

## SESSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY

**June 27-30, 2004**  
**Cambridge, MA**

The Project on Justice in Times of Transition organized a custom-designed session for members of the Democratic Unionist Party, which holds the greatest number of seats in the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly and seeks to restore devolved government to Northern Ireland. Despite elections in November 2003, the Northern Ireland Assembly has been suspended since October 2002, and the British Secretary of State has assumed responsibility for the direction of the Northern Ireland departments. The British Government, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Ireland, is conducting a review of the Good Friday Agreement in an effort to enable the parties to resolve remaining issues and continue with the implementation of the peace accord. The purpose of the program at the Kennedy School of Government was to allow participants from the Democratic Unionist Party to examine the obstacles to peace in Northern Ireland and consider the structures and relationships that could be created in order to reach consensus about the way forward. In particular, the session examined strategies related to governance, negotiation and persuasion, leadership and risk-taking.

The three-day program included case studies and exercises taught by Harvard faculty members, and presentations by practitioners who have played key roles in conflict resolution and institution-building processes in other countries. Faculty and presenters included:

- **Kim Campbell**, former Prime Minister of Canada; Secretary-General of the Club of Madrid; and Lecturer, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- **Jim Cooney**, Executive Director, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
- **Alexis Keller**, broker of the Geneva initiative for an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, and Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- **Marty Linsky**, Lecturer, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and co-author of *Leadership on the Line*

- **Brian Mandell**, Lecturer and Chair of the Negotiation Project, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- **Gary Orren**, Professor, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and expert on public opinion, politics and persuasion
- **Roelf Meyer**, Chair, Civil Society Initiative, and former government Minister and Chief Negotiator, South Africa

Participants included:

- **Timothy Cairns**, Democratic Unionist Party Policy Advisor
- **George Dawson**, Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly
- **Dianne Dodds**, Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly
- **Nigel Dodds**, Member of United Kingdom Parliament; Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly; and former Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development
- **Simon Hamilton**, Democratic Unionist Party Press Secretary
- **Iris Robinson**, Member of United Kingdom Parliament and Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly
- **Peter Robinson**, Member of United Kingdom Parliament; Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly; and former Northern Ireland Minister for Regional Development
- **Mervyn Storey**, Member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly

The discussions during the session with the DUP were held off-the-record so it is not possible to report on the specifics of what was said while the group was at Harvard University.

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The June 2004 session for the Democratic Unionist Party, which was the Project's 18<sup>th</sup>

programmatic initiative focused on Northern Ireland, was part of a multi-faceted three-year plan launched in February 2001. Four parts of the program take the form of conferences or workshops for political and community leaders in Northern Ireland, and the fifth element involves the development and use of materials documenting the experience of Northern Ireland. The overarching goals of the Project's programming in Northern Ireland are to:

- afford an opportunity for a broad representation of leaders in Northern Ireland to spend a concentrated amount of time together focused on issues of

relevance to the consolidation of peace and democracy

- encourage the development of connections among the participants in order to increase trust and facilitate collaborative and complementary work on a range of subjects of concern at both the political and community levels
- provide political and community leaders in Northern Ireland with an impetus to develop solutions to some of the challenges facing their society by exposing them to examples from other societies in the world

## The Project on Justice in Times of Transition

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The Project on Justice in Times of Transition is an inter-faculty initiative of Harvard University under the auspices of the Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard Law School, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Originally founded in 1992 as part of the New York-based Foundation for a Civil Society, the Project assists states emerging from repression or conflict to engage in dialogue across national, ethnic, religious and ideological boundaries with the intention of preventing legacies of the past from jeopardizing their progress toward democracy and peace. The custom-designed session for the DUP was the 41<sup>st</sup> of the Project's distinct initiatives which have provided an extraordinary stimulus to pragmatic problem-solving by offering a broad spectrum of individuals exposure to international experiences in ending conflict, establishing peace, and building civil society. Among the countries and regions in which the Project has worked are South Africa, Northern Ireland, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central America.

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