

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

glencree

transforming violent conflict,
building peace

**THE POWER OF
PEACEBUILDING**

WHAT A YEAR

While 2016 was a historic year for Ireland, it was a year of ingenuity, innovation and looking forward for Glencree. We started a new programme focused on support for ethnic, faith-based, linguistic, and cultural minorities in an increasingly diverse Ireland; we laid the groundwork for our island of Ireland work focusing on the legacy of the past and have just been selected to deliver one of the EU Peace Programmes for the next four years. We are now able to offer some accommodation and hospitality to our residential programme participants again, a really important part of the Glencree experience. So with a sprinkle of optimism, hope and hard work, we will continue to work as we have always done, for a sustainable peace on the island of Ireland and beyond. Beir Bua!

Barbara Walshe
Chairperson

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THE CHAIRPERSON



Chairperson, Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation - Barbara Walshe

2016 was a historic year on the island of Ireland, one that was notably marked by a degree of mature reflection on the contradictions and multiple narratives which demonstrate the complexity of our history.

Glenree has always known from its experience of forty years of facilitating difficult conversations that the accepted 'truth' is often neither black or white but in the shades of grey and spaces in between.

2016 was another 'steady' yet innovative year at Glenree as we continued our work for a sustainable peace on the island, looking beyond our traditional orange and green divisions to the opportunities and challenges posed by the inclusion of new and old communities so that it is an Ireland worth living in for everyone.

We have not met our fund raising targets due to limited resources and competing priorities but we are determined to move forward and see Glenree's existence as more important than ever with the rise of extreme nationalism and the prevalence of 'attack and defend politics' which I sometimes call the dialogue of the deaf.

Four strategic priorities will guide our work for the next decade (2017-2026) including establishing Glenree as a leading Peace Centre in Ireland and internationally.

As the Republic of Ireland's only peace and reconciliation centre, Glenree is highly regarded internationally for its contribution to bringing the warring sides in Northern Ireland together as well as its work with those traumatised by conflicts at home and abroad, and with women, young people, religious groups and refugees.

In the interests of global peace, we intend to be more ambitious and work towards:

STATEMENTS

- The development of a Glenree Campus, a centre where academics, peace practitioners, communities, advocates, scholars, and peacebuilders from Ireland and around the world can come and learn a range of peace and dialogue praxis
- Developing Glenree as a multi-functional space that diverse organisations can use, engage with, and learn from.

THE ACCEPTED 'TRUTH' IS OFTEN NEITHER BLACK OR WHITE BUT IN THE SHADES OF GREY AND SPACES IN BETWEEN.

We have just been awarded PEACE 4 funding that will help address the legacy of the past in the interests of a peaceful future for the next four years. We are grateful to the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Tony Ryan Trust, the European Union PEACE 4 Programme and our members and friends for their continued financial and moral support.

I would particularly like to thank our CEO William Devas who works tirelessly in Glenree's interests, our excellent staff – office, café and grounds – and friends for their continued support. I would also like to thank my committed colleagues on the Glenree Board who work voluntarily in Glenree's interests.

I look forward to working together with all of you in the coming year.

Barbara Walshe

Barbara Walshe
Chairperson

William Stafford (1914-1993) described the True Self in his poem, "The Way It Is":

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread.

THE WAY IT IS, WILLIAM STAFFORD

STATEMENTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CEO, Glencrec Centre for Peace and Reconciliation - William Devas

It is a pleasure to report on another good year for Glencrec in 2016. With further funding from the Tony Ryan Trust we started a new programme around refugee integration and cultural diversity and it was great to welcome Nadette Foley and Louise Keating to the staff team to manage this work. They have the exciting task of building up a programme of work in this area and as can be seen in this report have got off to a great start.

It was also great to welcome Joe Robinson who joined us on an Irish Research Council grant for four years combining his work with Glencrec with his PhD at Maynooth. His main focus is on supporting our Legacy and Southern Voice programmes and he has skilfully facilitated the development of our new strategic plan and revised Vision, Mission and Values that are detailed in this report.

Thanks to DFAT's Reconciliation Fund we continued our Young Peacebuilders', Women's, Southern Voice and Legacy programmes all of which are making a valuable contribution to reconciliation on this island. We of course continued our peace education work in holding workshops for schools, universities and other groups wishing to learn from Glencrec's experiences.

Two personal highlights were: our now annual June event entitled 'Imagining Reconciliation: Creative Arts and Pechaebuilding'; and the signing of the 'Glencrec Declaration' on 5th December by religious in Ireland in solidarity with those suffering from conflict and violence in the Middle East.

Following the re-opening of the Bridge Building in 2015 use of the site for both our own work as well as visiting groups continued to grow in 2016. This combined with a strong performance in the café and

other areas led to a good financial year with an operating surplus.

2016 also sadly demonstrated that Glencrec is needed as much as ever. The horrors people are fleeing around the world due to conflict and their struggles to find a new place to call home and feel welcome require a response. Our second and third strategic priorities are part of Glencrec's contribution to that. In regards to our own peace process the Brexit vote and renewed political stalemate have presented us with extra challenges to deepening reconciliation and highlights the need for building relationships across deep divisions. Glencrec is certainly playing its part and with recent EU funding secured and DFAT's continued support we will be growing our work seeking to deepen reconciliation in 2017 and beyond.

