

“PEACE 25: Everyday Peacemakers” High-level Conference
Assembly of European Regions (AER) & International Fund for Ireland (IFI)
8-9 June 2023

Venue: Irish College Leuven, Jansenuisstraat 1, Leuven, Belgium

Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the “PEACE 25: Everyday Peacemakers” High-level Conference will bring together leading policymakers, practitioners and experts from Ireland, the United Kingdom and wider Europe to share insights on community-led peacebuilding projects, draw lessons from the Peace Process and shape initiatives for the future.

Thursday 8 June <i>Venue: Irish College Leuven</i>	
17:00	Launch of First World War Donegal Book of Honour Digital Database by Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr. Liam Blaney
17:20	Presentation on Donegal Participation in Belgian Battlefields in World War I by Caroline Carr , Donegal County Museum
17:45 - 18:30	International Fund for Ireland (IFI) Reception Welcome and setting the context: Chair of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), Paddy Harte , and AER Vice President for Interregional & Global Cooperation, Jean-Luc Vanraes

Friday 9 June <i>Venue: Irish College Leuven</i>	
09:00	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paddy Harte, Chair of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI)
09:15	Keynote Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mairead McGuinness, EU Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union
09:45	Support Initiatives for Peace and Reconciliation <i>This panel will discuss the role of international organisations in peace building and reconciliation, drawing on perspectives from local, regional and European contexts to identify common challenges and solutions.</i> Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paddy Harte, Chair of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) ● Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) ● Christian Spahr, Secretary General of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) ● Catrine Gangstø, Founder and CEO, Peacepainting Chair: Justin Sammon , Member Relations Coordinator, AER

11:00	Break
11:15	<p>Community Experiences in Peace Building</p> <p><i>Community leaders are the bedrock of peace building efforts in Ireland, Europe and globally. This panel will set out the practical realities of day-to-day peace building initiatives in Ireland, what has been achieved over the last two decades, and where greater support is needed for the future.</i></p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kyra Reynolds, Programme Development Worker, Bogside and Brandywell Initiative (BBI), IFI Peace Barriers Programme, Derry/Londonderry ● Derek Moore, Coordinator, North West Cultural Partnership (NWCp) IFI Peace Impact Programme, Derry/Londonderry ● Damien McKenna, Youth Worker, New Leaf Project, Dee Hub, IFI Personal Youth Development Programme Ardee, Co Louth ● Máirín Martin Chairperson, Ballinamore Area Community Council Ltd, Better Together – Níos Fearr Le Chéile, IFI Peace Impact Programme Ballinamore, Co Leitrim <p>Chair: Teresa Lennon, Head of the Irish Regions European Office</p>
12:30	Lunch
14:00	<p>Womens' Leadership in the Peace Process and in Peace Building</p> <p><i>The fundamental role of women as prime movers in conflict resolution and peace building has not been fully understood nor recognised. This panel will reflect on the legacy of women as drivers of the peace process, and underline the importance of strengthening women's participation to build equal, resilient and lasting peace in Ireland and across Europe.</i></p> <p>Keynote Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Christina Bache, Associate Researcher, Center for Migration, Diversity, and Justice, Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Chair, United Nations Principles for Responsible Management (UNPRM) Education, Working Group on Business for Peace. <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anne Carr, Dialogue Practitioner, Peace Building Facilitator Board Member IFI ● Avila Kilmurray, Migration and Peacebuilding Executive at The Social Change Initiative, Board Member IFI ● Debbie Watters, Co-director and founder member of Northern Ireland Alternatives (NIA) <p>Chair: Dr. Christina Bache</p>
15:30	Break

<p>15:45</p>	<p>Cultural Pathways to Reconciliation</p> <p><i>From bringing voices to the voiceless, to building trust across communities, languages and the arts have the power to unite communities—as well as divide them. This panel will highlight examples of how language and the visual arts are being used to open up shared cultural spaces and foster mutual understanding, and can also be powerful tools to drive policy makers towards peace.</i></p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Áine Ní Churráin, Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair and RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta ● Jackie Redpath, CEO, Greater Shankill Partnership ● Dr. Dominic Bryan, Professor, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice Anthropology and Ethnomusicology, Queen’s University Belfast <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barbara Polin, Communications and Events Coordinator, AER
<p>17:00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paddy Harte, Chair of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI)