

## **PRESS RELEASE**

27 August 2010

### **The next generation of political leaders debate the Peace Process**

Members of the youth wings of political parties on the island of Ireland are gathering at the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation to discuss the future prospects and requirements for the continuation of a successful Peace Process on these islands.

TDs and MLAs will be speaking to a group of participants who are among the future leaders in Ireland, north and south. The youth wings of political parties, as well as community and voluntary sector representatives and leaders, will be participating in a three-day event in Wicklow, 27-29 August.

The event is the Annual Glencree Summer School 2010, entitled '*Leadership for a new generation – power, politics and participation*', which is strongly focused on the future roles of a generation that, in an Irish context at least, have lived most of their lives in a post violence environment.

This is a very interesting time in that the next generation of leaders in Northern Ireland will have served their apprenticeships as politicians rather than activists or even combatants, while in the South, the old civil war party divisions are more diluted than ever before. Are our younger people well positioned to maintain and progress the peace process? Although much has been achieved, significant threats remain, not least that of dissident violence. What can be learned from those who have lived through and participated in the conflict?

Every year the Glencree Summer School focuses on a topical and relevant theme which seeks to further knowledge of the challenges of conflict and potential solutions to these challenges. The Summer School is partly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund.

Younger people's role in international peace and reconciliation is also in focus. Currently, Glencree applies its experience of the conflict in Northern Ireland to countries as diverse as Haiti, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Israel/Palestine.

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is a nongovernmental organisation and a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland and in England and Wales working on peace and reconciliation since 1974.

*The Summer School will take place at the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation from 27 to 29 August. For more information, contact Phil Killeen 087 911 5007.*