Finally I wish to express my appreciation particularly to my colleagues at Glencrec - in the office, café, grounds and those who help to run programmes from a distance. Glencrec would be nothing without your commitment, hard work and considerable skill. Thank you. I would also like to thank the board for their support and commitment both to me personally and to Glencrec. Finally, thanks to our members and other supporters who enable Glencrec to do its work, notably DFAT, and the Tony Ryan Trust.

William Devas

William Devas
Chief Executive Officer

VISION, MISSION & VALUES WORK

In November 2016, Glencrec CEO Will Devas and Chairperson Barbara Walshe tasked me with facilitating the development of Glencrec's new Strategic Plan for the upcoming decade (2017-2026) as well as collaboratively revising our Mission, Vision, and Values statement that could guide Glencrec's ethical, professional, and programmatic vision.

I developed a collaborative engagement process that involved research, individual discussions with Glencrec staff, friends and board, group meetings and sharing draft documents that were open to comment and feedback.

The finalised document contains Glencrec's new Identity, Mission, and Vision Statement, our updated core values, our primary methodologies, and finally, our strategic priorities for the upcoming decade.

The work awaits final approval from Glencrec's Board and will shortly be available on the Glencrec website.

Joe Robinson



Glencrec Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

OUR CORE VALUES

INCLUSIVITY



Glencrec encourages the participation of all parties, regardless of their views or past behaviour, insofar as their inclusion serves to further our vision of a more peaceful, inclusive, and equitable world.

TRANSFORMATION OF VIOLENT CONFLICT



Glencrec works towards social inclusion, an increased understanding of complex causes and effects of all forms of violence, the promotion of fairness and equity, and the transformation of relationships broken by violence in all its forms.

PROMOTE GENDER SENSITIVITY



Glencrec believes in the importance of including women in efforts to deepen reconciliation and promote inclusive societies. Glencrec also believes that it is crucial to raise awareness of the uniquely gendered aspects of conflict and inequity.

RESPECT



Every human being possesses innate dignity and deserves to be treated with respect.

INDEPENDENCE



Glencrec is an independent, nongovernmental organisation, and is not affiliated with any government, political party, religious organisation, or commercial interest group.

INFORMED CONSENT



All those who work with Glencrec or participate in Glencrec programmes have the right to know about a programme they are participating in and to what ends their participation may be used. Participants have a right to make an informed decision whether or not to participate voluntarily and the right to withdraw their participation at any time for any reason.

STRATEGY

FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS GLENCREE HAS COLLABORATIVELY DECIDED TO FOCUS ITS STRATEGIC AND PROGRAMMATIC ENERGY ON:



PROMOTING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION on the islands of Ireland and Britain.



PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY in the island of Ireland.



REINVIGORATING Glencree's international programme



ESTABLISHING Glencree as a leading Peace Centre in Ireland and Europe.

The work awaits final approval from Glencree's Board and will shortly be available on the Glencree website.



Joe Robinson - researcher and programme developer at Glencree

To work effectively towards these long-term aspirational goals, the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation set ourselves strategic objectives for FY15-FY17

- FACILITATING DIALOGUE
- SHARING THE LEARNING AND BUILDING CAPACITIES
- BUILDING POSITIVE NETWORKS AND RELATIONSHIPS
- PROMOTING PUBLIC DISCOURSE
- GROW RESOURCES
- RETAIN, ENGAGE & DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE

...peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense
than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light –
facets of the forming crystal.

MAKING PEACE, DENISE LEVERTOV



Meaningful dialogue taking place at Glencree



L-R Nadette Foley with Zanele Sibindi at a Glencree event



Participants at Glencree summer event 2016

OUR WORK

- Women
- Politicians
- Ex Combatants
- Victims/Survivors of Conflict
- Young People
- Faith Leaders
- Refugees
- Peace Builders
- People living with the Legacy of the Conflict

GLENCREE WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

The Glencree women's programme is a potent lens through which to re-imagine women's groups and networks as powerful agents of change, and to view the intricate web of relationships and hidden connectedness within which they exist.

The programme is not just a process of learning – it is the practice of freedom, and in the process of learning to read the world and their own problems, the women empower themselves to address them. Rather than being the passive recipients of knowledge, the participants become the agents of the fundamental transformation of their own reality through the process of a mutual dialogue with facilitators.

The learning is firmly rooted in the daily reality of the participants' lives and customs, and explored in terms which make direct and immediate sense.

The learning includes high levels of experiential involvement which helps them 'emerge' from the culture of silence in which they have been immersed through fear.

Currently the programme is working with single-identity groups from both communities. Single identity work allows for critically examining one's own group's acts and contribution to the conflict, and single identity groups allow participants the freedom to be open about issues, concerns, fears etc. without seeming to betray their own community.



Through the programme women explore issues such as - how can we use the 'peace process' to move beyond reconstruction of pre-conflict gender relations to real social transformation? How to counterbalance re-entry into one's own community, after a powerful experience which may have changed one's perceptions in contrast to those of the wider society. This speaks to the real challenges reminding us that these initiatives are only one piece of a multi-faceted multilevel peacebuilding process.

