



Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction

Dublin City University, Ireland

**20 years after the Good Friday Agreement:
an exploration of its international significance and the on-going challenges of
peacebuilding**

Launched by Hilary Clinton in 2012, DCU's Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction (IICRR) draws on Ireland's own historical experience of peace and conflict to produce internationally accessible, academically rigorous and definitive accounts of the implementation of the Northern Ireland peace process; to draw on the Irish experience to assist in the analysis of other conflict zones, and to use international best practice to assist the remaining legacies of conflict in Ireland.

This seminar in Dublin City University (Glasnevin Campus) on Friday 6 April will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland, explore its international significance and the on-going challenge of conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding internationally.

Programme

10am Welcome by **Professor John Doyle** Director, Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction

The Good Friday Agreement

Chair and Moderator Professor Eileen Connolly (DCU)

1015 Opening Address by former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, leader of the Irish Government delegation at the talks which led to the Good Friday Agreement.

1100 Coffee Break

1130 Bronagh Hinds (Democrashe, co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and representative of the Coalition at the talks).

1230 Lunch

1.15 **Israel / Palestine**

- Chair and Moderator Dr Paola Rivetti (DCU)
- Prof. Mark LeVine (University of California at Irvine)
- Dr Yaser Alashqar (Trinity College Dublin)

2.45 pm **Coffee Break**

3pm South Asia

- Chair and Moderator Dr Erika Biagini (DCU)
- Prof. John Doyle, on possible lessons for Kashmir in the NI case
- Dr Jude Lal Fernando (Trinity College Dublin) on missed opportunities: Sri Lanka and the end of the Tamil conflict.

4.30pm Closing Plenary Session, former President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga.

Speaker biographies

Bertie Ahern served as a Fianna Fáil TD from 1977 to 2011. He was Minister for Finance (1991-94) and Taoiseach (1997-2008). During his first term as Taoiseach, he led the Irish Government delegation in the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, and has spoken in many other conflict zones about that experience.

Atifete Jahjaga is the former President of Kosovo. She served as the third President of the newly independent Kosovo, was the first female President of the Republic of Kosovo, the first non-partisan candidate and the youngest female head of state to be elected to the top office. Previously she served as Deputy Director of the Kosovo Police, holding the rank of Major General, the most senior among women officers in Southeastern Europe.

Bronagh Hinds was one of the founders of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and following the 1996 elections where they won two seats in the NI Forum, she represented the Coalition in the negotiations leading to the Good Friday Agreement. In 2000 she founded DemocraShe to empower women in politics, policy influence and peace-building. Bronagh was active in the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement in the 1970s, has worked for many years in the voluntary sector and served as the Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for N Ireland 1999-2003.

Professor John Doyle is Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in DCU and the founding Director of the Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction (IICRR). He has taken part in several EU funded studies of comparative peace processes, which brought academics from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan together to explore both European and South Asian cases.

Professor Eileen Connolly is Director of the Ireland India Institute in Dublin City University. Her research interests include Gender and Politics and the relationship between States and Civil Society. She is at present leading a €3.8m EU funded project entitled Global India, exploring India's changing role in world politics and the evolving relationship between the EU and India.

Dr. Paola Rivetti is an Assistant Professor in the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, where her research interests focus on the dynamics of authoritarian resilience and democratization in the Middle East from a comparative perspective and on Iranian domestic politics. This year she was named the Irish Research Council's Early Career Researcher of the Year.

Professor Mark LeVine is the Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History in the University of California at Irvine, having previously worked at NYU, Cornell and the European University Institute in Florence. He is a leading authority on the Middle East, author of numerous academic papers and books and also a regular contributor to Al Jazeera.

Dr Yaser Alashqar is an adjunct assistant professor in Peace Studies at Trinity College Dublin. Born in Gaza, his expertise includes civil society's role at the national and political level, Middle Eastern issues in international relations, Northern Ireland, Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He is an associate academic member of the Centre for Palestine Studies in the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

Dr Erika Biagini is a Research Fellow at the Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction in Dublin City University. Her areas of expertise include Middle East Politics, Political Islam, Islamic Activism and Arab Feminism, with a particular focus on the activism of the Egyptian Muslim Sisterhood.

Dr. Jude Lal Fernando is Assistant Professor in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin. He brings praxis-based experience to the academic context in the fields of interreligious studies and international peace studies. His main research interests are religion, peace, and conflict, focusing on Sri Lanka in particular, and South Asia more generally. He is currently working on a book comparing the Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka experiences.