

20 years of making and building peace:  
**The story of INCORE**

20 years



Over the last 20 years in Northern Ireland, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute) based at the University of Ulster, has provided an essential contribution to the work of peacebuilding, not only in Northern Ireland but across the world. By linking rigorous research with policy and practice on the ground, and by adopting a genuinely global perspective, it has advanced knowledge and action in the field. This document charts that story and looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the decades to come.



**Professor Richard Barnett**  
Vice-Chancellor

## Foreword

According to the World Development Report in 2011, there have been 21 major civil wars in the last two decades. More than 1.5 billion people, one in four, live in conflict-affected states.

At the same time, there has been a decline in interstate war since World War II. Important peace agreements have been signed in Northern Ireland, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Liberia and many dictatorships have collapsed in Latin America. Peacebuilding work is saving lives every day.

Of course one cannot be complacent, and massive and urgent problems remain in Northern Ireland and abroad. We know that half of all peace agreements collapse within five years. But individuals and institutions can make, and have made, a difference.

Since the 1970s, the University of Ulster has pioneered practice-based learning in conflict and developed a global network of peacebuilders. We are deeply proud of the significant contributions we have made to peace, locally and globally. We have also been teaching peace and conflict studies for 25 years, continually training cohorts of graduates who go on positively to change the world.

Our peace and conflict studies institute, INCORE, has been at the forefront of our work. INCORE is uniquely based in a society emerging from conflict and is a centre of excellence, the premier research institute in conflict transformation on the island of Ireland and an associated site of the United Nations University.

As this document shows we have been increasingly called upon to help build peace in Northern Ireland and abroad, and through INCORE have shown that academia can make a practical contribution to society.

Given that INCORE is 20 years old, it is fitting to reflect on its achievements and this document provides a small sample of what has been done and achieved. The anniversary also provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment. Building on these successes, we have ambitious plans to scale up the impact of this work by investing in the INCORE Peace Initiative. This will be steered by the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace and will include Distinguished Global Peace Fellows, a Lesson-Learning Programme and Masters and PhD scholarships.

We look forward to continuing to develop our work in peace and conflict studies, and deepening our contribution to peace locally and globally, as well as adding further energy to the Northern Ireland peace process and global initiatives to make and build lasting peace.

## Preface

It is a pleasure for me to be directing INCORE in its 20th year. INCORE has a long, proud and distinguished history of undertaking highly relevant and applied research, policy and practice, as this document will demonstrate. The extent of work highlighted in this document, and the wide network of staff and partners developed over the years, means INCORE's global footprint is significant. It is an honour to be a part of this.

Over the years, more than 80 staff and 70 interns have worked at INCORE and it is they who need to be thanked for all the work that this document highlights, which is only a small fraction of what has been undertaken. INCORE's contribution to peace and conflict studies extends beyond the achievements of staff while at the institution, as many have gone on to be influential actors internationally in the field.

The late Professor John Darby, who conceived of the vision of a truly global peace and conflict centre when he founded INCORE in 1993 with the support of the then Vice-Chancellor, Lord Trevor Smith, needs to be personally acknowledged. Two decades later this vision, building on the work many started at the University of Ulster as far back as the 1970s, has been realised.

The two previous directors of INCORE, Professors Mari Fitzduff and Gillian Robinson, also need special mention—as their passion, leadership and academic and practitioner input were instrumental to its growth. Over the years, numerous senior officers at Ulster, as well as the members of the International Advisory Group, have also championed the vision of INCORE and their support is deeply valued.

Of course, a centre like INCORE cannot survive without generous support and since 2001 alone, more than 30 funders have invested in INCORE. We have mentioned these in an appendix but each needs to be thanked for their support. I believe when one reads this document it will be clear the investment was worth it.

The multitude of people who are part of the INCORE network, those who continue to support our events, the people of the City of Derry and beyond and the alumni of the various teaching programmes also require mention. The constant interaction with and support for INCORE by these individuals and institutions has made it the vibrant institution it is today.

The INCORE story is however far from over. This year is an important year in Derry~Londonderry where we are based. The city's contested name reflects the issues of identity, need and aspiration that peacebuilding must still address locally. But it is also an exciting year for the city as it enjoys the status of UK City of Culture 2013. This highlights, along with the Peace Bridge and other initiatives, the city's transformation. These developments are a testament to how far the peace process has come. INCORE will continue to support this process, through its ups and downs, long into the future, as well as continuing to engage with similar processes globally.

The University of Ulster has recognised the importance of this, and has made peace and conflict studies one of its funding priorities. An ambitious £5.5 million programme of expansion, known as the INCORE Peace Initiative, is under way on the Magee Campus and the first step will be to establish the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, has shown vision in this area, while the university's Development Office has helped realise the ambitious targets.

This document marks 20 years of success and achievement and is by its nature backward-looking. More than anything, however, it is about the future and what INCORE and the University of Ulster remain committed to do.

**Professor Brandon Hamber**  
Director, INCORE



*Aberfoyle House, INCORE offices*

## Introduction

INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute) was established by the University of Ulster as an associated centre of the United Nations University in 1993—the year before the paramilitary ceasefires in Northern Ireland. As such INCORE is a product of the Northern Ireland conflict, but INCORE's broader vision is global—that of 'a world where divided societies are transformed from violent conflict to sustainable peace'.

INCORE's primary focus is applied research. In the last 20 years the University of Ulster has attracted more than £20million to support conflict-related research. Substantial awards have come from, among others, the Special Programme for University Research of the devolved government established by the Belfast agreement, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), as well as the Department for International Development, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Royal Irish Academy and the European Union PEACE programmes.