The numerous setbacks and episodic violent outbreaks are an indicator that communities facilitating the transition to reconciliation need to have the capacity to do so. In spite of the growing strength of women's voices and the achievements of their struggle for equality everywhere in the world, violence continues to be a feature of relations between men and women.

Traditional gender roles give women special victim / survivor experiences and these traditional gender roles undervalue women's roles as combatants, and undermine their political role as agents of social transformation. To explain women's peacemaking as due to their femininity, or 'natural' interests and skills in reconciliation, relationship-building and nurturing, is to reduce their public roles to an extension of their private ones. This is not only disparaging, it is exclusionary and assists in the political marginalisation of women and the linkage also impacts on the immense contribution women make in times of war and peace that finds no parallel elsewhere in global civil society groups.

The method and ideas about dialogue are as old as the human race, yet they are also being reinvented in our time. They represent an art of not just talking together but of thinking together. We cannot penetrate and dissolve the enormous challenges we face today, nor the wonderful promise of the future, unless we learn to think together in a very new way.

Phil Killeen



**WE CANNOT PENETRATE
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ENORMOUS CHALLENGES WE
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GLENCREE COURAGEOUS WOMEN PODCAST

PRODUCED BY
SHIRLEY GRAHAM



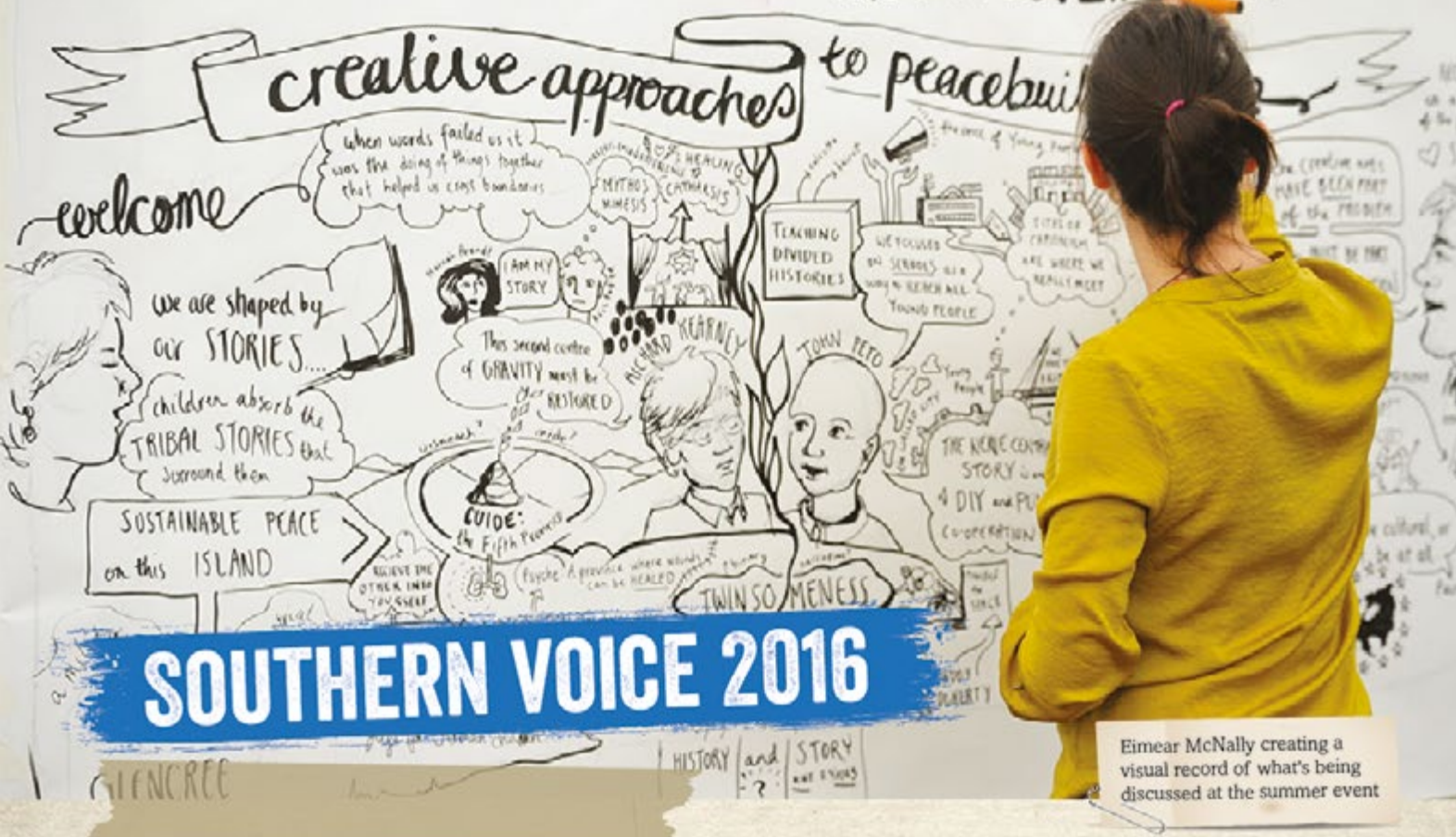
Dr. Shirley Graham is a Research Fellow affiliated with the Irish Institute for Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction.

