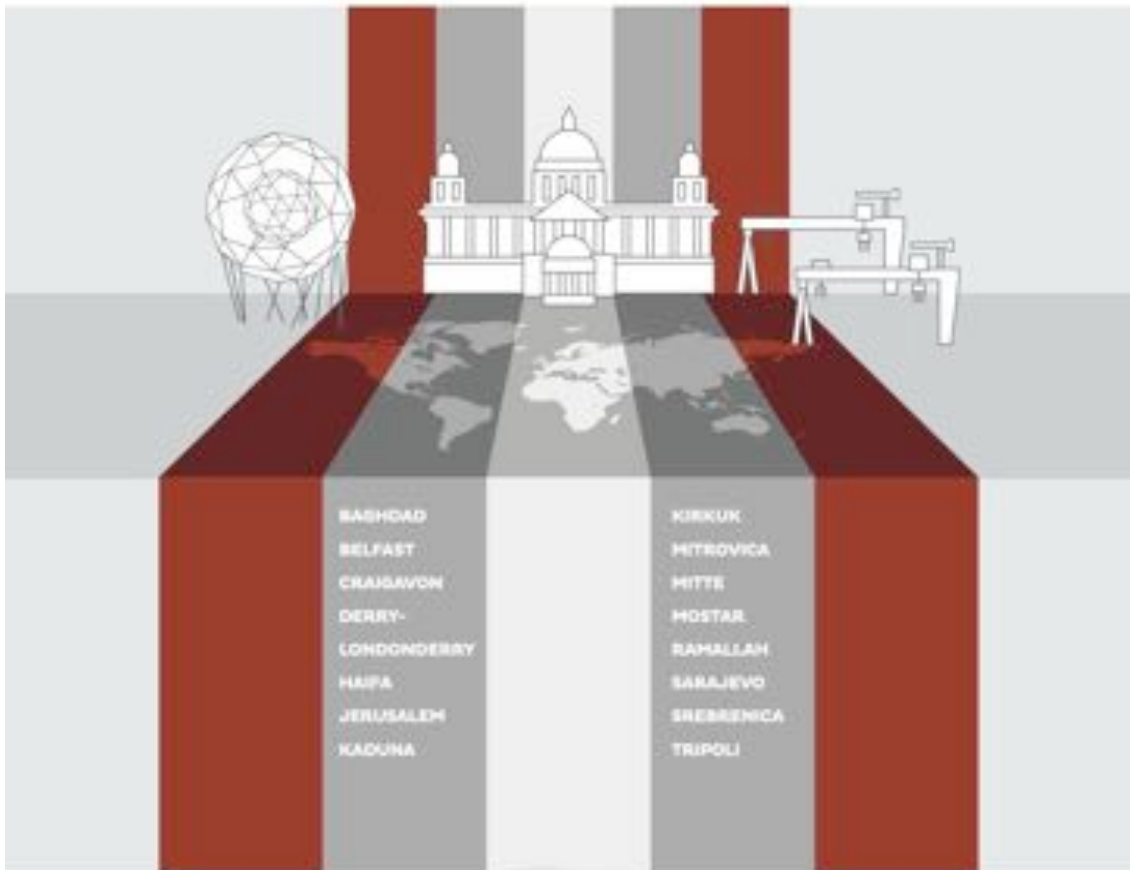


**Forum for Cities in Transition
FCT 2014 REPORT**

**FORUM FOR
CITIES IN
TRANSITION**

Belfast 27-30 October 2014

Promoting Reconciliation
Through Resilience



<http://citiesintransition.net>



The Forum for Cities in Transition

an initiative of the Mookley Chair of Peace and Reconciliation
McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston



McCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON



NORTHERN IRELAND
FOUNDATION
OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



FCT 2014 delegates at Great Hall, Parliament Buildings.

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The Forum for Cities in Transition would like to thank the FCT Belfast group and its Chair, Councillor Tim Attwood, for hosting the fifth annual gathering of Forum for Cities in Transition in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 27-30 October 2014.

The FCT also thanks the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the International Fund for Ireland, Belfast City Council, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, The Ireland Funds, Community Relations Council, University of Massachusetts Boston, and the Northern Ireland Foundation for their generous support.

Report prepared by the FCT Secretariat: Professor Pdraig O'Malley (FCT Director), Nancy Riordan, and Allan Leonard. Special thanks to rapporteurs Kathleen Adams and Candyce Carragher.

1. FCT 2014 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“We do have a relative peace [in Northern Ireland] but it is time to recreate the ambitions and hopes of Good Friday Agreement in 1998. It is time to deepen the values and comprehensively advance the unfinished work ... It is time to further transform our politics and the lives of our people.”

— **Councillor Tim Attwood, Opening Speech**
27/10/2014

The fifth annual gathering of the Forum for Cities in Transition was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 27-30th October 2014, hosted by the FCT Belfast group, under the stewardship of Councillor Tim Attwood, who welcomed delegates at the iconic Europa Hotel as well as several events at Belfast City Hall.

Fifteen cities participated: Baghdad, Belfast, Craigavon, Derry-Londonderry, Haifa, Jerusalem, Kaduna, Kirkuk, Mitrovica, Mitte, Mostar, Nicosia, Ramallah, Srebrenica and Tripoli. Delegates included mayors, councilors, municipal officers, and representatives of the business, voluntary and community sectors.

Participants spent four working days in plenaries, workshops and site visits, covering the following major themes:

1. Reconciliation
2. Victims & Survivors
3. Community Leadership
4. City Leadership

Regional briefings by delegates from the Middle East were presented over two days, and there were parallel sessions on three new and emerging international networks:

1. FCT Business Network
2. FCT Women's Network
3. FCT Youth Network

On the final day of the FCT Belfast 2014 gathering, participant cities announced their collective and individual projects that will serve to reduce violence, promote peace and reconciliation, encourage civic participation of all

sectors of society, and promote economic development and regeneration. Over 30 pledges were made (see separate **outcomes** section below).