Over the 20 years INCORE has achieved a significant international public footprint, through ground-breaking research, its major internet presence and digital resources, practice and policy initiatives, teaching programmes, conferences, study visits and international peace-orientated work.

Key to INCORE's approach has been a concern with policy application and practice on the ground in divided societies. The institute has engaged in a range of projects in Northern Ireland and conflict zones around the world involving not only research but also direct interventions, such as dialogue, policy development, capacity building and comparative learning.

INCORE staff have undertaken fieldwork and consultancies, and participated in peace and reconciliation initiatives, in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Moldova/Transnistria, the Basque Country, Cambodia, Israel/Palestine, Cyprus, Brazil, Malawi and elsewhere.

INCORE and ARK staff have presented *inter alia* in the Netherlands, India, Ghana, Sri Lanka, the Czech Republic, Germany, Canada, Italy, South Africa, Austria, Spain, Croatia, Poland, France, Portugal, Japan, Australia, Russia, Turkey, Malta, the US and Azerbaijan.

To help build the next generation of peacemakers and peacebuilders, INCORE has been involved with the professional development of successive cohorts of postgraduate students, through its MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies. INCORE has also engaged numerous practitioners and students, locally and internationally, through bespoke training programmes and the annual summer school, now in its 14th year.

INCORE's reach has truly been global. The Tip O'Neill Chair was inaugurated by President Clinton on his first visit to Northern Ireland in 1995 and commemorated the former Speaker of the House of Representatives who was well known for his support for the cause of peace in Northern Ireland.



*INCORE is based at the historic Magee Campus*

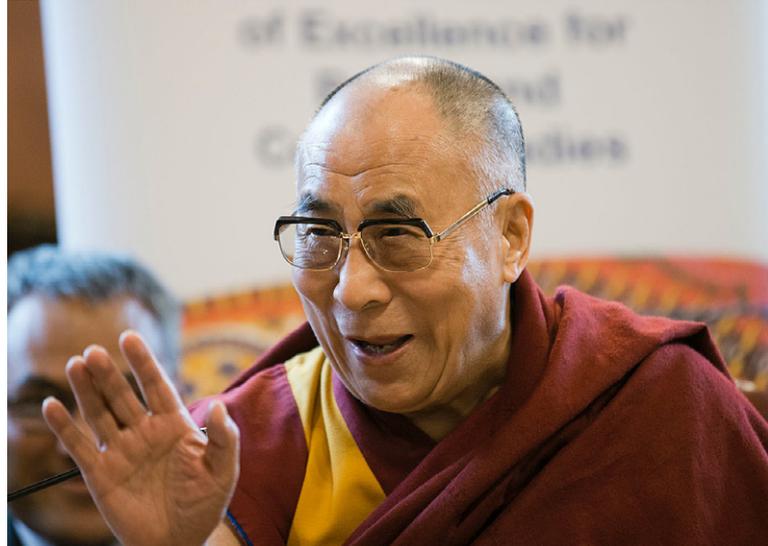
Through the Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies, held by the Nobel Laureate John Hume until 2010 and funded by The Ireland Funds, INCORE and the University of Ulster have attracted speakers who have occupied the highest political offices. They have included: former Irish taoisigh, the late Garret FitzGerald and Bertie Ahern, and the former Irish president Mary McAleese; the former French prime minister Michel Rocard; the former Italian prime minister and former president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi; the former Basque president Juan José Ibarretxe Markuarta; the former US president Bill Clinton; the former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton and her successor, John Kerry, and the former UN secretary general Kofi Annan.

In 2013, His Holiness the Dalai Lama also visited INCORE and spoke to an invited audience.

INCORE has been fortunate to attract a very high calibre of staff over the past 20 years. Many started their research careers in peace and conflict at INCORE and have gone on to make significant contributions in a variety of academic and practice environments.

“ In the last two decades more than 80 staff and 70 interns have worked at INCORE. Many have gone on to be influential actors in the global peace and conflict field. ”

“ In the decade 2003 to 2012, there were just under 13 million visits to the CAIN site. The ARK and INCORE sites both attracted over 2 million visits during that period. ”



## A brief history

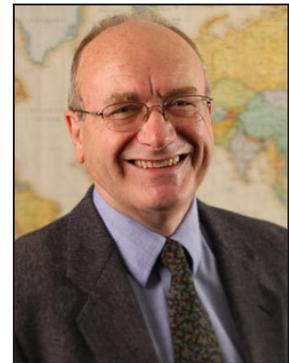
INCORE's establishment at Ulster did not begin with a blank academic page. The university's multidisciplinary Centre for the Study of Conflict (CSC), established in 1977, pioneered work in this arena. The University had also been running an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies since its creation in 1987 by Professor Paul Arthur.

In 1991, the then director of the CSC, Professor John Darby, set up an international Ethnic Studies Network, with biennial conferences and publications. Members of the network contributed to a mapping exercise on relevant research and training around the world focused on peace and conflict studies. Professor Darby brought this cosmopolitan disposition and the network of experts, as well as the multidisciplinary vision of the CSC, to the initiation of INCORE.

INCORE was established in 1993 in partnership with the United Nations University (UNU), which added significantly to the university's global reach. INCORE was, and remains, based at its Magee campus in Derry, with Professor Darby as its first director.

Since its establishment, INCORE's work has to a degree mirrored developments within the Northern Ireland peace process, as well as global trends. Reflecting the climate of the time, in its early years INCORE chose to focus strategically on peacekeeping and peacemaking. In the early part of the new millennium, the focus shifted towards peacebuilding. This paralleled the Northern Ireland peace process and the peacebuilding unfolding after the 1998 agreement. This also followed international trends towards peacebuilding, solidified as a global focus in the aspirations of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2005.

