

**Minutes of a GENERAL MEETING of  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE EDUCATION RESOURCES  
QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, 47 Frederick St, Belfast, BT1 2LW, Northern Ireland**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

1. Apologies: Sean Feenan, Richard English, Tim Jones JRCT, ICTU Assistant General Secretary NI - Gerry Murphy, ACC Melanie Jones, Anne Molloy ICRC, Martin O'Brien, Social Change Initiative, Geoff Loane, Insp Colin Ash ME ANTRIM, Conor Houston SDLP, Monica McWilliams (IRC), Chief Superintendent Davy Beck, Denis Bradley, Prof Ciaran McEvoy, Siobhan Gallagher IFI, Harold Good, Jackie McDonald, Eileen Weir, Mike Nesbitt MLA.
2. In attendance:
  - a. Guests: Quintin Oliver (former researcher on paramilitarism, Shane Whelehan (Quakers), CI Uel Boyd ME ANTRIM, Avila Kilmurray, Social Change Initiative, Kenny Blair AIMS, Laurence Simms Irish government, Kevin Cooper, Photographer, Darren Richardson EVOLVE, William Wilkinson EVOLVE, DS Ruth McCrea PSNI, Daniel Holder CAJ, Debbie Watters Alternatives, Elizabeth Dickson Quakers, Steward Agnew, Peter Parkhill, Eilish Rooney, Fidelma Ashe, David Johnston NIO.
  - b. IPER Directors: Felicity McCartney, Roger McGinty, Darren Kew, Aelred Father Gerry Magee, Nomfundo Walaza, Marie Breen-Smyth, Stephen Field.
3. Shane Whelehan, Quaker Service, welcomed the guests to Quaker Meeting House and Liz Dickson, Society of Friends, outlined the housekeeping arrangements. There was then an informal mingling of new directors and friends of the project where refreshments were served.
4. At 4pm Marie Breen-Smyth, IPER Company Secretary gave a Powerpoint introduction to guests and directors outlining the project followed by a wide ranging discussion. (An evaluation of this part of the meeting is being conducted, with attendees being asked for feedback.)
5. At 5.30 pm the IPER Directors' meeting commenced, Chaired by Stephen Field, with formal introductions of old and new directors.
6. Election of new chairperson: Stephen had announced his intention to stand down. After discussion, Felicity McCartney was appointed Chairperson by consensus of all present. Felicity then took the chair.
7. Marie Breen-Smyth proposed a vote of thanks to outgoing Chairperson who was the 'backbone' of IPER until now and presented him with a small gift. She also recorded our gratitude to the outgoing Directors who had voted to transfer the assets accumulated during the last project to this new project. This was duly passed.

8. An election of Persons with Significant Control, two with access to bank account, and a Treasurer then took place. Aelred Father Gerry was appointed Treasurer and Felicity McCartney and Roger McGinty were appointed as persons with significant control, namely access to the bank account. Marie Breen-Smyth remains as Company Secretary.
9. Current status of IPER: The Secretary reported that the bank balance stood at £ £4610.27 with some outstanding expenses due as a result of the meeting.
10. Amendments to Articles of Association (circulated): the Secretary then read the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association which amend the first part of Article 40 up to paragraph (iv) 4. These proposed changes were circulated to all Directors prior to the meeting, affording them the requisite period of notice. It was proposed that Article 40 now read:

*The Company is established to: (a)*

- (i) *Advance the education about methods of peacebuilding;*
- (ii) *Advance education about violence and its consequences;*
- (iii) *Promote non-violence, conflict resolution, restorative practices and peaceful methods of managing conflict and differences;*
- (iv) *Support positive community leadership in communities and organisations affected by violence;*
- (v) *Build, encourage and support positive relationships between legal authorities and communities and organisations affected by violence;*
- (vi) *Provide opportunities for international learning, exchange and dialogue for students and community workers from Northern Ireland, United States, Europe and other locations;*

*(b)*

1. *What outcomes the charity is set up to achieve?*

*to;*

- (i) *Promote the value of education about peace and non-violence and the value of dialogue as a method of community development in the area of benefit in Northern Ireland and beyond:*
- (ii) *To encourage collaborative international research, knowledge development and collegiality between international and local participants and authorities in the area of benefit:*
- (iii) *To afford educational opportunities to a wide range of participants in the area of benefit, particularly in communities and organisations affected by violence in Northern Ireland, including those with limited access to such education and training.*