FCT 2014 Belfast is a continuation of annual gatherings hosted in Mitrovicë/Kosovska Mitrovica (2010), Derry-Londonderry (2011), Kirkuk (2012) and Kaduna (2013). The linkages among FCT cities as they move from one gathering to the next, along with an on-going review of the implementation of its outcomes, are the cornerstones of a functioning Forum.

The conference program was a mixture of panel discussions with experts and practitioners; time for delegates from FCT cities to intermix in small groups and often on a one-on-one basis; and workshops for delegates to discuss issues raised with regard to Belfast as well as their own cities.

What made this annual gathering distinctive was the change of daily venue, reflecting the particular topic of the day. While this presented additional logistical challenges, the delegates responded very favourably to being exposed to key interface areas and meeting with peace making practitioners in the city.

The following event outcomes were delivered:

- Review of city pledges from FCT 2013 conference
- Training of 100+ participants in conflict transformation skills
- Face-to-face contact of the 'other' within FCT city and across all FCT cities during event
- Increased knowledge of relevant topics
- Firsthand experience of reconciliation work in contested spaces
- Development of FCT structures, e.g. FCT Youth, FCT Women, FCT Business Network
- Declaration of new peace building projects by all FCT cities

The event also contributed to longer-term objectives:

- Reconciliation through education, dialogue and cultural awareness
- Development and maintenance of meaningful cross-border links
- Promotion of improved Anglo-Irish relations
- Promotion of cross-community and inter-denominational activities
- Promotion of tolerance and acceptance of cultural diversity
- Academic research aimed at promoting reconciliation
- Contribution to political reconciliation

Post-Event Survey summary:

- 72% of respondents said that the FCT 2014 annual gathering enabled them to discuss the broad topics of 'the past' and 'the future', which they otherwise would not have been able to do; half of respondents used the opportunity to discuss education as well as relations between different groups in participants' cities
- Some respondents listed women's issues, the role of media, and economic development as topics that the annual event provided a platform for discussion
- Members provided specific project examples of how FCT annual gatherings have improved communal relations in their cities
- "The site visits are etched in my memory. They were all very informative and allowed us to gain insights into the depth of the past ... [and its] ramifications in the present efforts to reach reconciliation. We were exposed to the complexity of reality through the eyes of very special persons [who] met us on site visits and shared with us some of their life and work experiences. I shall not forget the women that [we met at] Suffolk-Lenadoon."

- The event "brought a sense of reality to our cynical view of progress (lack thereof) in our peace process." [Belfast respondent]
- Concrete proposals came forward for the development of the FCT Youth Network: "I am helping Mitrovica to develop relations with a small group of teenagers in their city, which over time will learn from a similar group in Belfast. This will also link to Tripoli and Derry-Londonderry (hopefully)..."
- As well as for the FCT Women's Network: "I am ready to arrange for small groups of women seminars in Haifa, including workshops and visits to various institutions that feminists created, some of them serving both Jews and Arabs, some serving Palestinian women only. We could organise programme, escort the groups, and arrange hosting the women in our private homes, if there is no funding available for hotels."
- And the FCT Business Network: "I hope to be part of the FCT community as a Boston-based resource going forward. This is an area of particular interest, and I intend to follow up with the Fund and FCT Secretariat. In my view it should be both fully integrated into delegations, and operate as a discrete vertical in which commitments are made and outcomes watched."
- "I am filled with gratitude for the work the FCT Secretariat and delegations do, and for the generous spirit of the Belfast hosts. I am inspired by the people of Northern Ireland."

News Coverage

- BBC Radio Ulster – Good Morning Ulster – Valdete IDRIZI (FCT Mitrovica) and Tharwat ALSHAMI (FCT Ramallah) (27/10/2014)
- BBC Radio Ulster – Good Morning Ulster – Pastor James WUYE (FCT Kaduna) and Imam Muhammad ASHAFA (FCT Kaduna) (28/10/2014)
- BBC Radio Ulster – Evening Extra – Ardiana OSMANI (FCT Mitrovica) and Milos GOLUBOVIC (FCT Mitrovica) (29/10/2014)
- Villiers should stand up for NI, as she has done for her own constituency – Nick GARBUTT (News Letter) (30/10/2014)
- Divided cities learn lessons from one another’s struggles – Charles SENNOTT (Global Post) (31/10/2014)
- WGBH – Boston Public Radio – Charles SENNOTT (10/11/2014)

2. BELFAST CITY PROFILE



The city of Belfast, once infamous for its seemingly intractable sectarian conflict that claimed more than 3,000 lives - has made a remarkable recovery in the years since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires in 1994.

Belfast, which became the capital of Northern Ireland following the partition of the island in 1921, suffered devastating social, political and economic consequences from a campaign of violence orchestrated by the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries.

The 'Troubles' were at their worst in the 1970s, when Belfast was the scene of daily bombings that targeted shops, pubs, restaurants and other public spaces, and civilians were targeted for sectarian murder.

This in turn led to increased segregation in the city, as Protestants and Catholics fled from mixed areas – an internal displacement that was the largest in Europe since World War Two.

A landmark accord — the Good Friday Agreement – was signed in 1998, and followed in 2006 by the St Andrews Agreement, and the peace process brought devolved government to Northern Ireland after years of direct rule.

While much progress has been made in ten years of peace, Belfast still has a long way to go; it is more segregated than ever. Since the Good Friday Agreement more 'peace walls' have been erected, with 82 now in place across the city.

Efforts are being made to bring the walls down, with organizations like the International Fund for Ireland being particularly active in this area.

In addition to persistent segregation, the devolved government at Stormont now faces tremendous budgetary and political pressures, and relations between the two biggest parties, the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin, are quite poor.

Despite these challenges, there is much hope. The number of tourists visiting Belfast has increased from 400,000 in 1998 to 1.6 million in 2011.

And two very significant, if largely symbolic events in recent years show just how far Belfast has come: in 2012 First Minister Peter Robinson (DUP) attended his first Gaelic football match; and in the same year Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness (Sinn Féin) met and shook hands with Queen Elizabeth.

These two gestures would have been unthinkable even ten years ago.

3. DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1: MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2014

Reconciliation and Young People

- Creating an environment for young people to contribute and give back to the community
- Culture brings people together: stories, media and social media and through that inspiring young people to sustain their education as a means to progress in their own lives
- Need to work with young people; bad relations are all of our responsibilities and can't just pass it on to the next generation
- Engaging realistically with young people that can fall through the net. Being realistic with young people about what involvement in this sort of work can get them
- Empower young people to be creative, especially women
- Mobilize social media for a positive narrative
- Share local success stories

Reconciliation and Ex-Combatants/ Ex-Prisoners

- Reconciliation involves compromise. Both sides have to be ready for peace
- We need more services for ex-prisoners and ex-combatants in order to expect the conflict to remain in the past and integrate into society; this may involve the government overturning political convictions
- Need to pass the baton to young people in the community to take the peace process in the direction they want to see it; reconcile through integration and community understanding though there wasn't necessarily a consensus of what that looks like or how to execute that

- Women need to be recognized for their contributions within the conflict and for their suffering as political prisoners
- The issue of masculinity -- as the leading factor of why conflict arises and continues
- Question of why there is a persistent focus on the past

Reconciliation and Policing & Justice

- Open communities; police should reflect the community they serve; issues of past should be addressed
- Despite stop-start politics in NI, one constant in the process is policing change; a real determination to make policing and accountability processes work
- Bottom-up change important, the community must have voice in policing reform programme; ex-combatants must be involved in the process
- Community-based policing schemes have underwent very long journey, for there were initial questions why want to engage with those involved in the conflict

Reconciliation and Community Relations

- Many problems discussed related to issues of identity, land and religion
- Peace agreements are only a starting point for ending conflict; much work required after this (e.g. Good Friday Agreement, Israel)
- Need for "truth" in order to have proper reconciliation (victim); challenge of different narratives (education in Bosnia)
- Importance of finding common ground; potential for amazing things for happen once this achieved (Cyprus)
- Need to change people's perceptions (Berlin)

Reconciliation and Women

- Women were the ones who were working in the community during the conflict
- The training of women with political skills is important, regardless of party or group affiliation
- Media may focus on matters of wider conflict, but effectiveness is about creating visibility in political work that matters
- Gender issues are not a female-only concern; men need to stand up for women's rights and gender equality
- There is not an agreed definition of 'gender justice'; more research and investigation required
- Women's voices are important; stories need to be shared (whether via FCT Women's Network and/or larger FCT)

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2014

Victims & Survivors

- Tit-for-tat violence over, but absence of hope and ambition causing continued young male suicides in areas that suffered most during the Troubles
- Victims and survivors have been 'the poor relation' in regards to £1 billion spent on this issue, at expense of legal processes
- Politicians need to lead by example, especially after the peace deal; to continue showing political will
- Need for public funding of emotional and psychological support for victims and their families
- Healing through creating new narratives in divided schools; teach children to be human beings first
- What is the role of religious leaders in Northern Ireland's transition?
- Recognition that pursuing vengeance tears people apart; better to transform 'from victims to victors' (Amir KULAGLIC, FCT Srebrenica)

- Conflict societies can demonstrate denial; example of travelling 5km to visit neighbours who lived 500m away
- Accepting the unjust (early prisoner release) if it's part of creating a better society
- Worth understanding why conflicts happen in societies
- Some victims and survivors allow/content to be associated with political elites; lack of cohesion reflecting society
- Different expectations: truth vs justice

Middle East I (Baghdad, Kirkuk, Tripoli)

- Lines on maps drawn during/after WWI continue to shape the Middle East
- Islamic State (IS) grew from Al-Qaeda plus corruption within Iraq Government
- Failure to deliver political solutions and economic redevelopment dissolved confidence amongst betridden people
- When the enemy of your enemy is not your friend but an even worse enemy
- Poverty and hopelessness provides fertile ground for cultivating violent extremists
- Do cities (and states) have skills to respond to social media and other inducements to extremism? What are counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation strategies?
- Municipal powers of providing water and electricity can help country stay alive; but corruption can undermine everything
- In Iraq, inability for central government to devolve powers to provinces and municipalities was and remains a major problem
- Challenge of civil society organisations (CSOs) working in one domain with Government working in another; lack of cohesion in public works
- Opposing groups may not recognise each other, but both may recognise the same CSO (Valdete IDRIZI example); CSOs can play an important role in conflict transformation

FCT Women's Network

- Agreement to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forum for Cities in Transition, including a statement of principles and values
- Will pursue funding opportunities to implement priorities
- Orientation is women's role in cities in transition, not 'women's issues'
- Will share national actions plans in regards to implementing [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#)

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014

Community Leadership

- International Fund for Ireland (IFI) Peace Wall Programme (PWP) accepted as the programme to remove interface barriers in Northern Ireland
- Walls are easy to put up, hard to take down, and themselves reinforce apathy and isolation; relationships across communities cease; need to build trust and restore relationships
- Some 'temporary' walls have existed longer than the Berlin Wall did; more walls erected since 1998 Good Friday Agreement
- Positively, since 2010 six barriers removed
- Justice Minister David Ford MLA allocated funding to youth programmes instead of extending existing barrier
- Progress can be as significant as replacing bars and wire grills from windows with stronger glass; life changing result
- Local communities are developing solutions themselves to their areas; canvass door-to-door for support; explain to children and young people objectives
- Work bottom-up with communities, not force or compel, but cooperate
- Ex-combatants/ex-prisoners leading some projects

- Related issues are shared housing, community centres and youth projects
- Next steps are life beyond peace walls; includes reimaging wasteland, regeneration
- Confidence for change has to come from all, including Government and statutory agencies; IFI PWP creates these links
- Wider cohesion needed for success; further commitment required from Northern Ireland Executive and political leaders; also require more inter-agency and inter-Departmental coordination
- IFI ready to transfer learning and knowledge to FCT cities
- "This work is intergenerational and must not stop, else reconciliation will stop." (Padraig O'MALLEY)

Middle East II (Jerusalem, Haifa, Ramallah)