In 2002 INCORE, after a decade of running as a stand-alone unit within the university, was incorporated into its Faculty of Social Sciences. Following an internal review, in 2003 Ulster decided to join together its conflict-related research activities. INCORE was designated lead body in the university in this arena and its role as a 'virtual centre' was expressed in the establishment of a network of 90 associates. With only a small staff itself (generally around 10 full-time), INCORE was able to utilise its associates to contribute to the summer school and conferences, as well as research.



**Professor John Darby**  
INCORE founder

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**INCORE has ... been found to be viewed very positively by the groups with which it works or seeks to influence and its offer of academic rigour, international contacts and practical approach is valued highly. It is perceived as having a very good reputation and as having contributed to the region and the University's overall profile and image locally and internationally (Independent evaluation of INCORE, 2009).**

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In 2011, the associates network developed further into the Inter-institute Peace and Conflict Cluster (IPAC), which created an institutional network across the university of researchers working on conflict-related work based in Ulster's various institutes, including the Arts and Humanities Research Institute (AHRI), the Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRISS), the Peace and Conflict Cluster in the Psychology Research Institute, the Sports and Exercise Science Research Institute and the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI).

In 2005, INCORE developed a strategic plan to cover the last half of the decade. Previously, its initiatives had spanned peace processes, diversity and pluralism, governance and transition, gender, peace and security, research methodologies in divided societies, education and conflict and inclusive citizenship. The plan coalesced around an overarching theme of 'transition through conflict to peace in divided societies'. It defined the goal of the organisation to be an international centre of excellence in peace and conflict studies, focused on issues related to divided societies, with three strands of work: research, teaching and training, and policy and practice. This in turn required greater core staffing, and co-ordinators for the various strands were appointed, boosting INCORE's output.

From 2006 onwards, INCORE consolidated its work. As a result, it has generated considerable intellectual capital, building on its geographical and institutional assets, while continuing to train new generations of peacebuilders. The latter reached its pinnacle in 2012, when 25 years on from the origin of the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies at Ulster, to which INCORE had contributed, INCORE launched the MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies, which became the new home of peace studies at the University. A new strand was also added to the MSc, focusing on the important issue of children in conflict and developed in partnership with the NGO Early Years.

In 2012 INCORE launched a further strategic five-year plan aiming to continue to influence how societies make the transition from violent conflict to sustainable peace through quality teaching, academic study and the dissemination of knowledge and resources. The next five years will focus principally on how peace is built and consolidated at a community level, while applying due academic critique and scrutiny of local and global peacebuilding efforts.

Throughout its life, INCORE has taken a maximalist approach to peacebuilding: the goal is not merely the absence of direct violence but a fundamental transformation of the causes and consequences of the conflict, to ensure its non-recurrence. Over the last 20 years, INCORE has therefore engaged in a wide range of activities—exploring, documenting and analysing the various strategies and approaches which need to be pursued to build and, crucially, maintain peace.

“**INCORE's teaching programmes are informed by 25 years of peace and conflict studies teaching experience on the Magee campus, and many years of experience and practice-based research. In common with all the University of Ulster's courses, they focus on providing highly relevant and applied skills.**”

## Research and intervention: highlights

INCORE's initial focus was on peacekeeping and peacemaking. One of its first major projects, developed with the University of Limerick and the Austrian Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution, focused on the **preparation and training of peacekeepers, civilian as well as military**; its conclusions were launched at INCORE in 1996. Following this, the Bonn International Center for Conversion was to be the partner in a project on the vexed questions of demilitarisation and the decommissioning of paramilitary arms after the Belfast agreement of 1998. A publication, **'Burying the Hatchet: the Decommissioning of Paramilitary Arms in Northern Ireland'**, followed.

INCORE then shared the intellectual shift towards peacebuilding—that is to say a more profound focus on social transformation as the necessary undergirding of the ending of large-scale violence and the conclusion of peace treaties.

**'Coming Out of Violence: The Problems of Building Peace'** was a collaborative, comparative study, involving academics in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Israel/Palestine and the Basque Country, as well as Northern Ireland. Completed in 1998 with a number of academic outputs and disseminated via the Ethnic Studies Network, it addressed violence and security issues, progress towards political or constitutional agreement, economic factors, the role of external actors, popular responses and symbolism.

The issue of leadership in transition was also explored in a 1999-2000 project entitled 'From Protagonist to Pragmatist', which highlighted **the role that political leaders play**, and the ways in which their roles change, in countries moving from intense violence to the challenges of reconciliation and confidence-building.

INCORE was also an **early adopter of internet-based technologies**. In its initial years INCORE established the **web-based Conflict Data Service**. This sought to provide a portal for significant ethnic conflicts worldwide, putting the institute on the international stage as one of the pioneers in this regard. The great bulk of research on the Northern Ireland conflict had to this point also lacked a comparative dimension and from the outset this set the work of INCORE apart, giving it a capacity to 'travel' in the academic world and make a valuable local and global contribution.

In 1997, with the launch of **CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet)**, initially in partnership with the Linen Hall Library and Queen's University Belfast, INCORE sought to take advantage of the potential of the internet by digitally collecting information and source material on 'the troubles'

and politics in Northern Ireland from 1968 onwards. **CAIN is now the largest online repository of conflict-related material on Northern Ireland in the world.**

In 2000, the **ARK (Access, Research, Knowledge)** project was established as a partnership between academics at the University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast. INCORE is responsible for its Ulster leg. ARK seeks to **make social science research on Northern Ireland available to the widest possible public**. ARK's initiation followed devolution in December 1999 to the power-sharing institutions established as a result of the Belfast agreement, in anticipation of demand from government for policy-relevant social-research information.

