



THIRD BREATHING SPACES RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

**'BEYOND THE BOOM AND BUST – LETTING IN LIGHT AND HOPE'
(How faith communities can work with others for the common good)**

**Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, Co Down
(www.dromantine.org), 21-22 September 2010**

CONFERENCE INVITATION

On behalf of the Irish Peace Centres Consortium (IPC), (www.irishpeacecentres.org) I have pleasure in inviting you to be a guest at this 24-hour residential conference. The Breathing Spaces project is funded by IPC under the EU Peace 3 programme.

Please check background information and draft programme overleaf.

You are asked to respond to this invitation directly (E-mail or post) to me as soon as possible as space is limited.

Confirmation and full information follows by end August 2010.

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Phone: (00353 87 222 0711)

If you are using the postal service, please detach this slip and return it to:
Lynne Murphy, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow.
Alternatively, send this information by email to: lynnepmurphy@eircom.net.
I wish to attend the Breathing Spaces conference

Name: _____

E –mail _____

And/ or:

Postal address: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

The ***Breathing Spaces*** conferences have been developed by the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (www.glencree.ie). The purpose is to give civil society leaders, primarily in the 12 northern counties of Ireland/Northern Ireland, opportunities to take time out for dialogue about values and ideas of common interest and pressing concern, including the current and projected economic situation. The project aims especially to engage with faith community leaders.

Themes and keynote speakers at previous Breathing Spaces events include:

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

The ***Breathing Spaces*** process recognises that society, especially our workplaces, has become a place of relational contention where the lowest common denominator often boils down to meeting targets and making sure the correct procedures are followed. This can be a difficult place for creative leadership, especially in times of austerity.

Workplaces that are governed by manuals and procedures, rather than by a culture of shared responsibility one toward another, can be difficult places for leaders and managers who find themselves at the centre of a pressured vortex.

The ***Breathing Spaces*** process asks if the old values of hope, trust, reconciliation, respect, integrity, self-control are valid and if so, how can they be articulated? Participants have opportunities to hear views from specialist speakers and to talk with other leaders and community activists about how austerity is impinging on their work and about finding positive ways to move forward.

Shape of the programme – draft:

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2010		
14.00-16.00	Registration Tea/coffee	
16:00	Introductions Group relaxation	
17:00	Walk about the Dromantine estate (Weather dependent)	
18:30	THE COMMON GOOD	ELEANOR GILL Erga Strategies (Confirmed)
19:30	Dinner	
21:00	Free time	
WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER		
08:30	Breakfast	
09:30	FAITH COMMUNITY RESPONSES (Joint presentation)	REV NORMAN HAMILTON, Moderator-elect of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (Confirmed) MOST REV DIARMUID MARTIN, Archbishop of Dublin (Confirmed)
10:00	Table discussion, tea/coffee	
11:00	Free time	
12:30	A MEDIA RESPONSE	(To be confirmed)
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Free time	
15:00	Table discussion, tea/coffee	
16:00	YOUNG PEOPLES' RESPONSES	Summing up and looking forward to the fourth Breathing Spaces conference. (Planned for June 2011).
17:00	Close	