- Protests calling for coexistence met by counter-protest across street calling for death (Haifa)
- Haifa Center for Dialogue created directly as result of FCT 2011 event in Derry-Londonderry; includes training managers for healthy workplaces during social crises
- Leadership change management works first with individual, then group, then community, then public policy; time consuming but important to bring people together in process
- For those not serving in Israeli army, there is a barrier to some (hi-tech employment opportunities)
- Value of listening to each other's narratives and comprehend needs of each group's heritage and traditions
- Bad education policies can dehumanise: "Different narratives don't mean that we will see monsters, just different stories."
- Practical projects in East Jerusalem include establishing residential mailboxes, more youth services, and increasing efficiency of emergency services

- Poor political environment does not absolve responsible civic society: "We did not come to a political conference here; we live in these cities and are trying to provide best possible conditions."
- "I am a Palestinian secularist, and I agree with a Jewish secularist than with someone from Hamas." (Ramallah)
- "We want to live our lives. There are other solutions [than violence]. We learned this from Ireland and South Africa."
- Resilience is the ability to maintain courage while working in a hostile environment: "You are the heroes of this just by raising your voice." What support to families of peacemakers killed for their work?
- Compromise is not about the other side changing, but what you do to change as well (Northern Ireland)
- "Do not give up hope of a breakthrough: that's the first rung of the ladder."
- Haifa summary: the fragility of coexistence and how difficult that is to maintain with an external environment not conducive to peace
- Jerusalem summary: the challenge of resilience building within a single community
- Ramallah summary: mobilisation absorbs everyone's energies into wider national issues

FCT Business Network (Launch Event)

In partnership with SPARK (an independent international development organisation that develops higher education and entrepreneurship in conflict afflicted societies), the IGNITE Fund will be initially targeting in FCT cities Jerusalem, Kirkuk, Mitrovica and Ramallah.

The IGNITE Fund provides loan, convertible debt, equity and quasi-equity investments to promising business that are looking to grow their operations.

IGNITE Fund aims:

- Social and economic alignment
- Double bottom line results: social impact and profitable business
- To start partnership projects with business sector and other FCT cities, especially to create jobs for women and young people
- To increase employment opportunities for young people (aged 15-35)/those leaving university or vocational training centres in particular

The FCT Secretariat will follow up with individual Forum city representatives that have expressed a detailed interest.

DAY 4: THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2014

**Guest Speaker: Martin McGuinness MP MLA
(deputy First Minister)**

- In a peace process it is critical to build a working relationship, even friendship (explaining his condolences to family of Rev. Ian Paisley)
- EU funding built Peace Bridge across River Foyle; former British Army military site transformed for place for all to enjoy
- All political parties that contributed to peace deserve praise for courage and actions
- People from around the world seek to learn from our experiences; we do go to places with solutions, but believe in some fundamentals in regards to how agreements can be reached
- This includes protagonists to accept position as leaders and have motivation to end conflict; if that is missing then there will be no peaceful resolution
- Reconciliation is hugely important next phase of Northern Ireland Peace Process
- Working for a future of peacemaking, reconciliation, economic prosperity and a bright future for young people
- "See you in Kosovo" (accepting invitation from Valdete IDRIZI (FCT Mitrovica))

City Leadership

- Top three people in Belfast City Council are women: Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer
- Council motto: "For so much what should we give back in return"; working ethos
- No overall political control (no majority party/bloc) means politicians have to work together
- Societal divisions affects council worker safety (carrying out duties within city), increases costs (less efficient rubbish collection routes, duplicate leisure facilities demanded by local groups), and matters of extortion and vandalism
- Council proactive measures include apprenticeships for young people and providing spaces for dialogue
- EU funds have also supported numerous projects; Good Relations Partnership decision-making process includes civic society organisations, statutory agencies and elected representatives
- Example of new swimming centre featuring glass architecture, undamaged 6 years on because 6-month design process truly involved local people; sense of community ownership
- Benefit of citizens feeling affinity with local government being close to them, responsive and cooperative
- Common ground on socio-economic issues but less on higher political identity matters; sometimes spills over to veto progress on redevelopment and regeneration decisions
- But where there is a willingness by people to make peace, then major protagonists can come together

4. OUTCOMES

The Forum for Cities in Transition is explicitly grounded in there being tangible outcomes at the close of each conference, a commitment made by each city to carrying out a project that will further transition, reconciliation, and development in its own city and/or to help one of its sister cities where its expertise in a particular area can be of significant benefit. Commitments are designed so that cities on the higher rungs of transition assist those on the lower rungs. They are embodied in the principle that divided cities collectively can do together what they cannot do separately.

The process is reciprocal because in serving their sister cities, those further along in transition are sharply reminded of where they once were, where they are now, and where they hope to go in continuing their own processes of transition and reconciliation.

In accordance with the mission statement of the FCT, the emphasis is the realization of practical outcomes that would assist participating cities improve the daily lives of their citizens, and enhance engagement between officials, NGOs, and residents.

As a result of the extensive one to one networking, bilateral and multilateral deliberations that took place among city delegations in Kaduna, both in formal and informal sessions, the following projects were pledged as the outcomes of the 2014 Forum for Cities in Transition gathering:

Baghdad:

- Renew the call to hold the FCT in Baghdad
- Twin our city with Nicosia
- Youth Conference to create work opportunities on the basis of investment

Belfast & Derry-Londonderry:

- Police exchange module/academic course, include the role of female police
- Survivors and dealing with the past and PTSD

Haifa:

- Invite officials from Kaduna to Haifa to build a program to bring women leaders to Haifa for empowerment training; agricultural training and knowledge training
- East Jerusalem/Haifa women's meeting

Jerusalem:

- Physical infrastructure improvements achieved mutually between City Council and residents, e.g. garden building project
- Social infrastructure – new program for children and parents, drug prevention, violence prevention, help at risk youth, Older Brother program, 10 new emergency teams, 3 new gym halls, one centre for disabled and 5 new schools
- Supply materials for residents who want to build

Kaduna:

- Joint activity with Haifa
- Hold an in country conference with Africa FCT Hub
- FCT Youth Conference

Kirkuk:

- Reconstruction of schools and university
- Build sports centre
- Build a new power station
- CCTV cameras in order to secure the city
- Agricultural improvement projects to help farmers purchase seeds

Mitrovica:

- Municipal officials will be at FCT next year
- Police exchange with Derry-Londonderry
- Balkan cities will develop youth and women business projects
- Youth project with Belfast
- Participation in Women's Forum

Mitte:

- Vocational training exchange
- Procurement Department internship
- Student exchange

Mostar and Srebrenica:

- FCT Business Award event
- Business Trainings
- Business Plans
- Organize of School of Human Rights with Mitrovica
- Media literacy
- Cooperation between Mitte to increase employment opportunities through training

Nicosia:

- Engage with Republic of Cyprus so that we will have full representation at FCT
- Explore possible opportunities to establish a Good Relations unit
- Involved in youth and women's forum

Ramallah:

- Conference 21-23 November 2014: Solidarity with the Palestinian People: Local Authorities at the Heart of the State of Palestine
- Initiate research, outline new strategies, and develop networks and partnerships
- Marginalised youth and women

Tripoli:

- New collaborative project
- Continue to prevent violence and preparedness of emergency services and create cultural events to present the real image of our city

FCT Secretariat:

- Craigavon formally invited to become FCT member city
- Rotary Club agreed to link member cities with the clubs in their city
- Develop strategy with UN Habitat

FCT Women's Network:

- Create a document, Memo of Understanding
- This will create a group in order to help the individuals and will also allow us to seek funding more productively

FCT Youth Network:

- FCT Youth Conference (held immediately preceding FCT annual gathering)
- Share FCT 2014 Outcomes with FCT cities' youth, to assist with strategising and implementation
- FCT cities' members train youth in cities in regards to FCT structures and its work
- Pursue funding opportunities, including approaching Rotary International
- Media partner pledge from Global Post (Generation TBD)
- Conference will be held two days before next year's FCT conference
- UN Habitat committed to assisting
- Generation TBD committed to sending young journalists next year's FCT

The effectiveness of the FCT depends on the above outcomes being translated into action. The FCT Secretariat will monitor outcome pledges and follow up on every outcome agreed to ensure implementation but ultimately, responsibility for and action towards project implementation belongs to the cities themselves.

In accordance with the mission statement of the FCT, the emphasis of the Belfast 2014 gathering was on the realisation of practical outcomes that would assist Belfast and the participating cities improve the daily lives of their citizens, and enhance engagement between officials, NGOs, and residents.

5. CALL TO ACTION

The Forum for Cities in Transition -- whose members comprise four cities (Derry-Londonderry, Kirkuk, Kosovska Mitrovica and Mitrovica (south), and Nicosia) -- meeting in Boston, April 14-16, 2009, affirmed its commitment to promoting understanding between member cities with the aim of encouraging mutual learning, dialogue, and the resolution of conflict through non-violent methods.

Even though we face different problems, challenges, and contexts, cities in transition can both learn from, and offer lessons to, each other. We believe that this learning should be shared, so that cities in transition can use resources and knowledge of others to address these challenges.

People from societies in transition are in the best position to help people in other societies in transition.

Basic Principles

The Forum identified basic principles upon which such positive outcomes can be achieved. We call on leaders to uphold and apply these principles in policymaking and service delivery, and to measure progress against them:

1. Respect for the dignity of every individual
2. Respect for the value of leadership in building trust and confidence across and within communities
3. Respect for human rights, equality, fairness, and adherence to the rule of law, including fair treatment of minorities
4. Respect for the value of dialogue between conflicting parties, according to context

Agreement

The participating cities affirmed:

1. That city-to-city workshops of this sort are effective, productive, and valuable
2. That learning from each other's successes and challenges is immensely empowering
3. That some external actors can act as an obstacle and a barrier to promoting joint working and problem solving
4. That they create a Forum for Cities in Transition, with those present becoming founding members
5. That the Forum's purpose shall be to address common problems through expanding the pool of knowledge from which to draw practical lessons
6. To develop and maintain an active network of individuals and cities present for mutual benefit
7. To deepen and broaden the network by taking ownership of the Forum's future, the individual signing here agree to take steps to explore how each of the cities involved can plan to host future Forum annual events in their own territories, in conjunction with civil society and educational institutions
8. That the Secretariat for the Forum shall initially be provided by the Moakley Chair and the Northern Ireland Foundation

FCT CALL TO ACTION SIGNATORIES TO DATE:

BAGHDAD

- Ali Hajal Hamad AL-GBURI
- Taghreed Salih Abdulhadi AL-SHAMMARI
- Mohammed Shaalan ALHAMZAH
- MOHAMMED AMMASH
- Mazin Younis Hanna RAZOKY
- Ahmed RUSHDI
- Muhammad Amin SHAALAN
- Nawal Sadiq TAKAL-ARAJI
- AMMAR ZAINUL-ABDEEN

BEIRUT

- Zeina MEZHER

BELFAST

- Tim ATTWOOD
- Sean BRENNAN
- Lesley CARROLL
- Lorraine DENNIS
- Sean FARREN
- Hazel FRANCEY
- Mark HAMILTON
- Jennifer HAWTHORNE
- Mervyn JONES
- John KYLE
- Laura McNAMEE
- Peter OSBORNE
- Bob STOKER
- Kathryn STONE
- Jim WELLS

DERRY-LONDONDERRY

- Angela ASKIN
- Jon BURROWS
- Colm CAVANAGH
- Maurice DEVENNEY
- Gerry DIVER
- Michael DOHERTY
- Brian DOUGHERTY
- Willie LAMROCK
- Maeve McLAUGHLIN
- Barry POLLIN
- Jim RODDY

- Earl STOREY
- Drew THOMPSON
- Chris YATES

HAIFA

- Suhail ASSAD
- Ron ASSAF
- Abraham Stav CHAIM
- Rula DEEB
- Dror EITAN
- Noga KAP
- Khamra KHAIRYEH
- Fathi MARSHOOD
- Ariella VRANESKY
- Edna ZARETSKY