ARK took over responsibility for **the annual Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, running since 1998**. It was complemented by a Young Life and Times Survey (which now focuses on 16 year-olds). A Kids' Life and Times Survey (addressed to final-year primary-school pupils) followed from 2008. ARK also provided a vehicle for the dissemination of analysis of election results in the region, going back to the 1970s.

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**For all of those who seek to better understand Northern Ireland society and politics, ARK is a key resource. By bringing together such a wide variety of material in an accessible, open access web format, ARK has provided a major service not just to the academic and educational community, but to policy makers and practitioners, and to interested individuals and groups around the world. ARK may not have bridged the political gap between the two communities in Northern Ireland, but it has done much to bridge the information divide (Ian McAllister, the Australian National University, 2010).**

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ARK benefited from a major grant by Atlantic Philanthropies in 2002, providing core funding. This was followed by a dedicated large grant of £3.4 million from the ESRC in 2006, which supported ARK's core costs and the creation of a policy unit. Allying statistical information compiled by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) with cognate research—all presented in a comparative context (with other UK regions)—the first in the series, '**Figuring it Out: Looking Behind the Social Statistics in Northern Ireland**', was launched in 2009. Along with the annual attitudinal surveys and other ARK initiatives such as ORB (Online Research Bank), which comprises searchable databases of empirical research in Northern Ireland on social policy since 1990, this makes **ARK the leading agency seeking to understand and shape social policy in Northern Ireland today.**

Also in 2000, and extending its international outreach, **INCORE established a summer school, attracting students from around the world.** The school has continued as an annual event with a global appeal, attendees' highly positive evaluations attesting to the strength of the experience. It has gained recognition from the UN Institute for Training and Research Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations. A range of modules are offered each year (such as management of peace processes, evaluation of conflict resolution and dealing with the past), which reflect contemporary issues in conflict transformation and peacebuilding and are **tailored to ensure value for academics and practitioners alike.**

A recurring concern for INCORE has been **reflection on the conduct of research in divided societies**, with the enhanced methodological and normative dilemmas this poses for researchers. Collaboration with researchers in Nigeria led to publication by the UNU Press of an edited volume on the challenges of researching conflict in Africa in 2005.

A subsequent project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, '**Evaluating Research in Violently Divided Societies**', concluded in 2011. It engaged a range of contributors from around the world on the challenges of evaluating the impact of research in divided societies. Its findings were presented at a number of international fora. The challenges of doing research in divided societies have become a key focus of **a 12-week online learning module** which has for the last few years been part of an MSc in Social Research Methods, as well as being integral to the MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies.



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Over the last 14 years more than 700 delegates from more than 40 countries across five continents have attended the INCORE summer school.

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### What INCORE summer school participants say:

‘An invaluable opportunity to meet those involved in conflict resolution work from around the world’

‘An intensive learning experience, which was engaging, challenging and wonderfully complex’

‘A perfect mix between field practice, academic thinking, focused on policy making’

‘Instructive and collegial, grounded in historically very relevant setting that strikes a nerve’

‘Overwhelmingly informative and inspiring’

INCORE's comparative focus has continued to widen its reach and deepen its networks. In 2000, INCORE undertook a large-scale project entitled '**Developing and Implementing Public Policy in Northern Ireland and South Africa**', funded by the Future Governance Research Programme of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project explored issues critical to successful policy making in South Africa and Northern Ireland, from initiation and development to implementation.

In 2001 and, by extension, in 2003, INCORE also secured PEACE funding for a project called '**Local and International Learning**'. This explored processes and policies to address the causes and consequences of conflict, involving more than **2,000 participants from 15 countries** in a range of events, training, visits and publications. Sri Lanka and Israel/Palestine were the main external foci in this case. Again this work highlights INCORE's continued commitment to a comparative approach.

In 2004, INCORE and Intercomm (Inter Community Development Project, Belfast) established the **Belfast-Jerusalem Civil Society Partnership (B-JCSP)**, together with local partners in the region. The key focus was on working to strengthen civil society and its contribution to conflict resolution, a recurring theme in INCORE's work.

Between 2003 and 2006 INCORE continued to internationalise its work, leading a strand of a PEACE project with the then **Northern Ireland Centre for European Co-operation in the EU on the theme 'Shared Learning: From the Local to the Global and Back Again'**. The initiative sought to reciprocate learning between Northern Ireland and the EU accession states and constituents of the former USSR in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The focus was diversity and conflict management—a very live issue in many states in the region experiencing, like Northern Ireland, ethno-nationalist conflicts after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Nearly **1,000 policy-makers, researchers and practitioners were engaged**.

EU-focused work has continued in the decade since, including a focus on the **Basque Country, the former Yugoslavia and Cyprus**, as well as participation in various lesson-learning initiatives.

INCORE has also been involved in a range of local initiatives developing the capacity of civil society to engage in peacebuilding. The **Diversity in Action project**, funded by the Community Relations Council, started in December 2006 and finished in September 2008. The project, which had a particular focus on the north-west, sought to **support capacity among Northern Ireland's minority ethnic associations**. The publications from the project highlighted the issues facing minority ethnic communities, with the recommendations aiming to support further the work of their associations.