The Courageous Women podcast and booklet are the result of interviews with community leaders in Northern Ireland. The participants highlight current issues in disadvantaged areas relating to the legacy of the conflict, its impact on women's lives, and what needs to change to create a more inclusive, just and peaceful society.

IMAGINING

RECONCILIATION

PEACE & RECONCILIATION



Eimear McNally creating a visual record of what's being discussed at the summer event

IMAGINING RECONCILIATION: CREATIVE ARTS AND PEACEBUILDING

The 'Southern Voice' programme is intended to create an engagement among people in the Republic of Ireland with issues, organisations, communities and sectors in Northern Ireland in order to make a contribution to deepening reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

This year's main event was entitled 'Imagining Reconciliation: Creative Arts and Peacebuilding' and it took place at Glencree on 25th June. The intention behind this day was to bring together the creative voices of different artists and practitioners in the belief that a lasting peace on this island is a work in progress and demands our focused attention, creativity and ingenuity. When words fail us in our work then maybe creative arts can help us see beyond the limited perceptions we sometimes have of each other.

Keynote speakers on the day, Richard Kearney and John Peto, challenged us to examine and question the accepted narratives adopted around our histories and education. They both emphasised that young people, given creative tools like film and digital arts, can excavate old stories of conflict and division for deeper understandings of complex and often opposing narratives through new stories. Kearney's 'Guestbook Project' and the Nerve Centre's 'Teaching Divided Histories' are examples of ways that creative processes can

GUESTS

Richard Kearney (Keynote Speaker)
John Peto (Keynote Speaker)
Linda Ervine (Speaker)
Manchán Magan (Speaker)

Music by
Colum Sands
Anna-Mieke Bishop
Glencree's Val Kiernan

Performance
'Theatre of Witness'



Performance by singer/songwriter Anna-Mieke Bishop

help young people to use creative technologies to get a better understanding of 'the other' so that real engagement and change can happen.

After lunch there was a session on the role of the Irish language in fostering reconciliation. Linda Ervine, Director of the Turas Irish Language Programme, which now teaches Irish to people in the heart of Loyalist East Belfast, spoke about her own discovery of Irish and her love of passing it on to audiences not regarded as traditional Irish speakers. Manchán Magan then spoke about what Irish has meant in his life growing up in a family that viewed the language as a weapon in the nationalist struggle against the 'colonial master', and how Irish could help us connect with the poetic sense of who we are as a diverse people who have found a place to belong - though we come from many different places and migrant backgrounds.

There was music from Colum Sands, Anna-Mieke Bishop and Glencree's Val Kiernan and the 'Theatre of Witness' performance was the centrepiece of the afternoon. Introduced by Pauline Ross from the Playhouse in Derry, Kathleen Gillespie and Anne Walker presented their life stories on stage. It was a moving and courageous performance which was followed by a Q&A reflecting the power of the creative imagination to bring us together in a new space, where the meaning of reconciliation emerges from the engagement of everyone.

A provocative and inspiring day and this is the aspiration for Southern Voice in the longer term.



John Peto - Director of Education, Nerve Centre at Glencree Centre



Kathleen Gillespie and Anne Walker - Theatre of Witness at Glencree Centre



Professor Richard Kearney - Boston College at Glencree Centre

PEACE & SHARING LEARNING 2016

EDUCATION



In the belief that education plays a critical role in creating more peaceful communities and societies, Glencree has offered one and two day courses in peacebuilding skills, knowledge and action for many years, and we do our best to fit the programmes to the specific needs of the groups. We have not had funding for several years to do this work, but feel it is still important to offer schools and universities access to some of our learning, though it means they have to cover basic costs. On this basis we have been offering the following modules to Transition Year groups:



WORKING WITH CONFLICT

Skills for dealing with conflict positively



EXPLORING IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

Intercultural roles and skills



LEGACY OF THE TROUBLES

Building Peace in Northern Ireland



FINDING THE LEADER WITHIN

Developing resources to play active roles

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

SCHOOLS

St. Colmcille's Community School, Dublin
Templeogue College, Dublin
St Brendan's, Birr
Castletroy College, Limerick
Bray Youthreach

UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Ulster University, INCORE
Irish School of Ecumenics, T.C.D
University of Florida
Endicott College, Boston
John Carroll University, Ohio
Dublin Business School

CONFERENCES

Eamon Rafter represented Glencree at:
ISLA Festival
Cervantes Institute
'Understanding Borders', Dublin
International Peace Bureau Berlin
Congress on 'Challenges in Implementing Peace Agreements'
Conflict Research Association annual conference at ISE
'Kids for Peace' group from Israel and Palestine in TCD

DIALOGUE DAYS

Traveller Mediation and Conflict Training Programme, NUI Maynooth
Garda Síochána, Ethnic Liaison Officers

Eamon getting to the heart of the matter with visiting students



Eamon with visiting Drexel, Temple and Santa Clara Uni. students 2016



Eamon working with ISE Mediation Spring School group



EAMON RAFTER

Our own internal learning is also important and this year we held a gathering of facilitators in November to explore ways to work on the themes of 'dealing with the past' and intercultural practice. It is essential that we reflect on our own practice and come together to share understandings in key areas.

YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS

The Young Peacebuilders' programme brings together participants from all over the island of Ireland to dialogue and learn skills to be active in peacebuilding work.

