



**'BEYOND BOOM AND BUST – LETTING IN HOPE'
'BREATHING SPACES'
CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS' RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE
Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, Co Down
21-22 September 2010**

INVITATION

Breathing Spaces recognises that civil society, especially our workplaces, has become a place of relational contention where the lowest common denominator often boils down to meeting targets and following procedures. This can be a difficult place for creative leadership (business, professional, academic, voluntary sector, public service, faith etc) especially in today's climate of austerity, breakdown of trust etc.

Breathing Spaces asks if the old values of hope, redemption, trust, reconciliation, respect, integrity, self-control are valid and if so, how can they be articulated? Participants have opportunities to hear views from special speakers and to talk with other leaders about how austerity is impinging on their work and about finding positive ways to move forward. The special focus of this conference is – '**Letting in Hope**'.

*On behalf of the Irish Peace Centres Consortium (IPC), (www.irishpeacecentres.org)
I have pleasure in inviting you to be a guest at this 24-hour residential conference. The *Breathing Spaces* project is funded by IPC under the EU Peace III programme.*

Who should attend?

Civil society leaders in all fields: Statutory/voluntary/faith/law/finance/corporate/trade union/education/development/equality.

Please respond to this invitation directly (email or phone) as soon as possible. Space is limited. Confirmation and full information follows by end August 2010.

Lynne Murphy
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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME – Breathing Spaces is a two-day event, commencing on Tuesday at 14:00 and ending on Wednesday at 17:00.

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2010		
14.00-16.00	Registration Tea/coffee	
16:00	Introductions EXPLORING THE THEME	
17:00	Reflection time	
18:00	AND THE BEYOND - LETTING IN HOPE	ELEANOR GILL Managing Director ERGA Strategies
19:00	Dinner	
21:00	Free time	
WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2010		
08:30	Breakfast	
09:30	FAITH COMMUNITY RESPONSE Joint presentation	REV DR NORMAN HAMILTON OBE Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland DR DIARMUID MARTIN Archbishop of Dublin
10:00	Table discussion	
11:00	Reflection time	
12:30	THE MEDIA	PATSY McGARRY The Irish Times
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Reflection time	
15:00	Table discussion	
16:00	YOUNG PEOPLES’ RESPONSES	Summing up and looking forward to the fourth Breathing Spaces conference. (Planned for April 2011).
17:00	Close	



THE SPEAKERS

ELEANOR GILL

Eleanor Gill is the founder and managing director of ERGA Strategies Ltd, a new business and leadership consultancy firm that works alongside senior management teams in the private and public sectors. Eleanor was director of the Northern Ireland Consumer Council from 2003 to 2009 and is visiting Professor of Consumer Affairs in the Faculty of Business and Management at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown. She is the Northern Ireland Representative on the Financial Services Authority's National Financial Capability Steering Group.

REV DR NORMAN HAMILTON OBE

Rev. Dr Norman Hamilton was educated at Trinity College Dublin and entered the Northern Ireland Civil Service as a career civil servant on its economic development side. Eventually he found his way into Christian ministry among students in the universities and colleges of the UK, and then into formal training for the Presbyterian Ministry in Queen's University Belfast. He has been minister of Ballysillan Presbyterian Church in North Belfast for over 20 years and was awarded an OBE for services to community relations in Jan 2007. He is deeply involved in community life and is a member of the Belfast Education and Library Board as well as the North Belfast District Policing Partnership. Dr Hamilton was installed as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in June 2010. His main hobbies are photography and walking.

DR DIARMUID MARTIN

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was born in Dublin on 8th April 1945. He studied philosophy at University College Dublin and was ordained priest in 1969. He later pursued higher studies in moral theology at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He entered the service of the Holy See in 1976 in the Pontifical Council for the Family. In 1986 he was appointed Under-Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and in 1994 Secretary of the same Pontifical Council. He was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Dublin on May 3rd 2003 and Archbishop of Dublin in 2004. Archbishop Martin is Vice President of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

PATSY MCGARRY

*Patsy McGarry is the Religious Affairs correspondent of The Irish Times. Patsy is a native of County Roscommon and a graduate of University College Galway. He was awarded the 1998 Templeton European Religion Writer of the Year for articles in The Irish Times on Drumcree, the papal visit to Cuba that year, and articles criticising the **Irish Churches** for failing to practise what they preached on reconciliation. In 2001 he edited Christianity, a collection of essays published by Veritas. A collection of weekly columns he wrote for The Irish Times in 2000 was published by that paper in 2001 under the title The Book of Jesus Reports, a contemporary account of the four gospels. He also wrote the official biography of President Mary McAleese, entitled First Citizen: Mary McAleese and the Irish Presidency.*



BACKGROUND NOTE

The ***Breathing Spaces*** conferences have been developed by the Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (www.glenree.ie).

Themes and keynote speakers at previous Breathing Spaces events included:

- 2002, '***Tolerance***'. Most Rev Dr John Neill, Archbishop of Dublin and Metropolitan.
- 2003, '***The South African Experience***'. Dr Fanie de Toit, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- 2005, '***The Common Good***', at which the ***Breathing Spaces*** concept developed, Professor Michael Cowan, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- 2007, First ***Breathing Spaces*** conference, Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co Down: Dr Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, Bishop Richard Clarke, Eleanor Gill, CEO of Consumer Council of Northern Ireland.
- 2009, Second ***Breathing Spaces*** Conference, "Boom, bust and beyond", Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, Co Down: Professor Ray Kinsella, Rev Norman Hamilton, Eleanor Gill, Eugene McCague (Chair).

The 2011 Breathing Spaces Conference is planned for 13/14 April at Dromantine.

WORKING DEFINITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

'Civil society refers to the arena of un-coerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organizations such as registered charities, development non-governmental organizations, community groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, trade unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions and advocacy groups'.

IRISH PEACE CENTRES – "An integrated approach to peace-building"

The Irish Peace Centres (IPC) initiative is a Peace III funded consortium of four partners, Co-operation Ireland, the Corrymeela Community, Donegal Peace Centre and Glenree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation. The consortium is jointly delivering a wide range of activities aimed at promoting sustainable positive relationships through a combined process of interaction and engagement between different individuals and groups.