2. *How will it achieve these outcomes?*

- (i) *By providing support at local level for building positive relationships between stakeholders and the authorities;*

- (ii) *By creating opportunities to build new networks of relationships at local and international levels;*
- (iii) *Through the provision of and participation in training and educational courses and events for local and international participants;*
- (iv) *By working in partnership and cooperation with educational institutions, community organisations authorities and other relevant bodies to deliver training, courses and events.*

3 *Who will benefit from these outcomes?*

*Local communities affected by violence*

*Participants in courses, programmes of work and events, educators, activists and researchers committed to promoting peaceful and collaborative relationships.*

4 *Where the benefits extend to?*

*Northern Ireland, Europe and North America and anywhere that participants live, travel and work.*

The Secretary put the following Special Resolution to the meeting:

- a. **“This General Meeting of the Directors of IPER agreed to adopt the amendments to the Articles of Association of International Peace Education Resources (IPER) circulated to all directors, amended and finalized in a document presented at the General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June.**
- b. **At that same meeting Felicity McCartney was duly elected chairperson and Aelred Father Gerry Magee and Roger McGinty were agreed as persons with significant control.”**

The chairperson put the motion to the meeting, and it was unanimously passed. The Secretary undertook to notify Companies House of these changes.

#### **11. Proposed grant application(s):**

- a. The Secretary informed the meeting that the main application in preparation was for the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) and she was grateful for the support of Shane Whelehan in preparing this.
- b. She is also exploring other sources of funding, namely the International Fund for Ireland and the Ireland Funds. Stephen pointed to the existence of Grant Finder but thinks you might need to pay to get access, although NICVA has access.
- c. A discussion took place about the advisability of seeking and/or accepting government funds and it was agreed not to do this.
- d. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate the four page application and the draft budget she is preparing for the JRCT application.

12. Website: It was agreed that for the purposes of grant applications and thus visibility, we needed to have a website but this should be very simple and 'boring'. Catherine Couvert has been assisting with this, but the bulk of the work has been undertaken by the Secretary. However, Catherine should be recompensed for any substantial work she does for IPER.
13. Arrangements for next meeting/s. It was agreed that we meet every two months, unless in an emergency, and at 4-6pm UK time, which allows for time difference. IPER will pay for access to the longer Zoom, so we can meet in a hybrid manner. The venue for the face to face meeting was somewhere in Belfast, and Nomfundo and Darren and possibly others would join by Zoom.
14. The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

## Email to Directors General Meeting

Dear Director,

We look forward to meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm in Friends Meeting House 47 Frederick Street, Belfast. If you are not familiar with the location, to access the entrance by car, you should drive down Frederick Street from North Queen Street direction towards York Street and the entrance is on your left about midway down (see picture). There is parking at the rear of the building and the entrance to the building is also at the rear.

We begin by mingling and introducing ourselves as we will be joined by one of our international directors from South Africa, Nomfundo Walaza. I attach a Who's Who of our current directors, some of whom. Sadly, our other international director Darren Kew will be on his way back to the US at this point, but if you want to meet him in person please contact him immediately as he leaves on 15<sup>th</sup> June, [dkew@sandiego.edu](mailto:dkew@sandiego.edu) otherwise you will meet him by Zoom and on one of his frequent visits to Northern Ireland. Other directors are also free to join subsequent meetings by Zoom if that is more convenient.

There will be a short introduction to the work we plan to embark on together and time for comments, questions and discussions afterwards.

Then there will be an IPER Directors' business meeting, which friends are free to attend. The agenda is attached. If you wish to add any item to the agenda please email me [mariebreensmyth@outlook.com](mailto:mariebreensmyth@outlook.com). In the first business meeting we will:

- Elect a chairperson and two 'persons with significant control' (access to the bank account). Please have some thoughts about who would be suitable - including you! All banking is done online with the Cooperative Bank.
- c. Consider the motion: **"This General Meeting of the Directors of IPER agreed to adopt the amendments to the Articles of Association of International Peace Education Resources (IPER) circulated to all directors, amended and finalized in a document presented at the General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. At that same meeting A.N. Other was elected chairperson and J.Public and J.Doe were agreed as persons with significant control."**
- Consider the plans for a way forward for the work of the project.

I look forward to seeing you in Frederick Street.

Marie