FIRST RESIDENTIAL

The 2016 group came together late in the year and had their first residential in Derry/Londonderry in late September. The group stayed and worked in St. Columb's Park House on the Waterside. The focus of the weekend was to develop the sense of a team of people who will work together for a number of months in order to become active with the support of Glencree. An important part of this residential was a session with testimonies from former paramilitaries, a British soldier and a victim from the Northern Ireland conflict. This allowed the participants to hear stories of those directly affected and involved in the conflict.



Young Peacebuilders Participants with William Devas CEO and Kieran Allen Programme Officer – at Lough Bray

They also began to identify some of the themes they wanted to focus on and began to dialogue. There was a tour of the walled city on Saturday morning as many of the group had never been in the city before or did not know it well. Jenny McDonald and Kieran Allen were the main facilitators for the weekend.

SECOND RESIDENTIAL

The second residential weekend took place in Belfast, 21-23 October. The weekend was devoted to training at Mediation Northern Ireland offices in University St. The group did the first part of the Handling Life's Conflicts module and this was completed in November in Dublin with portfolios then to be submitted in order to gain accreditation. This training helped the group to improve their own skills and awareness, to be more strategic with conflict as it arises in their lives, and enabled them to deal with it more productively. It has also helped them to have the harder conversations around the issues they have identified as important and develop resilience to work through conflict.



Young Peace Builders with Kieran Allen Programme Officer and Eamon Rafter Learning Coordinator Glencree Centre at Mediation Northern Ireland

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME



IDENTITY

The group has worked with the topic of identity and learned how identity is a fluid and plural issue, each of us fitting into several identities at the same time.



LEGACY

We have examined the troubles and the legacy of violent conflict on this island, we have met both victims and perpetrators of violence and seen the impact of violence on their lives.



PEACEBUILDING

We have also examined the peace process and looked at what needs to be done to continue this legacy and move it forward.



LEADERSHIP

The group has been trained in conflict management and in facilitation skills and has been equipped to create and implement a peacebuilding project as a group.

THIRD RESIDENTIAL

Our third weekend brought the group to Glencree in late November. It is important that these groups come to the Centre as this helps them to identify with, and feel part of the organisation. The weekend was primarily taken up with dialogue and planning how to follow up on the collective experience they had been involved in to date. For some that has meant changes in attitudes and perspectives and an openness to other narratives than their own.

It was agreed that they would meet again in early 2017 and finalise work on a booklet which had already been started and which would be used to share their learning with a wider group of young people. We want them to have a much broader engagement and have tried to support them to continue to connect with each other through social media and create new outlets to share what they have learnt. It takes more than a few months together to develop action that can sustain over a longer time period. We also want to create an opportunity to bring the different year groups together as we move forward with a new group in 2017.



FOR SOME, THIS EXPERIENCE HAS MEANT CHANGES IN ATTITUDES AND PERSPECTIVES AND AN OPENNESS TO OTHER NARRATIVES THAN THEIR OWN.

GLENCREE'S LEGACY WORK

WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND



In recent years Glencree has been involved in conversations with groups and individuals who were impacted by the violence of the Troubles. For many, this involves revisiting difficult and painful memories of times in their lives that they had either resolved never to re-examine or kept them on a quest to seek the truth about what happened to them or a loved one. An estimated forty thousand incidents experienced over time has meant that many others have been severely impacted indirectly by witnessing atrocities and acts of violence.

Many victims and survivors tell us that they can only now revisit and express the trauma and its impact on their lives. Despite the fact that many of the events in question stretch back 30 or 40 years, for many of those affected it is as if it all happened yesterday! It has impacted many of them every day of their lives since. The ability of people to talk about - and have others acknowledge - what happened to them, in a safe space, is often the first step in starting to address the obstacles to deeper understanding and reconciliation, that remain between communities across these islands. Some report that it is also helping them leave the trauma of what they experienced in the past. This work requires a sensitivity of language and approach that has yet to be adequately appreciated by many in the worlds of politics and the media.

At Glencree, we will continue the process of reaching out to communities across Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom in exploring the perceptions and misconceptions they have of each other in the interests of peace for themselves and for



the next generation. As we draw further away from the memory of the actual violence, the conflict has left deep and bitter consequences for succeeding generations. In our work, dialogue plays a huge role in shaping an appropriate narrative to ensure that as little in the way of toxicity is injected into the story of the final thirty years of 20th century Ireland.

For reasons of confidentiality, it is not possible to go in to specific details about people, places or areas of focus for this legacy work. Suffice it to say, that they represent some of the most difficult incidents and experiences during the last 40 years. However we are encouraged that so many from across Britain and Ireland have shown a strong desire to be part of these hard conversations about how we see the past but most importantly how we see ourselves together in the future.

Pat Hynes



We cannot change the past,
but the future is in our hands.



L - Nadette Foley R - Louise Keating, Programme Officers

REFUGEE & INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMME

RECRUITMENT AND START UP

With support from the Tony Ryan Trust, a new piece of work began in October 2016 to establish a Refugee and Intercultural Programme.

This programme seeks to build on Glencree's experience in providing opportunities for people from divided communities to listen to the experience of 'the other', reduce prejudice, and develop constructive connection and collaboration.