JERUSALEM

- Mohammad ABDO
- Fuad ABU-HAMED
- Ezadeen ALSAAD
- Aharon BEN-NOUN
- Bony GOLDBERG
- Intisar KARAYIN
- Elias Daoud KHOURY
- Rivital KLIGMAN
- Suheil OMARI
- Itay TSCHAR

KADUNA

- Imam Muhammad ASHAFI
- Rev. John Joseph HAYAB
- Rev. Fr Mathew H. KUKAH
- Sen. Ahmed MAKARFI
- Pastor James WUYE

KIRKUK

- Rebwar Faiq ABDULMAJEED
- Tahsin Mohammed ALI KAHYAH
- Awad M. Mohamad AMEEN
- Ahmed ASKARI
- Abdullah Sami ASSI
- Razgar Ali HAMA-JAN

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- Mohammed Kudur KHARAB
- Sherzad Adil KHORSHEED
- Kalawezh Abduljabbar MAJED
- Azad Saber MOHAMMAD
- Silvana Boya NASIR
- Ibrahim Khalil RASHEED
- Hasan Turan Bahaulddin SAEED
- Nasreen Khalid WAHAB
- Imad Yokhanna YAQO
- Sweetlin Isttitan YOUSIF

MITROVICA

- Sadri FERATI
- Sadat GASHI
- Milos GOLUBOVIC
- Valdete IDRIZI
- Oliver IVANOVIC
- Sadije JASHARI
- Ardiana OSMANI
- Ljubisa PETROVIC
- Bajram REXHEPI
- Dragan SPASOJEVIC
- Aferdita SYLAJ
- Zeljko TVRDISIC

MITTE

- Ayla ERTURK
- Gabriele GEHLEN
- Volker HOBRAK
- Kristina SCARDINO
- Thomas SCHUMANN
- Carsten SPALLEK
- Theresa UHLIG

MOSTAR

- Anja BOGOJEVIC
- Andrea CORDAS
- Kristina CORIC
- Osvit SEFEROVIC
- Dario TERZIC
- Mela ZULJEVIC

NICOSIA

- Mustafa AKINCI
- Mine ATLI
- Zehra BEYAR
- Deniz BIRINCI
- Tolga CAGAKAN
- Lellos DEMETRIADES
- Chrysanthos FAKAS
- Maria HADJIPAVLOU
- Mehmet HARMANCI
- Persefoni KOLLAKIDOU
- Eleni MAVROU
- Marios MICHAELIDES
- Tamer ZAIM

RAMALLAH

- Ruba ABDALQADER
- Tharwat AL-SHAMI
- Mahmoud DARALI
- Muamar ORABI

SARAJEVO

- Kristina SESLIJA

SREBRENICA

- Valentina GAGIC
- Amir KULAGLIC

TRIPOLI

- Bilal AL-AYOUBI
- Thara ALI AAD
- Toufic ALLOUCHE
- Mohamad CHAMSEEN
- Jean HAJJAR
- Elias KHLAT
- Sleiman MOHAMAD
- Nabil SHINDER

FCT 2014 REPORT

The following delegates of the FCT 2014 annual gathering signed the Call to Action pledge:


FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

Baghdad



Mohammed Ammash



Ammar Zainul-Abdeen



Ahmed Rushdi

FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

BELFAST

Anne DEIGHAN

Chris MACCABE



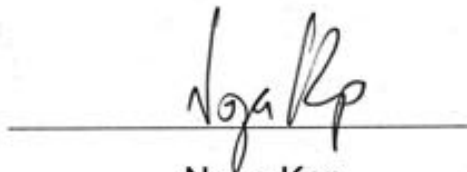
Peter OSBORNE

Peter SHIRLOW

Haifa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Asaad Suhail", written over a horizontal line.

Suhail Assad

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noga Kap", written over a horizontal line.

Noga Kap

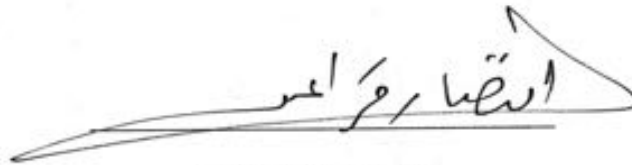
FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

Jerusalem



Mohammad Abdo



Intisar Karayin

FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

Kirkuk



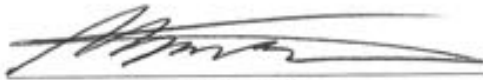
Ahmed Askari

Mostar



Andrea Cordas

Nicosia



Mine Atli



Zehra Beyar .


FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

Ramallah

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orabi', written over a horizontal line.

Muamar Orabi

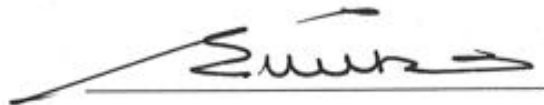
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tharwat', written over a horizontal line.

Tharwat Al-Shami

FCT Call to Action

Belfast 2014

Srebrenica

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir', written over a horizontal line.

Amir Kulagic

Tripoli



Elias Khat

APPENDICES

I. FCT BACKGROUND

In April 2009, five cities – Derry-Londonderry, Belfast, Nicosia (Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities), Kirkuk and Mitrovicë/Kosovska Mitrovica were invited to a conference at the University of Massachusetts Boston, hosted by the Moakley Chair of Peace and Reconciliation Professor Padraig O’Malley. The purpose of the conference was to have the cities explore, after listening to the narratives of each other’s conflict, whether they had sufficient common attributes, experiences and collective identification that they should form a collaborative where they would share their differences and similarities in a more formal and on-going way, in the hope that learning from each other would strengthen the social/political fabric of their respective cities. They drew up a founding document, “A Call to Action” and became the founding cities of the Forum for Cities in Transition. The first annual FCT gathering was held in Mitrovicë/Kosovska Mitrovica, May 2010; the second in Derry-Londonderry, May 2011; the third in Kirkuk, Iraq October 2012; and the fourth in Kaduna, Nigeria, November 2013.

