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'WE ALL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN'

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WE ALL have so much to learn - that was the consensus among political leaders from Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic as they returned from a seminar on handling political change.

A total of 31 people took part in the week-long **Project on Justice in Times of Transition** at Harvard University in Boston.

The programme concentrated on the strategic perspectives on governance and growth.

Among those attending were representatives from all the political parties in Northern Ireland and members of the Civic Forum.

The object was to facilitate dialogue between decision makers and to expose them to comparable situations elsewhere.

Participants were addressed by the former Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell, Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans and members of the JFK School of Government.

The scheme allowed all parties to work together, with the emphasis on respect and greater understanding of often diverse views.

Programme director Sara Zucker said the object was to learn from others experience.

She said: "The project recognises that the strategies used in one place can sometimes be adapted to work in another country, and the skills of problem -solving, community-building and institutional development are needed all over the world."

Harvard Univerity has now launched a three-year initiative to expand its involvement in Northern Ireland's peace process.

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