The programme seeks to promote the integration of refugees and migrants with their host communities in a two-way process through intercultural dialogue.

It aims to:

1. **INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING** between host communities and migrants.
2. **PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION** into Irish society of socially excluded and vulnerable migrants.
3. **COMBAT RACISM** and xenophobia, including Islamophobia.

VALUES & WORKING METHODS

Glencree recognises the real experiences of those forced to flee human rights violations, war and conflict in their countries of origin and the restricted conditions and economic deprivation of their lives on arrival in Ireland. Glencree is attentive to trauma and conscious of the need to gradually build up trust with individuals and families who are applying to be recognised under the UN 1951 Refugee Convention. Glencree intends to make contact, and build up capacity to work, with people from two separate groupings: the first who have mostly fled from Syria and have been invited by the Irish Government to come to Ireland from refugee camps in Greece and Lebanon, through the Irish Refugee Protection programme; the second made up of individuals from many countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere who have applied for asylum here.

Glencree believes in integration as a two-way process and intends to work together with refugees, other migrants and people of ethnic Irish backgrounds to develop opportunities for interaction and dialogue which can foster mutual understanding. In view of the experience of displacement and disempowerment, which the testimonies of those who are forced to flee have taught us, Glencree intends to take care to focus on developing ways of working which will support refugees and migrants to find their own voices and feel empowered in making their new lives in Ireland.

Glencree has developed models of facilitated dialogue and encounter which enable trust to be built so that individuals from very different backgrounds can listen to each other's experiences and diverse points of view, leading to cross community understanding and respect. It now intends to develop this work using an intercultural approach in order to contribute to Ireland becoming a diverse, welcoming and inclusive place to live.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

Self-care sessions which develop and support wellbeing and confidence for individual refugees and migrants who have experienced the trauma of loss and the stresses of adapting to a new society. The outcome will be that participants are prepared to engage proactively in the dialogue for mutual understanding, leading to more effective integration.

Glencree believes integration requires action and change from both the incoming migrants and the local host communities. Facilitated social and creative activities will afford those from refugee and migrant backgrounds and from host communities, safe structured opportunities to interact with people they might otherwise not engage with positively. These events will allow project staff to build trust with individuals and to recruit participants for future dialogue processes.

Dialogue will also allow for prejudice, myths and stereotypes to be explored and dispelled, which can prevent and tackle racism and Islamophobia. Glencree's experience with dialogue relating to the conflict in Northern Ireland has shown that dialogue can result in positive changes in people's thinking, attitudes and feelings towards people who are different from them.

Through the dialogue work, individuals with leadership potential will emerge, both from refugee and migrant backgrounds and from the host communities.

Creative outputs from the dialogue work will be exhibited to engage a wider public in understanding the experiences of refugees and migrants, to increase mutual understanding and combat racism and xenophobia, especially Islamophobia.



5TH DECEMBER EVENT

PARALLEL JOURNEYS OUT OF VIOLENCE INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Monday morning the 5th of December was the day that Glencree hosted His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. Suheil Dawani, who was in Ireland at the invitation of our own archbishop of Dublin the Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson. Those also in attendance included guests from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain. The event had been in the planning since early August when Archbishop Michael Jackson invited Will Devas and his team into Church House in Dublin to scope out what a day in Glencree could offer in terms of an experience of dialogue and peace-making over the past two decades. Initial discussion produced a number of ideas around how the day might be structured including the ambitious suggestion of a declaration calling for peace, and calling on those engaged in the war to have respect towards the dignity of every human person caught up in violence across the Middle East.

Work began on framing the day around three themes. The first was to honour the presence of Archbishop Dawani and to demonstrate a sense of solidarity with him at this time. The second was to share some of the experiences that we have had in our own journey out of violence into a much better, yet nonetheless imperfect, place in Ireland. The third theme was to create a discussion around some of the language that we need to develop, with sensitivity to our own and other communities, as we struggle to create the conditions for an end to violence and the start of a reconciliation process between communities who remain in conflict. The final part of the day envisaged the signing of the Declaration by all of the Faith Leaders and Religious that would be presented to Archbishop Dawani with copies kept by Archbishop Jackson and Glencree.

GUESTS

His Grace the Most Revd. **Dr. Suheil Dawani**

Archbishop of Dublin the Most Revd. **Dr. Michael Jackson**

His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland Archbishop **Charles Browne**

Israeli Ambassador **Ze'ev Boker**

Ms Jilan Abdalmogid Chargé d'Affaires for the Mission of the State of Palestine

Rabbi **Zalman Lent**

Al-Mustafa Islamic Cultural Centre **Sheikh Dr. Umar Al Quadri**

Milltown Mosque **Imam Dr. Ali Al Saleh**

Islamic Cultural Centre **Imam Dr. Hussein Halawa**



L-R The Most Rev Dr Suheil Dawani, Rabbi Zalman Lent, Rt Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Sheikh Dr Umar Al Quadri

The day explored "parallel journeys out of violence into a brighter future" and brought home to everyone present the destructive and corrosive impact that violence has on the people, communities and generations that are exposed to it. The pain and impact of the violence expressed by each of the four contributors from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain acted, as CS Lewis once wrote, like "a megaphone to rouse a deafened world". Each, in turn, followed with a description of how they had made their journeys forward, from the awful experience(s) that changed their lives forever.