Building on this work, and recognising that train-the-trainer projects have the potential to ripple out to large numbers of people, INCORE teamed up in June 2007 with the **Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence in the US to run a project known as the 'Unity Project'**. The partnership sought to develop training and leadership programmes to assist minority ethnic groups, those working with them and young people in secondary schools to acquire the skills required to deal with prejudice and harassment. More than **60 trainers have taken part in this work and they have trained more than 500 people**, with a further 285 young people in schools participating.

The ideal of connecting the local and the international inspired another PEACE-funded project some years later with peacebuilding practitioners in Belfast and Derry, called '**Journeys Out**'. After a pilot programme in 2007-08, the EU PEACE programme funded a large-scale project run between 2009 and 2011 in partnership with three reconciliation organisations: Intercomm, Peace and Reconciliation Group and the Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. This **engaged 44 community leaders and 14 peer mentors**. It included a study visit to South Africa and a residence-based learning programme for participants at the UNU academy in Amman.



“ In the last ten years alone more than 30 funders have supported INCORE. These have included the UK research councils, major global philanthropic organisations and the EU PEACE programmes. ”

The Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, based in County Wicklow, was also a partner for a project called the **'Sustainable Peace Network'**, which contained a strong comparative focus. This built on the insight that one way to **build peace between former political antagonists is to engage them in a common agenda**. The project involved annual cohorts of former paramilitaries, members of the 'security forces' in Northern Ireland and victims of the conflict taking part in nature-based activities to promote dialogue, in Scotland and South Africa. This work is currently being evaluated through a grant from the Fetzer Institute in partnership with the organisation Beyond Walls. **Fetzer is also funding Beyond Walls and INCORE to assess the impact of similar deep dialogue initiatives in Israel/Palestine, South Africa and the US.**

Comparative lesson-learning has continued in other formats. Between 2009 and 2012, Intercomm was the lead partner—along with INCORE, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, An Garda Síochána and the Tyrone Donegal Partnership—in a further PEACE-funded project, **'Communities and Police in Transition'**. This project—which included an accredited training programme, study visits and research—aimed to build relationships between communities and police on both sides of the Irish border. INCORE also assisted **study visits by key personnel involved in these organisations and their networks to South Africa, Cyprus, Germany and Kosovo**, as well as sharing comparative research on policing in transition among participants and with the policy community.

US and European foundations have clearly had an interest in funding peacebuilding in Northern Ireland in recent times. Following an **'Implementing Peace' symposium** in 2006 organised by the domestic charitable funder the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, INCORE developed with CFNI a **'Guide to Peacebuilding' in Northern Ireland**.

The Community Relations Council earlier supported two pieces of INCORE research exploring the understanding on the part of Northern Ireland's political class of the challenges of peacebuilding. In 2003, the CRC funded a project, **'Community Relations and Politicians'**, which found a lack of interest in the challenge of developing 'a shared future' on the part of those interviewed from the main political parties. In 2007 it funded research called **'Elected Representatives / Political Parties and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland'**, addressing the associated challenge of adapting the region's political system—organised historically along sectarian communal lines—to a more demographically diverse population, particularly following the widening of the European Union to migrants from east and central Europe.

“ In the last 10 years INCORE has been involved in more than 50 local-global exchanges and led numerous study visits across the globe, especially for policymakers and peacebuilders in Northern Ireland. ”





The CAIN memorials iPhone app and tools for visualising the conflict

As recognised by the UN Security Council resolution 1325 of 2000, and other subsequent UN resolutions, the role of women in peacebuilding has been systematically undervalued. **'Reimagining Women's Security in Societies in Transition'** was a project, funded by the ESRC, which addressed the experiences of women in post-conflict societies. The project began in 2004 as a partnership with Queen's University and the think tank Democratic Dialogue, with research associates at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa and the Lebanese American University in Beirut. The research found that cessations of violence had had much more impact on women than post-conflict institution-building, with patriarchal power structures going largely unchallenged. The report of the project was **launched at the UN headquarters in New York** in 2007.

Northern Ireland's specific peacebuilding case has many parallels with Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in terms of the separation of populations, including schoolchildren, and the deferral of reconciliation. **INCORE worked with the UNESCO centre at Ulster** on a policy-orientated research project in which **young people in Bosnia and Northern Ireland** were interviewed to discover their views on using education to build reconciliation. The report was published by the UNESCO Centre in 2009.

Staff at **INCORE have accumulated substantial expertise in international and local understandings of the concept of reconciliation**—a key notion in going beyond peacekeeping and peacemaking to peacebuilding. Their work in this area has been recognised by incorporation into the later iterations of the PEACE programme, which had initially been criticised for its lack of coherence in this regard. This work has been **supported by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM) in Northern Ireland**, in two funding tranches since 2009, in a context where at official and political levels the meaning of reconciliation has also been uncertain—even while its urgency has been evident amid continuing controversies over flags, parades and commemorations.

This research has absorbed the learning from decades of work for reconciliation in Northern Ireland, mainly by academic experts and practitioners on the ground—all digested into a huge report of more than 60,000 words, **'Progressing Good Relations and Reconciliation in Post-Agreement Northern Ireland'**, and disseminated widely.

In March 2012, follow-on funding was secured from the Equality Directorate of OFMdfM to conduct a scoping study, **'What Works and Why?: Approaches and Methodologies to Support Good Relations and Reconciliation Objectives in Northern Ireland'**. This report, along with the numerous recommendations and policy initiatives advanced over the years by INCORE, has cemented its role as **a key contributor to policy development vis-à-vis reconciliation in Northern Ireland**.

