

# Strategic Priorities

## 2017 - 2021

Since 2017, four strategic priorities have guided the key areas of focus of Glencree's work. An overview of the impact of our work in line with these priorities during 2020 is outlined below. Details of the work across all programmes, funding and operations can be viewed from page 18.

### Goal 1: To deepen reconciliation within and between communities on the islands of Ireland and Britain.

- Established a network of over 50 participants in a new Leaders Dialogue Forum to explore key issues and develop relationships on an all-island, east-west basis
- Hosted 2 group briefings with 27 Ambassadors from the EU states on the current political situation including the implications of Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol and ongoing individual meetings and bespoke briefings to the broader diplomatic community in Ireland
- Over 100 engagements with community and political representatives as part of efforts to improve inter-community relations and engagements on a cross-border, all-island, east-west basis in support of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement, Stormont House Agreement, and New Decade New Approach 2020
- Initiated a process to develop Trauma-informed Guidelines for working with victims and survivors of violent conflict in Northern Ireland which will be finalised in 2021
- Commenced production of the Glencree Journal on the theme of 'Dealing with the Legacy of Violence in Northern Ireland', due for publication in early 2021
- Produced a Midterm Evaluation of the Peace IV funded Addressing the Legacy of Conflict through Facilitated Dialogue project to report on findings from over 800 engagements with Victims and Survivors (VS) groups in Northern Ireland
- Formed new strategic partnerships with women peacebuilders at grassroots level from cross-community contexts in Northern Ireland, cross-border groups and groups representing migrant / refugee women involved in peacebuilding work internationally
- Launched an All-Island Women's Peacebuilding Network, with over 45 women from across traditions, cultures, ages and political divides engaged in the first 3 months
- Facilitated mediation training for 14 women peacebuilders from grassroots organisations and marginalised communities which supports UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

- Engaged 60 students and teachers from 4 post-primary schools north and south of the border in dialogues and exchanges which has become part of the Irish Government's Programme for Government, 'New Decade, New Approach' (2020)

### Goal 2: To support the building of an inclusive, hospitable and welcoming society on the island of Ireland that respects and embraces ethnic, faith-based, linguistic, and cultural minorities.

- Collaborated with organisations advocating on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees as part of a National Advocacy Network focused on bringing an end to Direct Provision which contributed to the Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support to Persons in the International Protection Process (Oct 2020)
- Contributed to documentation being captured by Mount Street Trust based on learnings from Glencree's work with groups experiencing social exclusion which will be shared across sectors
- Facilitated wellness, relationship building and information sharing group meetings with over 35 women residents in Clondalkin Towers Direct Provision Centre. With the onset of Covid-19, project focus and resources shifted to supporting and maintaining relationships with residents, and liaising with other bodies to provide gestures of support to Muslim residents in Direct Provision and Emergency Accommodation Centres during Ramadan
- Facilitated safe space dialogues with second generation Irish Muslim and African Irish young people on the issues of belonging and identity, with the participation of statutory agencies with obligations under the National Migrant Strategy. Over 200 participants have attended these dialogues with a Report on learnings due in 2021
- Established a working relationship with An Garda Síochána Diversity and Equality Unit and facilitated dialogues with leaders from the African Irish Community to identify co-designed solutions for workforce diversity in support of the AGS EDI Strategy on recruitment and retention of minorities

- Adapted a planned national dialogue to a smaller forum for Irish Muslim women of diverse backgrounds and ages to share their stories which will be available in 2021
- Facilitated dialogues between 9 Local Authority and Local Area Partnerships, and 13 Public Participation Networks on integration strategies relating to the National Migrant Integration Strategy
- Joined the Social Inclusion strand of the County Wicklow PPN and participated in the County Wicklow Local Inter-cultural Integration Strategy consultation process
- Established networks and partnerships within the Muslim community and with diverse ethnic community organisations including local refugee and African Irish community support groups
- Participated at the Shared Island Unit, Department of An Taoiseach, All-Island Women's Dialogue event
- Collaborations resulted in ESRI interest in engaging directly with minority communities on EMN and other research in future

### Goal 3: To share lessons with other conflict and post-conflict societies and internationally, and to learn from the experiences of these societies that may be of relevance to the island of Ireland.

- Launched a two-year multi-track conflict analysis dialogue programme in partnership with indigenous peacebuilding organisation Lakou Lapé, with the aim of contributing to the sustainable development of effective peacebuilding processes in Haiti
- Provided conflict analysis training to 20 Lakou Lapé Programme Facilitators
- Identified and recruited 82 leaders across 8 sectoral areas and the 4 marginalised communities of Belair, St Martin, Martissant and La Saline to engage in an intra-sector analysis of the root causes of the conflict in Haiti
- Established a Political Peace Forum comprising 10 Haitian political leaders and government representatives which now seeks to engage in dialogue with U.S. politicians aimed at encouraging a more collaborative approach to addressing violent conflict in Haiti.

### Goal 4: To cement Glencree as a leading peace centre on the island of Ireland and internationally.

- Glencree under consideration by the Expert Advisory Group for Centenary Celebrations as a potential site of a memorial for those who lost their lives in the Civil War

- Commenced on-campus renovations, supported by OPW, to improve facilities for Glencree's dialogue, encounter and education work, and a multi-functional space for use by diverse community and cultural organisations
- With the support of the Swiss Embassy, commissioned an independent Scoping Report on key international peace centres and peace education bodies, which was shared on [www.glencree.ie](http://www.glencree.ie)
- Ensured compliance with Government protocols as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to prioritise the health and safety of staff and the wider Glencree community
- Invested in IT infrastructure upgrades and delivered key events online
- Grew social media audiences by 41% on 2019
- Produced and disseminated two programme brochures to support promotion of Glencree's work in the areas of Women's Leadership and Peace Education
- Began work to establish an intra-network discussion forum for the All-Island Women's Peacebuilding Network
- Developed Glencree Podcast Series with initial 3 podcasts: An Introduction to Glencree; The Glencree Dynamic Dialogue Process; Belonging & Identity in the Second Generation Ramadan Podcast
- Contributed to 2 international podcasts with Restorative Justice International and ABC Radio, Australia and to the Department of Education's Junior Cycle Teacher Support Service for Religion podcast on dialogue and reconciliation as a resource for schools and teachers
- Re-Launched [www.glencree.ie](http://www.glencree.ie) website with over 60,000 webpage views, an increase of 49% year-on-year
- Generated 30% increase in funds raised by adapting the Annual Peace Walk Fundraiser to a remote event and promoting through social media

### Strategic Direction 2021 - 2026

Much has changed in geo-political, cultural, social and economic contexts in the four years since Glencree's strategic priorities were developed. Led by the Board and senior management, a strategic review and planning process is currently underway to strengthen Glencree's ability to adapt and respond to the changing circumstances and challenges for peace in Ireland, within Northern Ireland and internationally. This new strategic plan will be published in mid-2021.