



The War on Terrorism and the Gandhian Ethic

The lecture Professor Rajmohan Gandhi gave at Notre Dame University,

USA, last October), has now been published as a 20-page A5 booklet. Available from lofC at Greencoat Place at £1, postfree, or ten copies for £5, postfree. Cheques payable to lofC (Books).

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Listen for a Change

I am looking for copies of my book *Listen for a Change* about marriage. If anyone has a copy which they do not need, I would be grateful to have it. It could be sent to my address or to Greencoat Place and I will reimburse the postage.

With many thanks.

Annejet Campbell
35 College Road, London SE21 7BA.

THE GREENCOAT FORUMS towards an inclusive society

24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD
Buffet refreshments from 6.30pm
Talk at 7.15pm
RSVP 020 7798 6000

Tuesday, March 15

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Building bridges towards a partnership of civilizations
Renowned columnist for *The Independent*, a frequent broadcaster and author of several books.

Tuesday, May 10

Peter Rundell

Making poverty history: a personal perspective
Dr Rundell works in the Development Directorate-General of the European Commission, where he is responsible for policy on Poverty Reduction Strategies and macro-economic support.

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Thanksgiving occasion for the life of Charis Waddy

3.30 pm Friday May 6 at
14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1.
All welcome.
RSVP to PeterEverington@aol.com or
020 8992 1744.



JOURNEYS OF HOPE

People of many faiths, backgrounds and nations gathered on February 26 at Liverpool Hope University to look at issues of healing history, the personal journey of asylum seekers and the process of dialogue.

Opening the conference, Professor **Gerald Pillay**, Rector and Chief Executive of the University, talked about the power of history and the importance of accepting and coming to terms with our pasts. A highlight of the morning for many was the Reverend **Tee Turner's** speech about history's impact on all people, and on him personally. *Hope in the City (HiC)* outreach director in Richmond, USA, he had travelled to Liverpool especially for the conference.

Letlapa Mphahlele, a commander of the People's Liberation Army in South Africa during the apartheid struggle, told briefly his own experience of reconciliation. He had chal-

lenging words concerning the need for material reparation as part of the reconciliation process. "You cannot preach spiritual growth when people are hungry," he said.

The 'Journey of Newcomers', with experiences from those working with refugees and asylum-seekers, provided a fresh take on the issue for many. **Nitin Shukla**, Equality Officer for Gateshead Council, spoke of the suffering that compels asylum seekers to flee their homeland, while **Daoud Zaarora**, Director of the North of England Refugee Service, drew attention to the abundance of skills and experience newcomers bring.

Lawrence Fearon of HiC London and **Barrie Brazier**, Manager of Nottingham Race Equality Council, introduced the concept and process of dialogue. Mr Brazier explained: "It is not a quick fix. It does not create change overnight but lays the foundations for practical work. We don't back away from facing the real issues and we take on challenges, no matter how hurtful, working through them together."

In the afternoon the 80 delegates split into three groups for dialogues in a series of workshops. The 'Journey

John Leggat



Professor Gerald Pillay addressing the conference

of Dialogue' aimed to give delegates some of the tools to initiate dialogues in their own communities. Specifically, they looked at how to develop a suitable question for discussion, which would be inclusive and meaningful for everyone - often an achievement in itself in such a varied group of people.

Delegate **Collet Christie**, a diversity consultant in Bradford, provided eloquent and thought-provoking feedback from the 'Journey of Reconciliation' workshop. In smaller groups they had considered what reconciliation meant to them and why it could be such a difficult process. Pride and arrogance, they concluded, could prevent people from taking the first step; the "removal of the transference of blame" was essential for reconciliation to take place.

The third workshop, looking at the 'Journey of Newcomers', was the best attended, perhaps an indicator of the strong feelings that surround the issue today. It revealed some of the challenges faced by refugees in the UK and the barriers many must overcome to play a useful role in their communities. As well as looking at the problems in providing services, the workshop highlighted the abundance of skills asylum seekers bring and tried to find ways to make more use of these. Some of the media, particularly the tabloid press, were sometimes seen to be creating a barrier through their largely negative portrayal of newcomers.

Delegates told moving and inspiring stories of people coming together in their own communities and a number of positive suggestions were made.

As the day drew to a close the feeling was that progress had been made in understanding the issues. Concluding,

Gerald Henderson, co-chair, hoped that delegates would keep the momentum of the day going by keeping in touch and working together. "In this spirit we can all be agents of change," he said. "Through our choices and decisions we become the reasons for hope."

Sarah Calkin

SCHOOLS CHALLENGED

During the three weeks before half term **Letlapa Mphahlele**, accompanied by Howard Grace, did sessions in 23 UK sixth forms in Berkshire, Liverpool, Cheshire and Nottingham. Everywhere the response has been the same - words to the effect, "This has been one of the most memorable occasions we have ever had for our sixth form."

Letlapa's experience of leaving home one morning, ostensibly to go to school in his African village but instead going into exile aged 17 to fight for the liberation of his people, makes an immediate impact on the students of the same age. On top of that he shares the decision of not telling his parents, because a little knowledge of his whereabouts would put them at risk of torture or even death when the authorities inevitably came to interrogate them.

