



# NONVIOLENT NEWS

Nonviolence and campaigning news from **INNATE**



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## KEEPING THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE

Northern Ireland's first action against genetically-modified food took place in Belfast on Saturday 25th October. Two dozen activists (from Belfast Friends of the Earth (FOE), Queen's University Green Action and various Critical Mass-ers) carried out a supermarket demo in Tesco's city centre store. A dozen check-outs were brought to a halt as activists put full trolleys of food through the till and then refused to pay until they could be guaranteed that none of it was genetically modified. Meanwhile leaflets outlining the health and environmental implications of genetically engineered food were then distributed by the remaining activists to explain the action to shoppers. One activist, dressed as a scientist, jokingly thanked shoppers on behalf of the biotech industry for taking part in a global experiment and then met with the management to explain the action. The action continued outside once activists had been asked to leave; members of the public were invited to show their preference for 'real' or genetically modified food by placing potatoes in a 'spudometer' (a public opinion gauging device built by Belfast FOE). FOE are calling for an immediate freeze on the testing and marketing on genetically engineered foods in the UK throughout the EU, a full public debate on the need for genetically modified food, and a commitment to sustainable methods of farming and food production. For more info contact; Any Orr, Belfast FOE, 40 Wellington Park, Belfast BT9 6DN. Phone 01232 - 664311; email [andrewo@foe.co.uk](mailto:andrewo@foe.co.uk)

## WAVE; TRAUMA TRAINING

Following a recent 'community healing conference' looking at the cost of the Troubles and healing of a traumatised community, WAVE is organising three one-day seminars; 'Learning to live with trauma' takes place on 22nd November, 'Beyond trauma - a healing process' on 6th December, and 'Compassion fatigue and secondary traumatization' takes place on 17th January 1998. Each course lasts from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and fees are £25 for one day or £60 for the three.

WAVE is a cross community organisation offering emotional, psychological and practical help when possible to people bereaved and traumatised as a result of the violence in Northern Ireland. It offers a non medical service, tapping into the individual's own strength and coping mechanisms by providing a 'listening ear', alternative forms of relaxation, by running sessions on anger management and stress relief and by encouraging participation in group support. WAVE is inclusive and open to anyone irrespective of religious, cultural or political belief. Services offered include befriending, individual counselling, youth programme, peer group meetings, seminars and training, and social activities. WAVE, 523 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BS. Phone 01232 - 779922; fax 781165.

## ENNISKILLEN TOGETHER

Enniskillen has been in the spotlight recently with the 10th anniversary of the 'Poppy Day' bomb. The Enniskillen Together group has been continuing to work on a wide range of issues. It has been involved in promoting communication and mediation in relation to disputed marches in Fermanagh; after a successful mediation course it is hoped to have a local mediation network in liaison with the Mediation Network NI. It has been cooperating on the research for a history of flute bands from both traditions in the county. Drugs, inter church work, and exploring and developing political options are other areas where work has been done. There has also been an examination of a music and cultural festival, possibly cross-border. Queries and volunteers welcome; Enniskillen Together, 38A Darling Street, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh BT74 7EW. Phone 01365 - 327158.

## PURSUING PEACE

'Pursuing Peace' is a recent document issued as a basis for discussion on ways forward for Nor Iron. Produced by Voluntary Groups for Peace and Dialogue, its had its roots in a conference organised by the Community Relations Council for peace and reconciliation groups which took place in Cookstown in April. Consisting of an A4 sheet folded in two, copies may be obtained from the Community Relations Information Centre, 21 College Square East [Ed - end of Gt Victoria St, opposite Murray St], Belfast BT1 6DE. Phone 01232 - 311881. Or email; [mark@nicrc.thegap.com](mailto:mark@nicrc.thegap.com) The basic text without commentary appears overleaf.

## **PURSUING PEACE - the text**

(see end of previous page; a short commentary appears with the text in the leaflet but is not included here);

1. There is no military solution to our conflict. The Northern Ireland conflict needs to be addressed politically.
2. Compromise is essential.
3. Wrongs have been committed on all sides and this needs to be acknowledged.
4. We also need to acknowledge the corrosive lack of trust we have in each other at all levels.
5. Unresolved issues of justice continue to aggravate our divisions.
6. Peace requires structures for future government within Northern Ireland with links to the rest of the island and to Britain; the majority of people from both traditions must give their consent to these structures if they are to take responsibility for them.
7. Healing requires that we take our share of responsibility for those things which damage our relationships.
8. The inclusion of all as the goal of genuine peace will best be served by inclusive negotiation.
9. A genuine peace process involves all of us.
10. Risk cannot be avoided in moving forward.
11. There will be different stages on the journey toward a lasting peace; dealing with these stages will require patience and a long-term commitment to the process.
12. Agreeing structures as part of a political settlement is only the beginning of a much longer process of healing.

