PEACE GROUPS IN IRELAND through the years

A LISTING OF IRISH PEACE GROUPS AND BRIEF RESOURCE MATERIAL
Produced by INNATE, 2023 with additions and amendments (First edition, 2022)

A few Hints about the Army,

1839

Reasons to think carefully before joining the British Army or armed forces......

2015

1. The UK is the European country most likely to be at war at any time. The armed forces may try to sell joining up as a personal opportunity for you – but do you really want to go to war and kill people? No questions asked? This can even be in a war, such as the 2003 Iraq war, which had massive opposition from the public (and even the army) - but the politicians decide.

2. The wars that the UK have fought in the recent past have been disastrous (e.g. the position of ISIS in Syria and Iraq is a direct result of British and US involvement there).

3. There is no indication that future wars will prove any more successful.

4. The armed forces try to sell joining up as an excitement and fun – it is actually more boring routine and following orders, which you may or may not agree with.

5. Institutionalisation is a very real problem for some people leaving the armed forces. You are unsettled, moved from place to place, and when you leave may find it difficult to adjust to civilian life.

6. Learning a skill or trade is a common reason for joining the armed forces. You may or may not get what you want, but even if you do you may have to stay in longer than you anticipated to "pay back" for the training.

7. Travelling abroad is another reason people join up. However if you have or acquire a skill you may be in demand anywhere and travel where and when you wish, rather than according to orders.

8. There are many other ways that you can serve your country – or the world – than joining the army. There are a wide variety of other opportunities either on a voluntary or paid basis where you can contribute to society and the wellbeing of everyone.

9. In the era of drone warfare, the personal risk to soldiers, sailors or air force personnel is less than it was, but there is still a risk in any conflict zone, and who knows what is around the corner. But do you want your conscience to be weighed down by the threat of violence and killing?

10. The Northern Ireland conflict, insofar as it has been "solved", came to the end of physical violence through dialogue and discussion, even though it was often painful for different people. Killing created more and more violence. The same thing applies elsewhere – conflicts need to be resolved through dialogue rather than through war.

11. If you do join up and decide it’s not for you then you need to be very well informed about how to get out because they don’t make it easy, and there is only a small window of opportunity. And if you conscientiously object to what you are being told to do then there is another problem....

This leaflet produced by INNATE www.innatenoviolence.org
Impartial advice if you do join: www.afspeace.org.uk

1 A listing of Irish peace groups and brief resource material

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Introduction

While the aim here is to list groups and organisations and to provide some of the most available resources on their story, it is intended mainly as a ‘signpost’ document regarding printed and online materials, particularly where resource listings are available elsewhere. By ‘signpost’ is meant that the references given are likely to lead to a trail of further details and sources.

For example, “Coming from the Silence”, the book on Quaker initiatives in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, includes references for each section; this book is easily available and it would be pointless duplication and detail to list even some of those references. There is a similar situation for some other organisations such as Corrymeela (which has an online archive) or the Peace People – though finding the ‘right’ information might still be problematic - but yet others have no readily available coverage in any form.

As is obvious in the list, the whole of the island of Ireland is included, i.e. both jurisdictions following partition.

There is also the question of what is included in work ‘for peace’. This is particularly pertinent to groups and organisations working for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland where some groups working in the field of community/good relations would not see themselves as having a wider ‘peace’ remit, or individuals’ perceptions can vary within an organisation.

And does a group which only existed to oppose paramilitary violence, with no mention of state violence or wider issues, deserve to be included? For example, should FAIT/Families Against Intimidation and Terror (1990-c.2008), be included? FAIT is not included while Peace Train, which was part of a broader and more popular campaign, is in. Government funding for some groups is also a relevant issue – while this was used by republicans to attack some groups, it is matter of wider debate.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/21302033063/in/photolist-2k8yybH-ysouh8-zmR8q4-yUKJEJ

There are many grey areas in compiling a listing such as this and many other groups in Northern Ireland who could have been included. Much depends on definitions of what is a ‘peace group’. Trade union initiatives on peace in Northern Ireland, for example, are not included, though their work should certainly be recognised and applauded, because trade unions are not, by definition, ‘peace groups’ even if they have been centrally concerned with developing peace in Northern Ireland. So not being included here does not imply that an organisation was not or is not working ‘for peace’. Many different groups within civic society, and individual politicians and even at times political parties, have been engaged in the quest for peace.

This listing includes both groups with a focus on international peace and those with a focus on peace in Northern Ireland; in some cases they covered or cover both. Groups concerned with community/good relations in general in Northern Ireland without a wider peace remit or definition are not included; a good run down of some of these can be found
by looking at who runs events in Good Relations Week
https://www.goodrelationsweek.com/archives/ though we do note the emergence of the
Community Relations Council as a support for focused community relations work. Nor are
academic bodies focusing on peace and conflict included. Some short lived groups are
omitted, e.g. some groups which formed around opposition to the 2003 Iraq war.

A further point about what is necessary for peace and a peaceful society is that both
human rights groups and ecological groups do essential work in this regard but cannot be
regarded as ‘peace groups’ and so are not listed here.

Without the adequate safeguarding of human rights a society cannot be truthfully called
‘peaceful’. However there was peace movement input to the beginning of CAJ/Committee
on the Administration of Justice in Northern Ireland, the main human rights group there
(e.g. from the Peace People and Corrymeela, as mentioned in Maggie Beirne’s history of
the CAJ ( https://caj.org.uk/2016/12/12/beacon-hope-story-caj-maggie-beirne-june-2016/ )
And ICCL/Irish Council for Civil Liberties did important work in opposing draconian laws in
the Republic introduced on the back of the Troubles in the North and the effects south of
the border (ICCL website at https://www.iccl.ie/).

The ecological crisis is certainly a peace issue since the brutal effects of climate change
and global heating are not only endangering lives but uprooting whole communities and
risking the destruction of entire countries, grossly exacerbating refugee problems, and
leading to violence and war, as well as making life much more unpleasant and in
increasing cases literally unbearable. As INNATE’s ‘Nonviolence manifesto’ (available at
https://innatenonviolence.org/resources/index.shtml) says, “To be nonviolent we have to be
green, which is nonviolence towards the earth.” But, as stated, green and ecological
groups are certainly not claimed as ‘peace groups’.

It perhaps also needs stated that the inclusion of the Quakers here is based on pragmatic
considerations and their ‘Historic peace witness’ since the Quakers are a religious society
rather than a peace group. However since peace is so central to their identity and work,
they are included.

In relation to definitions, clarification should be made that this is not intended as some sort
of imperialist grab in defining groups in a particular way; inclusion or not is sometimes
based on pragmatic considerations. Those following up references can make up their own
minds as to how a group or organisation could or should be defined. Where a group or
organisation still exists, its website is listed.

Change happens and things move on. As Richard Harrison says in “Irish Anti-War
Movements” (reference below, page 76) “……there is no logical reason why a particular
human structure or institution should continue for ever. When it has done its job it is natural
that it will pass on and allow new structures to develop.”

INNATE is happy to consider further additions and changes to this list, which will be
updated periodically. And although this list has been prepared as carefully as possible, and
put out for corrections and additions before being published online, there are bound to be
omissions and mistakes in it. Please contact innate@ntlworld.com
General resources

Richard Harrison’s 1986 book "Irish Anti-War Movements 1824 – 1974" [ cover and brief information at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/20852875816/in/photolist-2iak1UB-ruXcGN-rlLvY9k-CALDmF-rFbWvZ-BNnKbY-rVDjhv-rs7bkb-xLGrte-2kYs6km ] is an important document covering some otherwise lost or unknown information, particularly on the 19th but also the early 20th century, though he does refer to Quaker mediative intervention to stop violence during the 1798 rebellion. ‘Harrison 1986’ below refers to this book; we are indebted to this publication for much early information on peace groups and activities.

Also by the same author (Richard Harrison) “Stair na Sióchána in Éirinn” le Risteárd Mac Annraoi is a broad look at the topic (‘A History of Peace in Ireland’) from early to modern times written in Irish (Coiscéim, 2013, 300 pages). It is particularly strong on the Quaker contribution. As this listing here is about organisations and he covers people as well as, in more modern times, organisations it does not feature below as much as it might otherwise do. ‘Mac Annraoi 2023’ refers to this book.

The 1978 pamphlet “Nonviolence in Irish History” from Dawn included an article by Rob Mitchell (Fairmichael) on “Peace groups since the ‘thirties” (1930s that is). It is available at https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/pamphlets/ (the last article in the pamphlet). ‘Mitchell 1978’ refers to this though some information given there is brief.

The INNATE document “Nonviolence in Ireland: A Study Guide” [ available at https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/resources/ ] is about the wider use of ‘nonviolence’ rather than explicitly ‘peace’ groups though it does include a little of that. Similarly, a two-page quiz (with answers!) on “Nonviolence: The Irish Experience” through the ages can be found in the same location.

INNATE’s photo and documentary site https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland has material on a wide variety of groups and organisations, some most easily accessed by clicking on ‘Albums’ in the top menu bar. Relevant material from INNATE’s archives is at PRONI/Public Record Office Northern Ireland.

The videos of two INNATE-organised seminars in 2021 with people sharing experiences, respectively, of work for peace on Northern Ireland and on international peace issues can be accessed at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/51689114275/in/dateposted/

There are other listings of peace and reconciliation groups that were contemporary when compiled, e.g. “A Guide to Peace and Reconciliation Groups” in Northern Ireland, published by the Community Relations Council, 1990, listing 77 such groups and organisations. Some, such as this one from the CRC, would have broader inclusion criteria, featuring ecumenical groups, university institutions, cross-community youth organisations etc.

Chronological listing by start date

Groups and organisations are listed chronologically by their ‘start date’; in some cases this may not be clear cut, and even less clear cut may be when work stopped as some limited functions may have continued beyond what might be regarded as its end point, and/or work may have gradually declined before reaching a halt. Websites are listed for ongoing organisations. References are included to INNATE’s photo/documentary site where relevant.

Quakers/Religious Society of Friends

- Dating from the 17th century, with a presence in Ireland from that time, members of this ‘historic peace church’ with its peace witness have been a vital element in many different peace organisations. There has also been a specific Quaker Peace Committee.
- Richard Harrison’s above mentioned “Irish Anti-war Movements 1824 – 1974” includes information on a number of Quaker activists including in the, arguably, first Irish group focused on peace as such, the Hibernian Peace Society.
- “Stair na Siúchána in Éirinn” le Risteárd Mac Anraoi (2023, in Irish) includes much information about the peace activities of Quakers.
- Richard Harrison’s other writings including “A Biographical Dictionary of Irish Quakers” (1997 and 2008) is a valuable source.
- Quaker archives are at their headquarters in Quaker House, Rathfarnham, Dublin.
  https://quakers-in-ireland.ie/historical-library/
- There is a short selection of photos at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157717185737611

Hibernian Peace Society 1824+

This started in 1824 and may have run for over a couple of decades. [Harrison 1986, p.11] It began as the Hibernian Society for the Promotion of Permanent and Universal Peace. The influence of ideas of ‘non-resistance’ [p.24], ‘civil disobedience’ in modern terminology, coming from the USA, is interesting. Also considered briefly by Richard Harrison, without any conclusions, is possible influence on Daniel O’Connell and the Repeal movement [p.26]. James Haughton (born 1795) was active with the Society.
There were various other 19th century peace initiatives, including, amazingly, an anti-recruitment leaflet in 1839 which took a pragmatic, non-dogmatic approach; this was produced by Richard Webb and Robert Chapman and it was widely circulated in Ireland and in Britain. [Harrison 1986, p.17]

https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/51178285766/in/photolist-2kYs6km-xLGrtE-s3syoW-rodTVa (and on the front cover of this peace groups list).

See also Mac Annraoi 2023.

**Dublin Peace Society 1885**
This marked a resurgence of peace activity. [Harrison 1986, p.42] In 1900 one of their concerns was the South African ‘Boer’ war. [Harrison 1986, p. 45] See also Mac Annraoi 2023.