Living into the decisions that led to his ordering massacres of white South African civilians (he became South Africa's most wanted terrorist), and the anger that motivated that, also causes the students to reflect on how we deal with our anger when confronted by what we see as injustices. To what extent do we live the alternative to the actions we criticise in others?

ciliation and change in the nation's life. Almost all had experienced the trauma and horrors of war. Army and police had treated each other with suspicion. Civil society feared the security forces.

From the times of reflection each morning, and through personal conversations, many began to recognise where change was needed in their lives. The video of the African film *Freedom* (produced by MRA in 1956) was watched with undivided attention. In a lively discussion the following day, several emphasised how relevant the video was to the needs of Sierra Leone in 2005! Many wanted to show it back at their units.

One participant wrote: "The course has marked a turning point in my life." Another commented: "Through the time of reflection God talks to me each day." Yet another said, "I'm no longer afraid of the police and the army."

A week after the course ended, the Commandant of an army unit in the Northern Province told John Bangura how impressed he was by the change in the officers he had sent after they returned to barracks. **Keith Neal**

UPDATE ON BOOK PROJECT

Books and money have come in, and I decided to respond to Ghana first because they are getting ready for the Clean Election Campaign that will happen around October 2005. Financially I chose to try the "faith & prayer" method rather than using my Initiative Budget or some other Oxford Group funds. I picked out all the books I thought would fit their requested needs, then showed them to David Locke at Greencoat Place, who added a

few more, and we packed them together. Finally we weighed them and worked out how much it would cost to send them. The figure came to about £88. I had raised exactly £90. I was amazed that my "faith & prayer" approach worked - a lesson of trust for me!

Bhavesb Patel

ROSHNI

Author **Michael Henderson** was the speaker at a meeting in the London Indian YMCA of Roshni, an organisation for inter-racial and inter-religious collaboration. His subject, *Valuing the other - Reaching out to the other*, was preceded by a panel discussion on the causes and cure of terrorism. Mr Risaluddin MBE thanked the speaker for the "extremely inspiring" talk. Roshni board member Adeel Siddiqi said it was "a great healing force after what we heard about terrorism".

Richard Channer

IN WREXHAM

A lunchtime meeting was held in St Margaret's Church on February 3. Howard Grace's video of Letlapa and Ginn Fourie in Caux last summer was shown and there was a chance to ask questions of Letlapa afterwards. Those attending were very impressed by Letlapa's change, his humility in telling his story and the way he answered questions so openly. It was also interesting to hear how 100 sixth formers in a Chester school had been so appreciative of their visit earlier in the morning.

Helen Davies & Audrey Jones

MORAL FOUNDATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY

Courses in Sierra Leone

On January 18, 2002, a brutal 10-year civil war in Sierra Leone officially came to an end. Since then up to 17,000 UN peacekeeping forces, together with a team of international military advisors, have worked successfully to stabilise the country. Former rebel fighters have been re-integrated into the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) re-organised, and former child soldiers sent back to secondary school.

A Truth and Reconciliation Commission and UN-backed Special Court were set up and internationally monitored democratic elections were held. By the end of 2005 almost all of



Five representatives from the police, air-force, army and civil society who took part in the first course

the UN forces will have left, and so the RSLAF and SLP will be solely responsible for the country's security.

Against this background, senior police and army personnel attending recent *Agenda for Reconciliation* conferences at Caux invited IofC to give a training programme for the police, armed forces and civil society on *Moral Foundations for Democracy*. In response, two one-week courses were held in January, the first at the Police Training Centre near Freetown and the second in the town of Bo, 160 miles east of the capital.

Of the 72 participants from all over the country who attended, 30 came from the police, 28 from the armed forces and 14 from *Hope-Sierra Leone*, a civil society organisation affiliated to IofC. The faculty was led by **Kees Scheijgrond**, a retired naval officer from The Netherlands, and **Dr Barry Hart**, Director of the Caux Scholars Programme. They were supported by the Rev **Marina Scheijgrond**, **John Bangura** (Denmark), founder of *Hope-Sierra Leone*, **Keith Neal** (UK) and **Emma Kamara** (Sierra Leone). **Ivan DeKam** (USA) from the Church World Service joined the team to write a full report of the proceedings.

Further training will be given later this year to about half the participants, who will then become the trainers to continue the programme for army, police and civil society over the next two or three years.

Participants involved themselves enthusiastically in every aspect of the course. Many expressed how grateful they were for the opportunity to meet together and learn how to apply the moral values to help bring about recon-

Howard often asks the students whether they think **Ginn Fourie** did the right thing to forgive Letlapa for the orders that led to the death of her daughter. Also, why do they think she forgave? In a school in Toxteth, Liverpool, with a very multi-cultural group, a Muslim girl in the front row immediately responded that Ginn did the right thing because if she lived her life with that

bitterness she would suffer more than Letlapa. A boy at the back followed by saying that there was so much anger and hatred in the world that Ginn was setting an example for society by forgiving. Howard pointed out that Ginn actually forgave because she is a Christian and was following Jesus' example on the Cross: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Then the students were asked whether you need to be a Christian, Muslim or person of faith to forgive. The teacher interjected, "No, I am an atheist but value greatly things like forgiveness and try to apply them." An Asian boy sitting at the side of the room raised his hand and said, "It comes from the heart."

