. Her next project will examine the broader conditions that lead terrorist groups to abandon their armed struggle. In particular, she is interested in further investigating what makes a terrorist organization choose to forgo violence in favor of politics and how the leaders of these organizations can accomplish such a transformation in the face of more radical factions. From this work and an accompanying trip to Ireland, Stacie hopes to gain a better understanding of how both republican and loyalist organizations underwent such an evolution.

Azita Ranjbar is currently a research fellow for the International Research and Exchanges Board, where she is conducting research on women's contributions to sustainable peace in Tajikistan. This past spring, she spent four months in Morocco conducting research on gender reparation programs through the Equity and Reconciliation Commission. Prior to this, Azita worked for the Rule of Law Program at the United States Institute of Peace, where she focused on informal justice, criminal law, and transitional justice issues in Afghanistan. She previously held positions at the Henry L. Stimson Center, National Democratic Institute, and the Afghan Women Judges Association in Kabul. Azita holds a B.A. in International Relations and Religious

Studies from the College of William and Mary, and a M.S. in Peace Operations Policy from George Mason University. She has received fellowships from the International Research and Exchanges Board, the Rotary Foundation, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, and the United Nations Association.

Christie Roberts is the Director of Programs at the World Affairs Councils of America, an association of 90 non-profit organizations across the country that work in a non-partisan capacity to engage Americans in international affairs and foreign policy. She has a master's degree in international studies from the University of Denver and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Brandeis University. After completing her master's, she spent ten months in Amman, Jordan on a long-term U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded graduate fellowship. She has worked with a number of nonprofits and member-driven associations in addition to her ten years of experience in the restaurant and retail industries. Christie is also the recipient of a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship; she will study conflict analysis at the Brussels School for International Studies during 2010-2011. She speaks French, Spanish, and introductory Arabic.

Adee Telem was born in Israel and has always felt a strong obligation to actively support Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution. She previously served as the West Coast Director of OneVoice, a parallel movement of almost 700,000 mainstream Israeli and Palestinian citizens pushing their respective leaders toward a two-state resolution to the conflict. In (year here), Adee launched her own venture, The Social Investment Consultancy (TSIC). This organization helps private sector clients leverage their resources for the good of society while gaining tangible business benefits; its non-governmental organization (NGO) clients, many of whom are in the conflict resolution space, are supported with strategy, development, and partnership-building services.

Donald Tighe is a Ph.D. candidate in International Relations at the Globalization and Governance Program of the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs. Within a broader focus on conflict resolution and reconciliation, his current research targets foreign policy motivations and effectiveness impacts in third party mediation. Donald is also vice president of external affairs at In-Q-Tel, the independent non-for-profit strategic investment firm that identifies and advances mission-critical technology innovation to support the U.S. Intelligence Community. His other recent national security and international development work has included managing strategic communications for the Science & Technology directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Science & Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, as well as for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its Disaster Assistance Response teams which included travel throughout Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Donald holds a Master's in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor's in Economics and Political Science from Duke University.

Ragan Updegraff holds a B.A. in political science, history, and rhetoric from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He currently serves as a research and conferences intern at the National Endowment for Democracy's research arm, the International Forum for Democratic Studies. Selected a Fulbright student fellow, Mr. Updegraff will be in Turkey from September 2009 to August 2010, where he will be studying how the European Union is working with Turkish civil society leaders and organizations, including Turkish minority groups. Mr. Updegraff is interested

in minority-based conflicts, citizenship formation in multiethnic states, and approaches to conflict resolution, especially legal/institutional solutions such as minority rights, limited autonomy agreements, and federal arrangements. In fall 2010, he will be pursuing a Master's in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School, Tufts University.

Patrick Van Inwegen teaches courses emphasizing the international and comparative aspects of politics at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. His dissertation analyzed the role of nonviolent action in revolutionary situations and has spawned several articles on Velvet Revolutions, a term used originally to describe the 1989 non-violent revolution in Czechoslovakia that saw the overthrow of the Communist government. Van Inwegen's current project is completing a textbook on revolutions for publication with Lynne Reinner Publishers. In the fall of 2009, as part of Whitworth's Britain & Ireland Study Program, he led a group of 20 students for two weeks studying Irish Politics and the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Building on the experiences of the Washington Ireland Program, Dr. Van Inwegen plans to travel with students in Ireland and Northern Ireland to specifically focus on the conflict and conflict resolution.

Bryan Wright is a doctoral student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto studying the ways in which peace is understood and held by different cultures and societies. His research on peace, education, and philosophy is focused primarily on post-conflict educational institutions. He is a faculty member of the Conflict Resolution Graduate Program of Portland State University where he teaches courses on peace education and conflict resolution.

David Young is a facilitation officer for Soliya, a nonprofit organization that uses internet technology to improve inter-cultural understanding between the "West" and the "Muslim World". Their core program is the Connect Program—a cross-cultural education program that directly connects university students in the US, Europe, Middle East and North Africa. At Soliya, he trains mediators to run online dialogues between Western and Arab/Muslim university students. He received a Master's Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. He has worked for the Carter Center, the Israel Policy Forum, the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, and the Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia. He has spent extended periods of time working and researching in the Balkans, the Caucasus, West Africa, and Israel/Palestine. He has been a regular guest on Voice of America television, an election monitor in the Former Soviet Union for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and a blogger for the Huffington Post. His writing has appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, Le Monde Diplomatique, Beirut's Daily Star, PostGlobal and elsewhere. He blogs at www.justwars.org.



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