The Day concluded with the signing, by all religious present, of a Declaration calling on those states and other actors in the Middle East, to have regard for the dignity of each human person caught up in the violence sweeping the region. A copy of this declaration, signed by representatives of each of the three Abrahamic faiths, was given to Archbishop Dawani as a message from Ireland of hope and solidarity with his and all peoples in the region at this difficult time.

Pat Hynes



Signatures from Faith Leaders in Ireland on Glencree's Joint Declaration for Peace & Respect for the Dignity of Human Life in the Middle East



L-R Colin Parry, Rev Bill Mullally, Wendy Parry, Rt Rev Dr Suheil Dawani



A shared moment of joy



Sheikh Dr Umar Al Quadri with Prof Yaser Alashqar TCD and Will Devas CEO Glencree

INTERNATIONAL WORK 2016

Glencree's international work is predicated on our learning and experience in peacebuilding gained from over 40 years work on the island of Ireland.

PESTUGE PROJECT

On 4th November 2016 Glencree hosted a one-day dialogue/encounter session between academics from Tbilisi-based universities in Georgia and those from the breakaway region of Abkhazia. This was part of the PESTUGE study visit to Ireland of the two groups which also brought them to Dublin, Belfast and Derry in collaboration with ISE, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University. The one day session was facilitated by Eamon Rafter and Sean Mc Gearty on behalf of Glencree, and offered the two groups an opportunity to focus on key issues that might help them be involved in peacebuilding activities between Georgia and Abkhazia. The engagement of both groups was impressive and suggested a willingness to continue the process.

Georgia/Abkhazia Group at Glencree Centre in November 2016

EU RADICALISATION AWARENESS NETWORK (RAN)

Glencree has continued to participate in the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and Eamon Rafter has represented the organization at a range of forums, workshops and conferences. RAN is a network of frontline or grassroots practitioners from around Europe who work with people who have already been radicalised, or who are vulnerable to radicalisation. The term 'radicalisation' is contested but, as the network involves practitioners such as police and prison authorities and those who are not usually involved in counter-terrorism activities (such as teachers, youth workers, civil society representatives, local authorities representatives and healthcare professionals). Glencree has something to contribute and learn. In RAN Working Groups, frontline practitioners can share their extensive knowledge and first-hand experience with one another, and peer review each other's practices. RAN is also a platform for the world of practitioners, researchers and policy makers to pool expertise and experience to tackle radicalisation.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR MARGINALISED AND FOR EQUITY (GAME)

Glencree was invited to participate in the Global Alliance for Marginalised and for Equity (GAME) which is due to start in 2017 with an initial meeting in Bulgaria. The purpose of GAME is bringing together marginalized, underclass Muslim youth, from several European cities, to provide them with opportunities that will give purpose to their lives, a sense of a collective identity, of belonging to something greater than themselves, nurture their dignity and worthiness in the face of a global society that has, for the most part, abandoned them. We hope to include young Irish Muslims in this process and are excited about the possibilities that might emerge from the initial engagement.



L-R Glencree's Chairperson Barbara Walshe, Professor Padraig O'Malley University of Massachusetts Boston, Eamon Rafter Glencree's Learning Coordinator, Valerie Kiernan Glencree's Programme Assistant



GLENCREE **INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE**



Our key strategic priorities for the next decade (2017-2026) include establishing Glencree as a leading Peace Centre in Ireland and internationally.

As the Republic of Ireland's only peace and reconciliation centre, Glencree is highly regarded internationally for its contribution to bringing the warring sides in Northern Ireland together, its work with those traumatised by conflicts at home and abroad, with women, young people, religious groups and refugees.

Glencree has also worked throughout its history to share the lessons of the Irish peace process with war-torn countries all over the world, from Israel/Palestine to Colombia, Sri Lanka to Liberia and Afghanistan to Haiti. In a context of growing insecurity and extreme nationalism, Glencree's contribution to, and experience in, peacebuilding,

has never been more necessary. Today, as in the past, its dedicated staff and volunteers continue to work, often quietly under the radar and on a shoe string budget, to provide alternatives to war and violence.

There has been a noticeable increase in recent years in the number of universities that have set up 'peace departments' dedicated to valuable research but with limited focus on 'how' to deal creatively with conflict and violence. Glencree has spent forty years learning, and sharing the fruits of that experience, mostly on an ad hoc basis. It is time that we shared that knowledge and experience on a more systematic basis with the rest of the world.

In the interests of global peace, we intend to be more ambitious and work towards:

DEVELOPMENT

The development of a Glencree Campus, a centre where academics, peace practitioners, communities, advocates, scholars, and peacebuilders from Ireland and around the world can come and learn a range of peace and dialogue praxis

SHOWCASE

Showcasing unique artistic and cultural approaches to building peaceful and inclusive societies.

DIVERSITY

Developing Glencree as a multi-functional space that diverse organisations can use, engage with, and learn from.



By Barbara Walshe
and Joe Robinson



ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME WORK RETURNS TO GLENCREE

It was great to have two of Glencree's programmes availing again of the Glencree site for residential work - Young Peacebuilders and our Legacy Work.