**Union of Democratic Control, c.1914**
Started by the Irish Peace Society this was “A Christian pacifist organisation with parliamentary support. They initiated an anti-conscription petition…” [Harrison 1986, p.47]

**Fellowship of Reconciliation 1915 - 1921**
Primarily in Dublin; in 1918 there was a membership of 75 including 11 ‘down the country’. [Harrison 1986, p.50]. It was involved with opposing conscription and supporting English conscientious objectors transferred to Irish prisons. [Harrison 1986, p.47-50]. See also the entry for FOR 1949-1998. See also Mac Annraoi 2023.

**WILPF/Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom 1915+**
Originally Women’s League for Peace and Freedom. There was Irish involvement early on [Harrison, p. 48] including strong involvement by Louie Bennett, and continuing contact; it would seem the first emanation of WILPF lasted from 1915-1939. The fifth international WILPF congress was held in the Mansion House in Dublin in 1926; see resolutions at https://www.wilpf.org/resolutions-from-wilpfs-triennial-congresses/ The Irish Times had a number of reports of this event including in the issues of 9th, 10th and 12th July 1926. A WILPF group was reformed in Dublin in 1991 https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/52552811372/in/dateposted/ and ran for a number of years.

**Peace League 1934 - c.1936**
Belfast based, it foundered over issues to do with the Spanish Civil War [Mitchell 1978]. John Hewitt was one of those involved.

**Irish Anti-War Crusade / Irish Pacifist Movement (IPM) 1936 - 1969**
Formed in Dublin/Free State. [Harrison 1986, p.53 and following, Mitchell 1978]. Affiliated to War Resister’s International (WRI), it chose not to have a Christian basis. 800 people attended a meeting in 1939. Public activities were suspended in 1941 for the duration of the war and resumed in 1945. It was very active in the 1950s. Later renamed Irish Peace Movement, it had run out of energy by 1969.


**Peace Pledge Union 1937 - c.1949**
In Northern Ireland. [Mitchell 1978] There were seven local groups in addition to Belfast around 1939. Activity had to stop during the Second World war. There continued to be a
small number of members of the PPU (based in Britain) in Northern Ireland. PPU UK website is at https://www.ppu.org.uk/

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Northern Ireland 1949 - 1998
Those still active in peace issues following the Second World War were mainly Christian so they set up as an FOR group in 1949. This was involved in ground-breaking cross-border conferences starting in 1957 along with the IPM. [Harrison 1986, p.61, and Mitchell 1978] and ran children's playschemes early in the Troubles, as well as involvement with international peace issues. The papers of central figure Denis Barritt (died 1993), and some FOR records, are in PRONI (Public Record Office Northern Ireland). Although named ‘FOR Ireland’ (FORI) there were very few members south of the border and work primarily related to the North and UK which is why it is labelled ‘Northern Ireland’ above. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157717151614682

CND/Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament 1958 – to date
CND would have been active both sides of the border from 1959; south of the border it would have been as Irish CND. This went into abeyance in the mid-1960s and Irish CND was restarted in 1979 and was very active in the 1980s; it continues today. See Patrick Comerford talk at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cbar8Q_vCU Northern Ireland CND was re-formed in 1980, again being very active, and would have gone into abeyance in the 1990s. There continue to be a small number of members of British and Irish CND’s in Northern Ireland. [Harrison 1986, Mitchell 1978]
Various publications were produced; Disarm (previously known as Disarmament Today) from Irish CND was the most substantial. https://irishcnd.blogspot.com/ See Disarm cover at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/14889965252/in/album-72157614961149810/ See some other photos at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157614961149810 See also Mac Annraoi 2023.