A key aspect of peacebuilding is dealing with troubled pasts—and associated 'wars over memory'. A research project called **'Remembering: Victims, Survivors and Commemoration in Post-Conflict Northern Ireland'**, funded by the AHRC, was established in 2006 to develop an extensive online archive of sources and information on victims and commemoration, utilising the CAIN website. It added more than **7,000 items to the CAIN bibliography, covering victims, relevant policy issues** and information about and by victims' groups. This section included a searchable database of physical memorials to the conflict and more than 2,000 photographs of those killed in the conflict. The resources were launched in 2009. Previously, such material was dispersed across a range of organisations and individuals, although CAIN had been collecting data on all those killed as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict from 1999.

Following renewed AHRC support, a visual complement was launched in 2012 in partnership with the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems. This initiative, **'Visualising the Conflict: Immersion in the Landscape of Victims and Commemoration'**, added maps, photos, a virtual reality space in Second Life and videos demonstrating patterns of deaths and how they had been physically memorialised. INCORE continued its role in pioneering the use of new technologies in peacebuilding by developing an easy to use **iPhone app**. This allows users to view information and photographs about each plaque, memorial stone, memorial enclosure, garden or statue erected to commemorate conflict-related deaths.

INCORE has played a leading role in a project called **'Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding'**, funded by the International Development Research Centre. The project, which was completed in 2012, brought together global experts working on trauma and development issues, as well as psychosocial projects, to develop a critique of current approaches to trauma in peacebuilding contexts.



“ INCORE academic staff are also active practitioners called on to advise in many conflict situations and to facilitate dialogues to promote reconciliation. INCORE staff have undertaken fieldwork and consultancies, as well as participated in peace and reconciliation initiatives, in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Moldova/Transdniestria, the Basque Country, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Israel/Palestine, Cyprus, Brazil, Malawi and elsewhere. ”

“ CAIN's online archive of material related to the Northern Ireland conflict is the largest of its kind in the world. Since it first went online in 1997 CAIN has been cited in more than 1,000 academic and other publications. Between 2000 and 2012 more than 7,000 queries for more information were made via an email form on the site. ”

## What INCORE Masters students say:

‘The MA in Peace and Conflict Studies armed me with the necessary tools for understanding causes of conflicts and work towards achievable solutions. Not only is the MA course an important tool for those wanting to work in the area of peace building and reconstruction, it is also a good platform for developing further skills, in my case human rights and gender.’

‘The Masters program in Peace and Conflict Studies has been invaluable for my career... the graduate degree itself immediately qualified me to work in public service nationally and internationally.’

‘The knowledge and critical thinking skills developed through the Peace Studies Programme has been invaluable to me and given me confidence.’

‘The degree program in Peace and Conflict Studies had a deep impact on my studies and career choices ... The underlying frameworks of Peace and Conflict Studies have contributed meaningfully to my legal training, and I aim to take the lessons I learned, both in the classroom and from the wisdom of people, and apply it to my future work of addressing access to opportunity, economic inequity, and other root causes of conflict. I am very grateful for my experiences in Northern Ireland, and I keep those lessons close to my heart.’

Case studies were commissioned from **Sri Lanka, India (Kashmir), Palestine, Guatemala, Mozambique, South Africa and the US**—in addition to a case study in Northern Ireland focusing on psychosocial projects aimed at young men, the principal protagonists of the conflict as well as frequently its victims.

In 2012 a research team at INCORE and Ulster received OFMdFM funding to conduct research on ‘**Attitudes to Peace Walls**’. The research explored public awareness of and attitudes towards peace walls. Several publications followed based on two postal surveys and this fed into public debate and policy.

Also in 2012, as noted earlier, INCORE’s own **MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies** was launched. The emphasis of the INCORE programme is consistent with the vision of the university to be a leading provider of professional education for professional life. The programme, building on the accumulated knowledge of the last 20 years, **stresses the development of skills relevant to graduates who want to go on to be practitioners, researchers and policymakers in peace and conflict**. There is a strong focus on post-violence peacebuilding, which is appropriate given that the programme is rooted in a society emerging from decades of violence.

In 2013 the **HECUA Programme** (taught semester course for international undergraduates) moved to INCORE from the UNESCO Centre. This highly regarded programme offers a unique insight into conflict and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland causing students to **reflect critically on global parallels**.

“

The University of Ulster has been teaching peace and conflict studies for over 25 years. The Masters in Peace and Conflict studies, the oldest of its type in Ireland, has had more than 400 graduates and attracted more Mitchell Scholars than any other degree in the University of Ulster.

”



Storytelling has been a key and well-articulated need of victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland but storytelling initiatives have tended to be disparate and disconnected. In January 2013, INCORE began a major two-year project called '**Accounts of the Conflict**', funded by the PEACE programme under the rubric of acknowledging and dealing with the past, to **create a dedicated website, digital archive and repository, to promote engagement with a range of personal accounts of the conflict** as well as research in the area.

By participating in wider academic networks, INCORE continues to maximise the reach of its work. It is now part of a European university network, supported by the seventh Framework Programme of research funded by the EU, through which it has been designated a **Marie Curie International Training Site for Sustainable Peacebuilding**. The network aims to provide high-quality training and research in this arena, focusing particularly on good governance, inclusive development and comprehensive security. INCORE has hosted four Marie Curie fellows, with **specialist expertise on Sri Lanka, Colombia, Peru and the Basque Country**.

**A Northern Ireland-Colombia workshop**, run by the Marie Curie fellows in April 2013, resulted in **proposals for peace** in the Latin American country, which were presented to the Colombian Embassy in London. The proposals were launched at an **International Peace Conference in May 2013 co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Londonderry**. The three-day event focused on building and embedding peace, drawing on local and international perspectives, and concluded with a series of masterclasses on peacebuilding. The large conference was a fitting marker of INCORE's 20th anniversary as a global leader in peace work.

*Keynote speakers at the the International Peace Conference included the former Basque president Juan José Ibarretxe Markuartu; Roelf Meyer, chief negotiator for the National Party Government in South Africa during the transition from apartheid; the US software entrepreneur John J. Cullinane; Chouchou Namegabe Dubisson from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rotary's international president, Sajujji Tanaka from Japan.*

**2013**  
**International Peace Conference**  
**Derry - Londonderry**



## The future

Since its inception in 1993, INCORE has established itself internationally and locally as a vibrant and vital interdisciplinary centre of peace and conflict studies. From its location in a society emerging from conflict, being based at the University of Ulster and with its associate status with the United Nations University, the institution has helped to place the University of Ulster at the forefront of research, resource provision, teaching and training, and policy, practice and capacity-building on the transition from conflict to peace in violently divided societies. In so doing **INCORE has closed the gap that often exists between academic research, community practice and authentic social change.**

**INCORE has sought to learn comparatively, but to do this with a due sense of rigour and academic analysis.** A weakness of post-ceasefire Northern Ireland has been a tendency to see other ethnic conflicts around the world only from the Northern Ireland end of the telescope. Arguably divided societies are not generically similar. There is thus only so much that any one such society—particularly one where reconciliation remains a work in progress—can teach others. Given its long history of sharing and learning lessons, **INCORE is uniquely well placed in the region to foster genuine dialogue, engage a range of international interlocutors and learn from comparative experiences** to enrich understanding of how people can live better together.

On the global level, INCORE's **link with the United Nations University is clearly of enduring value** and, together with its numerous other partners around the world, gives it special entrée to the global institutions which best embody the universal values—democracy, human rights and the rule of law—that cement otherwise heterogeneous societies and provide divided societies with a moral compass towards a reconciled future.

In line with this, and reflecting on its first two decades of experience, in its 2012-17 strategic plan INCORE has elected to **focus on four interrelated themes:**

- learning lessons from peacemaking and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland,
- understanding and measuring peacebuilding practice and policy,
- peacebuilding and dealing with the past and
- understanding and strengthening the role of research in the peacebuilding process.

INCORE will seek, through extracting relevant lessons from the Northern Ireland case and many others around the world, to develop new and innovative knowledge on peacebuilding theory and practice.

The key strategic themes outlined above will, however, be approached with **thorough academic analysis, pragmatism and a complex view of how peace is actually built and sustained.** Over the next five years, INCORE will focus principally on how peace is built and consolidated at a community level. Emphasis will be placed on localised processes of peacebuilding rather than only on macro-level or institutional focuses—although, of course, interest will be maintained in the interaction between these two levels and in peacemaking, reflected also in teaching.

More specifically, INCORE has significant plans for expansion. As a testament to the solid foundation INCORE has built, the **University of Ulster has made peace and conflict one of its fundraising priority areas and has begun an ambitious £5.5 million programme of expansion known as the INCORE Peace Initiative.** The core aims will be to:

- mark the legacy of peace in Northern Ireland and the contribution of various individuals to this,
- learn and share lessons from Northern Ireland and elsewhere, to make a practical difference to ensuring peace locally and globally within the frame of academic excellence,
- train a new generation of peacemakers and peacebuilders, not only from Northern Ireland but other societies in conflict and
- develop the Magee campus to ensure it is a sustainable centre of international excellence in peace and conflict studies.





“

Throughout its history, a key underlying principle of INCORE's approach has been a desire to bridge the gap which exists between academic research and the policy and practice communities. This has been based around the view that research can make a clear contribution to the policies and practices required to address the issues to be resolved in moving from violent conflict to more peaceful societies internationally (Independent evaluation of INCORE, 2009).

”

Key to this expansion will be fundraising efforts aimed at establishing:

- the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace,
- a Distinguished Global Peace Fellows programme,
- a lesson-learning initiative and
- scholarships at Masters and PhD level.

To date, nearly all the funds for the Chair have been raised and it is envisaged to be in position by 2015. S/he will be not only be a distinguished academic but also a reputed practitioner. Significant fundraising targets remain for the rest of the initiative.

Once in place, the Distinguished Global Peace Fellows programme will provide the focus for exchanges of good practice, through, for example, international round tables and globally streamed guest lectures. This will be buttressed by the lessons learned in Northern Ireland, including through the many projects supported by the PEACE programme and the material archived by CAIN. The scholarship programme will allow INCORE to target postgraduate students from the global south, where many of the world's most challenging ethnic conflicts are to be found.