## **WOMEN AGAINST RACISM CONFERENCE, GALWAY**

Saturday 29th November sees a conference on Women Against Racism taking place in Galway, jointly organised by Western Women's Link, UCG Women's Studies Centre and Galway Travellers Support Group. Starting at 9.30 a.m. and running all day, speakers include Dr Ronit Lentin, speakers from Bosnia and from the Traveller community. For further information contact; Vivienne Batt, Women's Studies Centre, UCG, Galway; ph. 091 - 750455; fax 750549; e-mail [wsc@ucg.ie](mailto:wsc@ucg.ie)

## **'NO TIME TO PLAY'**

A half-day seminar on children and work at home and overseas takes place in Belfast on Wednesday 26th November from 2.00 - 4.30 p.m., organised by the One World Centre for Northern Ireland. Speakers include Inez McCormick (chair), Prof Ben White, Madeline Leonard, John Pinkerton and Jim McKechnie. The One World Centre's report '*Children and Work at Home and Overseas*' will be launched at this seminar. Fees for the seminar are £5 waged and £2 unwaged; further details from Stephen McCloskey, One World Centre, 4 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR. Phone 01232 - 241879.

## **NEW PATHWAYS - Developing a peace process in Northern Ireland**

To use a totally inappropriate metaphor, would we know a peace process if one hit us over the head? Well, this latest 28-page offering from the Faith and Politics Group (titled as above) seeks to offer a check list. Starting off with reflections on the peace process to date, it looks at fundamentals (e.g. finding a partner, trust, consent) before moving on to 'important issues' such as decommissioning, the early release of prisoners and parity of esteem (to be confused, or not, with 'parity of letting off steam' - Ed). It continues with a statement of 'some realities', sustaining the process, forgiveness ('who could apologise') etc. It is available from usual outlets or directly from; Faith and Politics Group, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT. Price £1.50 (postage 31p extra).

## **SCORPIONS IN A BOTTLE - Conflicting cultures in Northern Ireland**

John Darby's latest offering, published by the Minority Rights Group (MRG), weighs in at 242 pages for £11.95 in paperback, ISBN 1 873194 16 1 (also available in hardback for £35). As might be expected from a guru of ethnic conflict studies, this quite comprehensive overview of the situation places the conflict here in a wider context; it includes history, ancient and modern, analysis of the divisions, an audit of minority rights, and some broader lessons. The book is well illustrated with tables though only one cartoonist's work is used; it includes a chronology and some key documents. Available at or through your friendly neighbourhood bookshop; published by MRG, 379 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DE; phone +44 (0)171 - 978 9498.

## **☐ The Editor's Officially Approved Christmas presents;**

Stuck for that present which will brighten someone's Christmas and support a Good Cause? Our fearless roving editor (should that be raving? - Ed.) recommends Irish Amnesty's video 'So you think you're funny Irish'. Filmed during an evening at the Gaiety in Dublin early this year, it runs for 68 minutes featuring a host of Irish comedians (inc Kevin McAleer, Pauline McLynn, Dylan Moran, Dermot Morgan). Look out for the philosopher from Tyrone! Please note that this is a 15 Cert and includes its share of rude words. Available from the Amnesty shop in Temple Bar (48 Fleet St), price £9.95 or contact Al for ordering details (Ph. 01 - 6776361).

☐ **The Editor's Officially Appointed Diary;** a flyer about Housmans Peace Diary and world peace directory is included for most of those receiving this newsheet as a mailing (others -see last issue for info). It is on sale in Amnesty International shops in Dublin and Belfast, and available from INNATE, among other places.

☐ Nonviolent News is produced ten or eleven times a year by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravenscree Park, Belfast BT8 0DA. Phone/Fax 01232 - 647106; your news welcome. Deadline for next issue, No.55: 3rd December. There will be no January issue; deadline for No.56: 28th January. Subscriptions: £5 minimum or enquire for further details. Enquiries welcome about Nonviolent News or resources on nonviolence available through INNATE.