This sort of discussion in a wide variety of schools is made all the more powerful by Letlapa's readiness to share openly some of the deeper experiences he has faced in his life. Many teachers tell us that they are really surprised by the unexpected students who take part in the interactions. A letter to Letlapa from eight students at



Letlapa talking to students

Tarporley High School after a session there said, "We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for sharing your incredible experiences with us. We have been and will continue to be affected and challenged by the issues raised."

Apart from the schools, we have had ten occasions with non-school groups such as those in Wrexham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Edinburgh and a North Yorkshire Christian Community. Letlapa was also interviewed for 45 minutes on *Radio Faza*, a Nottingham Muslim community radio, by Dr. Musharraf Hussain, one of the two leading UK Muslims who went to Iraq last year to try to get Ken Bigley freed. The gist of all these interactions: What alternative is there to violence if you want to bring change in a situation of extreme injustice and oppression?

Next stops include Birmingham, Worcester, Coventry and London. On Wednesday, March 2, there is an evening with Letlapa at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in London.

Howard Grace

ROLE IN THE FUTURE

When we arrived at Brackenhurst conference centre, just north of Nairobi, the first thing most of us said was, doesn't it look like Panchgani, Caux and Tirley Garth all rolled into one? And sure enough the manicured lawns, the vibrant flowers and the sense that we were slightly removed from reality gave us all a comfortable sense of familiarity.

Forty-one of us Under 40s met there over 10 days at the beginning of February to gain inspiration for our role in the future of IofC. Twenty-six countries were represented from Honduras to Vietnam and beyond. The UK was the grand-daddy of the national teams with 80 years of history. At the other end of the scale, the Vietnamese and Cambodian teams have been around for little longer than two years.

This diverse team of 20- and 30-somethings (oh, and there were even a couple of 40-somethings!) all came with differing views and experiences, but with a common understanding that the future of IofC is uncertain and rests with what vision and inspiration the Under 40s can find.

Open space

But first we needed to get all those views, issues and ideas out on the table. So we "Opened the Space" to everyone. This is a technique that allowed participants to set the agenda by putting forward issues they feel passionate about within the theme "the future of IofC". The issues ranged from homosexuality to Islam,

the future of Caux and even the role of nonsense! (You will be able to see a full list of the discussions in the report.)

The key to Open Space is to harness people's passion and energy, not just their intellect. If you are in a meeting where you are not contributing or learning, then move to somewhere where you can contribute or learn - the law of two feet. Throughout the conference we used this freedom to focus on the things we felt passionate about.

Message for the future

The clearest message for the future was the need for leadership and good management. If the central message of "listening to God's will" was to live on, the structures and leadership needed to change to make us more professional, more caring, more transparent and better at using the resources we have.

Recommendations and action points all call for increased accountability and power for the international bodies, more coordination of resources, a humility to realise we can learn from others and clearer roles and responsibilities for workers.

Refreshed and renewed

These newer ways of working are only worthwhile if the vision and practice of IofC is refreshed and renewed for the 21st century. Although the vision for IofC was discussed in depth we didn't come out with a definitive statement yet. However, most will be pleased to

know that discussions focussed around the core values of the four standards, guidance and listening for the divine will for our lives. What was clear is that we must live by universal truths such as love and acceptance of others, rather than by doctrine and judgement.

Strength and inspiration

The ten days saw this in practice, with honest sharing and acceptance of differing views on a whole range of issues. One participant even went so far as to say the atmosphere at the conference was the vision. There was a chance for all to explore their life

paths with others, finding strength and inspiration. Fun and seriousness were there in equal measure. We spent half a day in silence and a couple of evenings immersed in dancing and laughter

On departure we felt we had refreshed the old and created something new. But it is still a young and fragile thing. Its future will depend on the commitment of those who were there and others in the wider community. It will depend on the willingness of us all now to take on board different views and, of course, on some divine intervention.

Sandy Hore-Ruthven

SOUTH COAST EVENT

Together with Dr Sheila Andren, these three members of *Foundations for Freedom* addressed a gathering from the south, giving vivid insights into the recent elections in Ukraine, and the growth of the F4F courses in Latvia, Eastern Europe and Russia.



I to r: Sasha Shymina from Kiev (Ukraine), Anna Pozhogina from Latvia and Angela Starovoytova from Crimea (Ukraine) in Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

Sasha also told of her ten days in Kenya, where Under 40s from 26 nations wrestled with a flood of ideas and recommendations for the future of IofC.

Dr Andren outlined the way Caux interns are recruited and the vital work they do in facilitating the conferences. Both Angela and Anna have been interns. The search is now on for this year's intake. Although interns pay their own travel to Caux, their keep costs £770 for each four-week stint.

John Munro