The Forum for Cities in Transition (FCT) is premised on O’Malley’s thesis:

- That people from divided societies are in the best position to help people in other divided societies. Former protagonists are best equipped to share their difficult journeys to abandon violence as the instrument to achieve their political aims and open the gateways to recovery, reconstruction, and reconciliation.
- That cities which are or were at the epicenter of the conflicts in their countries are in a special position to assist each other because they are often a micro-representation of their society’s fault lines.
- That securing the initially established peace can be fostered by citizens of divided cities working together.
- That cities on the higher rungs of transition can assist those on the lower rungs, a process that is reciprocal because in serving their sister cities, those further along in transition are sharply reminded of where they once were, where they are now, and where they hope to go in continuing their own processes of transition and reconciliation; no FCT city is labelled “post-conflict.”
- That each of these societies is in a different stage of transition to “normalcy,” although it might be better to think of them as societies in “recovery,” because if they do not continually address the causes of the conflict, if the grievances of war remain unaddressed or inadequately addressed, if processes to nurture reconciliation are not promoted (especially at the community level), if disparities in wealth and income continue to grow among competing groups despite legislation aimed at closing such gaps, if an agreed history of the past cannot be reconciled, if the root causes of what resulted in the conflict cannot be acknowledged by all, then the residual causes of conflict and perceived grievances linger and fester, risking slow accumulation to a critical mass that sees the outbreak of conflict again. Thus, there is a need to put in place mechanisms that minimize this risk.
- That people from divided societies share behavioural, political, social, and psychological traits, not seen in people in more normal societies, traits that predispose them to see things through a prism that is different than the prism through which you and I would perceive the same events.

II. DELEGATE LIST

BAGHDAD

1. Ali Hajal Hamad AL-GBURI
2. Mohammed AMMASH
3. Ahmed RUSHDI
4. Ammar Wajih ZAINULABDEEN

BELFAST

5. Tim ATTWOOD
6. Sean BRENNAN
7. Lesley CARROLL
8. Anne DEIGHAN
9. Sean FARREN
10. Jennifer HAWTHORNE
11. Mervyn JONES
12. John KYLE
13. Chris MACCABE
14. Laura MC NAMEE
15. Peter OSBORNE
16. Lee REYNOLDS
17. Peter SHIRLOW
18. Jim WELLS

CRAIGAVON

19. Evia AIGBOKHAE
20. Robert COLVIN
21. Jennie DUNLOP
22. Colin McCUSKER
23. Louise MOORE
24. Olga MURTAGH

DERRY-LONDONDERRY

25. Jon BURROWS
26. Gerard DIVER
27. Michael DOHERTY
28. Jim RODDY

HAIFA

29. Suhail ASSAD
30. Noga KAP
31. Khairyeh KHAMRA
32. Edna ZARETSKY

JERUSALEM

33. Mohammad ABDO
34. Ezadeen ALSAAD
35. Aharon BEN-NOUN
36. Bony GOLDBERG
37. Zeev GOLDENBERG
38. Tal KLIGMAN
39. Intisar QARAEEN

KADUNA

40. Kazeem ABDULRAHEEM
41. Yahya AMINU
42. Muhammad ASHAFI
43. Umar FAROUK
44. Lydia UMAR
45. James WUYE

KIRKUK

46. Ahmed ASKARI

MITROVICA

47. Milos GOLUBOVIC
48. Valdete IDRIZI
49. Ardiana OSMANI

MITTE

50. Jeffrey BUTLER
51. Kristina SCARDINO
52. Thomas SCHUMANN
53. Carsten SPALLEK

MOSTAR

54. Andrea CORDAS
55. Dario TERZIC

NICOSIA

56. Mine ATLI
57. Zehra ZEKAI

RAMALLAH

58. Tharwat ALSHAMI
59. Muamar ORABI

SREBRENICA

60. Valentina GAGIC
61. Amir KULAGLIC

TRIPOLI

62. Toufic ALLOUCHE
63. Elias KHLAT
64. Nabil SHINDER

III. PROGRAMME AGENDA

SUNDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2014

1900-1930 Dan GORDON: 'An Introduction to Belfast'

1930-2000 Maire HENDRON (Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast): **SPEECH**

DAY 1: MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2014

Venue: Belfast Metropolitan College, E3 Springvale Capus

0830-0930 Opening/Welcome Statements:

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast): Introductions: **SPEECH**
- Jennifer McCANN MLA (Junior Minister of Northern Ireland): **SPEECH / PRESS STATEMENT**
- Pdraig O'MALLEY (FCT Director): **SPEECH**

0930-1015 Keynote Speakers UK-ROI

Perspectives:

- Rt Hon Theresa VILLIERS MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland): **SPEECH**

1045-1230 Local Speakers Local Perspectives:

- Sean BRENNAN (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Seamus McKEE (Interviewer)
- [Belfast City Council Party Group Nominees:]
- Paula BRADSHAW (Alliance)
- Tim ATTWOOD (SDLP)
- Lee REYNOLDS (DUP)

1330-1630 Workshop Discussions World Café style:

1. *Reconciliation and Young People:*

- David ROBINSON (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Doug SMITH (Youth Initiatives)
- Paul SMYTH (Public Achievement)

2. *Reconciliation and Ex-Combatants/Ex-Prisoners:*

- Chris MACCABE (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Tim BRANNIGAN (Coiste)
- Ciaran de BAROID (CFNI)

3. *Reconciliation and Policing & Justice:*

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Debbie WATTERS (Alternatives)
- Nigel GRIMSHAW (PSNI)

4. *Reconciliation and Community Relations:*

- Sean BRENNAN (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Johnston PRICE (Forthspring)
- Gary MASON (NIAMH)

5. *Reconciliation and Religion:*

- Mervyn JONES (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Lesley CARROLL
- Fr Martin MAGILL

6. *Reconciliation and Women:*

- Ann DEIGHAN (FCT Belfast) (Host)
- Bronagh HINDS
- Claire HANNA

1630-1730 Plenary Feedback from Workshop Discussions:

- Sean BRENNAN (FCT Belfast) (Chair)
- Pdraig O'MALLEY (FCT Director)
- Brandon HAMBER (INCORE): Preview Victims & Survivors

2000-2200 Dinner Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Jim WELLS MLA (Dinner Sponsor)

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2014

Venue: Skainos Centre

0830-1130 Workshops/Site Visits [Delegates select and visit one of following sites:]

Victims & Survivors:

Charting provision for victims and survivors, including legislation, services, development of victims groups, outstanding issues.