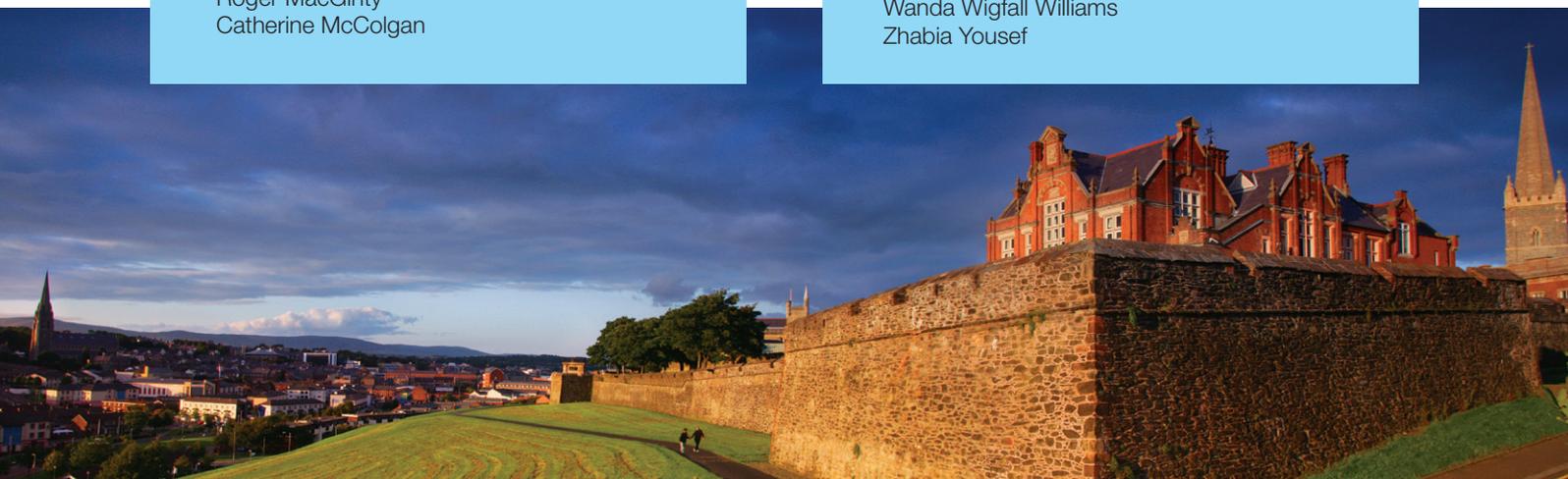
INCORE's place in that international conversation certainly gives it **reason to look ahead with a sense of purpose** to the next 20 years of its existence. Much has been achieved, but much still remains to be done.

INCORE has pioneered practice-based learning on conflict, developed a global network of peacebuilders and **built a proud heritage of active involvement in peacemaking and peacebuilding**. The problem of conflict however remains massive and urgent. The establishment of the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace and the INCORE Peace Initiative and strategic focus outlined above, as well as our continued efforts to train a new generation of peacebuilders, will give us all the best chance of success.

## List of staff

Ioannis Armakalos  
 Paul Arthur (Honorary Professor)  
 Fiona Barr  
 Kenneth Bush  
 Alex Cardenas Mendez (Current)  
 Mary Alice Clancy  
 Cheyanne Church  
 Patrick Coyle (Current)  
 Hugh Cuning  
 Patrick Curran  
 John Darby  
 Fernand de Varennes  
 Ann Marie Dorrity (Current)  
 Lizanne Dowds  
 Aaron Edwards  
 Janet Farren (Current)  
 Mari Fitzduff  
 Frank Foley  
 Elsje Fourie  
 Tom Fraser (Honorary Professor)  
 Elizabeth Gallagher  
 Nigel Glenny (Current)  
 Cathy Gormley Heenan  
 Adrian Grant (Current)  
 Audrey Guichon  
 Brandon Hamber (Current)  
 Shonagh Higgenbotham (Current)  
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 Grainne Kelly (Current)  
 Amanda Leighton (Current)  
 Billy Leonard  
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 Mary Lynch  
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 Nollaig O'Fionghaile  
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 Simon Roughneen  
 Stephen Ryan (Current)  
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 Catherine Sharkey  
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 Karen Thompson  
 Cedric Thornberry  
 Greg Tillett  
 Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya  
 Anna Visser  
 Tracey Ward  
 Sinead Wilson  
 Sue Williams  
 Wanda Wigfall Williams  
 Zhabia Yousef





## List of interns

Susan Allen Nan  
Carl Andalen  
Scott Baker  
Fiona Barr  
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Danielle Bonner  
Ekaterina Borissova  
Patrick Bourke  
Malin Brenk  
Kathy Brown  
Lisa Brown  
Spiros Chairetis  
Heather Conrad  
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Christine Dawson  
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Dacia Dyer  
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Adam Fox  
Brent Freeman  
Melissa Gibson  
Michael Goldman

Asmara Gonzales Rojas  
Christier Grenabo  
Landon Hancock  
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Alessia Montanari  
Andrew Moran  
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Hanna Nilsson-Sahlin  
Amanda O'Connell  
Emma J Plant  
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Stephen Schoof  
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Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)  
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Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA)

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Intercomm - Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium  
Intercomm (Peace III)  
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Medico International  
Milt Lavenstein Trust  
Office of the First and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM)  
Parades Commission  
Special EU Programmes Body  
Slifka Foundation  
The Ireland Funds  
The Rotary Club of Londonderry  
UK-IERI  
UNESCO  
University of Wolverhampton  
United Nations University





When INCORE was set up in 1993 a symbol that would capture the work of the organisation was commissioned. The symbol chosen was the Roundel, designed by Helen Averley. It has become widely used as a motif in INCORE's work.

On first glance the INCORE Roundel looks complex but harmonious. On closer inspection it becomes discordant. The patterns which are interwoven in the Roundel represent the rich diversity of cultures and ethnic groups found around the world. These artistic forms of expression reflect the complexity of the societies who created them. Patterns have symbolically marked out cultural territory, be it through body painting, textiles or architecture. However, the colourful patterns in the Roundel find themselves clashing. This disharmony represents the friction that can arise between close neighbours. Flash points and areas of conflict are depicted by barbed wire and other violent forms. Both the symbols of conflict and those celebrating ethnicity are here bound inside the circle. The circle, in a sense like the earth is a complete unit, but it has a limited space which all elements are forced to share.

Societies can be reconciled to co-exist amicably and in mutual respect but this does not always occur; here lies the need for an initiative.

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