The Women's Programme will be using the Centre again in 2017.

In 2016 Glencree continued to offer accommodation in the old Barracks building for Glencree's programme work and on an ad hoc basis to other groups with a view to generating a small income to support our peacebuilding work. We continue to accommodate up to 34 people at any time.

The accommodation bookings in 2016 included participants in Glencree's legacy work and young peacebuilders' programme and for the large part saw the return of groups such as local hillwalkers, schools, women's groups, male peer support groups, cancer support groups, mountain rescue teams, emergency services training and overseas development groups. 80% of our bookings were re-books from the previous year. We continue to actively encourage open and honest feedback from those staying with us to find out what we need to improve upon or further develop. Our feedback continues to be resoundingly positive from all of those who came to stay, with over 90% rebooked to return this year.

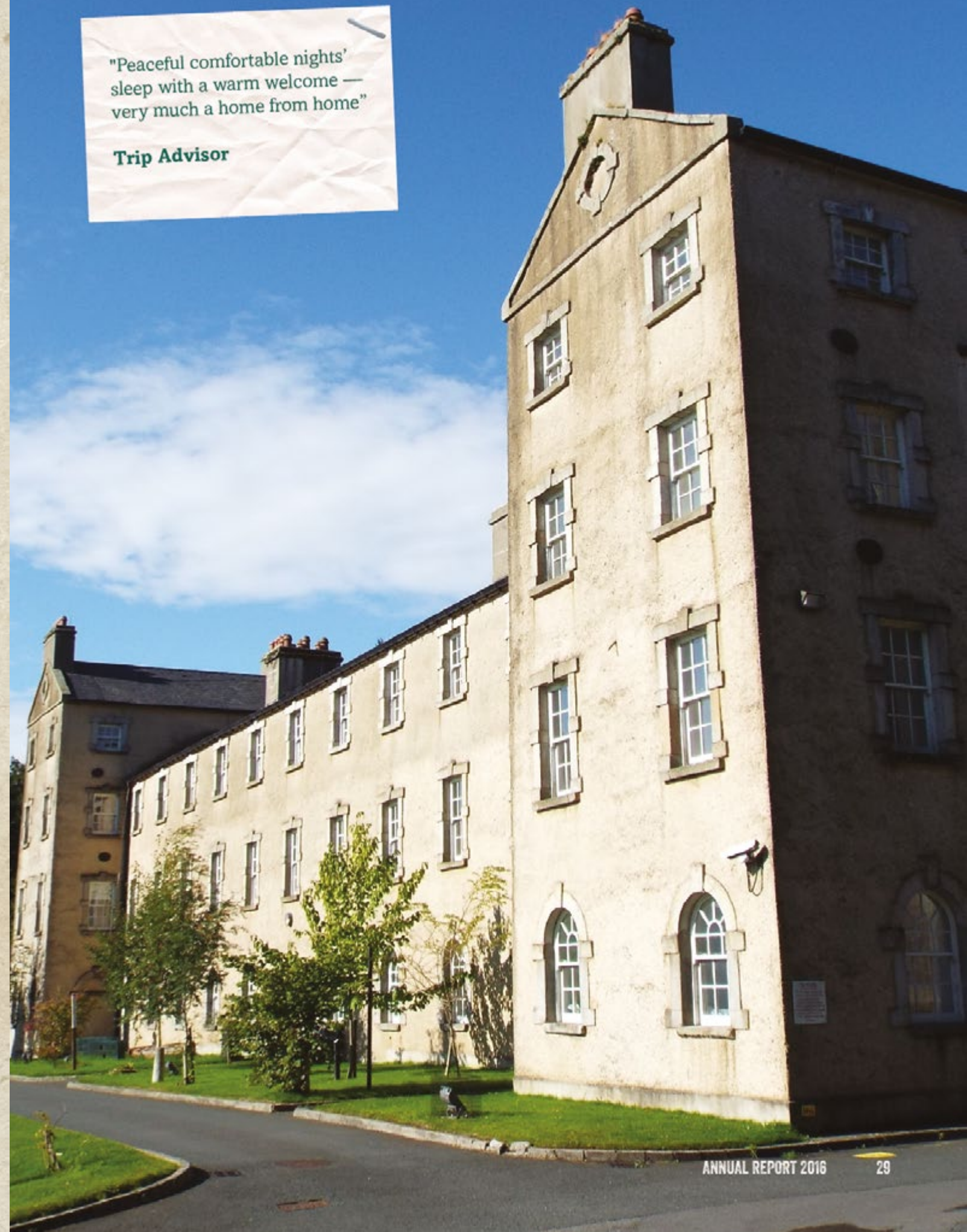
Guest services are currently being delivered by Carol, supported by Pat, and international volunteers who - in exchange for a bed - offer us 24 hours of their time each week. Our volunteers typically come and stay for 2-4 weeks. We had hoped to recruit two more staff to facilitate an increase in occupancy but, unfortunately, it has proved difficult to recruit staff prepared to work on an ad hoc basis.

Carol Ganly



"Peaceful comfortable nights' sleep with a warm welcome — very much a home from home"

Trip Advisor



**"WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
AND MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE.
IT IS IN YOUR HANDS TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE."**

NELSON MANDELA

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glencree

transforming violent conflict,
building peace