- Sandra PEAKE (WAVE) (support group)
- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast)
- Mark THOMPSON (Relatives for Justice) (support group)
- Sean BRENNAN (FCT Belfast)
- Kate TURNER (Healing through Remembering) (community processes)
- Chris MACCABE (FCT Belfast)
- Mark HAMILTON (RUC/PSNI Memorial)
- Laura McNAMEE (FCT Belfast)

1130-1300 Plenary Feedback from Workshops/Site Visits:

- Laura McNAMEE (FCT Belfast) (Chair)
- Alan McBRIDE (WAVE)

1400-1700 City/Regional Briefings:

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Charlie SENNOTT (Chair)

Middle East I:

- Baghdad
- Kirkuk: **SPEECH**
- Tripoli

1400-1700 Parallel Sessions FCT Women's Network:

- Emanuela DEL RE
- Paula RAYMAN

1700-1715 Plenary Close:

- Pete SHIRLOW (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Pdraig O'MALLEY (FCT Director)
- Adrian JOHNSTON (IFI Board): Preview Community Leadership

2000-2200 Dinner Banquet Hall, Belfast City Hall

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Nichola MALLON (Lord Mayor of Belfast): **SPEECH**

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014

Venue: Farset International

0830-1130 Workshops/Site Visits [Delegates tour sites, followed by discussion at one of four designated venues:]

Community Leadership:

Community leadership in a divided community; peaceline projects, community groups, churches.

Peace Wall Programme of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI):

1. Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP) (West Belfast)
2. Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP) (North Belfast)
3. Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS) (North Belfast); see (2)
4. Lower Oldpark/Cliftonville Regeneration (LOCA/CCRF) (North Belfast)
5. Suffolk-Lenadoon Interface Group (SLIG) (West Belfast)
6. Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Crumlin in Transition (TASCIT) (North Belfast); see (4)

1130-1300 Plenary Feedback from Workshops/Site Visits:

Strategic focus on community work at interfaces

- Sean FARREN (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Adrian JOHNSTON (Chair, International Fund for Ireland)
- Peter OSBORNE (Chair, Community Relations Council)
- David FORD (Minister of Justice): **PRESS STATEMENT**

1400-1700 City/Regional Briefings:

- Laura McNAMEE (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Beverley MILTON-EDWARDS (Chair)

Middle East II:

- Jerusalem
- Haifa
- Ramallah

1400-1700 Parallel Sessions Belfast Community Relations Work:

- Dympna McGLADE

1930-2200 Dinner Local Community Dinners

1. Cultúrlann (West Belfast)
 - Eimear
2. Duncairn Centre (174 Trust) (North Belfast)
 - Bill SHAW
3. Riddel Hall (FCT Business Network)
 - Quintin OLIVER (Stratagem International)
 - James HOLMES (Northern Ireland Foundation)
 - Yannick Du PONT (SPARK)
 - Stephen FARRY MLA (Minister, Employment and Learning)

DAY 4: THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2014

Venue: Belfast City Hall

0900-1030 Workshop FCT City Workshops

1115-1145 Welcome Statement:

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast) (Chair)
- Martin McGUINNESS (deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland): **PRESS STATEMENT**

1145-1230 Introduction City Leadership:

- Tim ATTWOOD (FCT Belfast) (Chair)
- Suzanne WYLIE (Chief Executive, Belfast City Council)
- Gerry MILLAR (Parks & Projects Department)
- Nicola LANE (Good Relations Manager)

1330-1430 Plenary Conference Outcomes:

- Nancy RIORDAN (FCT Secretariat)
- Allan LEONARD (FCT Secretariat)

1430-1530 Plenary FCT Way Forward:

- Lesley CARROLL (FCT Belfast)
- Padraig O'MALLEY (FCT Director)

2000-2200 Dinner Belfast Harbour Commissioner's Office

- Allan LEONARD (FCT Belfast): Introductions
- Jonathan BELL (Junior Minister of Northern Ireland)
- Kabosh Theatre: "Those You Meet on The Street" performance

IV. PHOTO GALLERY



Hanan QANJESH and Ekram ALBADI



Dan GORRAN



Jennifer MCCOMB (Junior Member, CPMF)



Thomas HILLIARY (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) and Queen CLUIST



Alan LEONARD and Gemma WILLIAMS-PRICE



Belfast City Councillors Les REYNOLDS, Paula BRADSHAW and Tim ATWOOD



Linda SMAR



Ding SMYTH and Paul SMYTH



Eilina MULLOOLY



Niall ALLENBY



Pádraig O'NEILL



FCT 2014 REPORT



Jim WELLS M.A., Patrick O'MALLEY and Charles SENNOFF



Iranian Ambassador Hossein ADAMI and Tawfik ALLOUCHI



FCT2014 Delegates, Parliament Buildings



Alan ROTHBOLT (wheel), Youma DAVOUB



Paul Manning-Davies, George Cross Foundation



Laura MURPHY



Patrick O'MALLEY



Charles SENNOFF



Mike DOUGHERTY and Robina CHERRY



Belfast City Hall



Beverly BLADY and Alan LEONARD



Mike BULL, Zehra ZARA and Walter JOHNSTON (Chair, International Fund for Ireland), at Queen's University

FCT 2014 REPORT



Wendy BULL and Vanessa DRICU



Arne KJALOGUD



Beverly ALTON EDWARDS and Jake SUTHER



Alan LEONARD, Nancy RICHMAN, Guerin DE WEA,
Niall O'NEILL



Kate ADAMS, Michael WARRIN and Corinne
CANNONER



Vanessa DRICU and Martin WOODHURST



Imani DAVIES, Lubia SAAR, Emma WILKINSON



Tim ATWOOD

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agus Trádála

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Community Relations Council