Respectively the Northern Ireland and Republic sections of SCI/Service Civil International, and involved with voluntary work and workcamps, internationally it grew out of the peace movement although different strands fed into the Irish presence. IVS in the North is defunct; VSI in the Republic is still working away. https://www.vsi.ie/ [Mitchell 1978]

Corrymeela 1965 - to date
Formed around Presbyterian chaplain to Queen’s University Belfast, Ray Davey, this was ‘the original’ peace and reconciliation group in relation to Northern Ireland; in addition to the Centre in Ballycastle there has been a Belfast office and a non-resident community. Numerous books have been published about it, some by its own imprint; the first was by Alf McCreary (“Corrymeela – The Search for Peace”, 1975). Corrymeela has been documenting its own history and stories and there is now a considerable amount of material about it, published and unpublished. Their current website is at https://www.corrymeela.org/ and there is a document archive site at http://corrymeela.028ni.org.uk/joomla16/index.php which includes a 2014 listing of ‘Corrymeela Learning Resources’ (go to ‘Documents’ and then ‘General’). An album of photos is at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157654407818544 [Mitchell 1978]
Pax Christi, 1967 - to date
Moves to get Pax Christi going in Ireland began in the late 1950s but it was only formally constituted in 1967. As well as an office and committee which meets in Dublin, at one stage there were local groups in Kilkenny and Belfast. Various newsletters were produced including ‘The Olive Branch’ and the International Route walking conference took place three times in Ireland. [Mitchell 1978] http://www.paxchristi.ie/

PACE, Protestant and Catholic Encounter 1968 – c.2000
An early cross-community, Northern Ireland peace oriented organisation, there were half a dozen or so local groups, mainly in the east of Northern Ireland for a couple of decades and a quarterly ‘PACE Journal” was produced with short articles on reconciliation-type issues, see a cover at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/27547719661/

Irish Movement for Peace and Justice  1969
This was an attempt by Moira Woods and others to move on from the IMP/Irish Pacifist Movement, which was going into abeyance, with a more left wing agenda. However it never really got well established. [Harrison 1986, p.69, Mitchell 1978]

Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, 1970+
This commission of the Irish Catholic bishops did some valuable work over a few decades before effectively disappearing with staffing cuts and reorganisation, being subsumed into the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, later the Council for Justice and Peace. A 1977 publication (cover and listing at https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/32888574668/in/photolist-S7fxqQ) detailed peace organisations working in the Republic (some not included in the current INNATE listing).

Women Together 1970 - 2001
Women Together began in 1970 as an instrument for women to use their presence and influence for peace in Northern Ireland, and early work included separating rival gangs in riots. There were a number of local groups. [Mitchell 1978] https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157705346258164

Witness for Peace, 1972 - 1988
Formed by Rev Joe Parker after the death of his son Stephen in Bloody Friday, 1972, in Belfast, it was for a few years the most prominent protest group about Troubles violence including a ‘scoreboard’ of deaths at Belfast City Hall. Joe Parker himself left Northern Ireland in disillusionment in 1975; some activities continued at a low level until it was wound up in 1988. [Mitchell 1978] https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157675161158637

A Clear Day, Derry, 1972-79
This residential community was composed of people who had come to work for peace in Northern Ireland, mainly from Britain and associated with the FOR/Fellowship of Reconciliation there. They were instrumental in the founding of Dawn magazine. Four members of the community remained long term in Derry, contributing to the civic life of the city in various ways. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/20630605513/in/album-72157614893100575/
Peacepoint 1973 - c. mid 1980s
Dublin and Belfast based, this saw itself primarily as a service or resource for Northern peace and reconciliation work and groups, and was involved in community work in Belfast. [Mitchell 1978]

Love, Peace and Justice 1973 - 1976
Dublin-based pacifist action group founded by Justin Morahan, it ran for several years, and produced a short newssheet of the same name.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/44493137270/in/photolist-2dyZhvw-2aMGXAo

Northern Ireland Peace Forum c.1974 - 1988
This was a networking body for a broad range of peace and reconciliation groups in Northern Ireland. A list of members in 1982 is available at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/10844085354/in/album-72157614893100575/
and neighbouring entry, in general see
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157719269683348
This album includes different pieces about the Forum including an article from Dawn Train 7 looking back on its work when it was about to be wound up. Some NIPF materials are deposited in PRONI (Public Record Office for Northern Ireland)

Dawn 1974 – c.1985
Dawn magazine and group began in 1974 and produced the monthly magazine Dawn from 1974-1985 (and also an occasional publication, Dawn Train, which is online on the INNATE website); this would have had news and views about a variety of groups and campaigns. Associated with WRI and IFOR. For a short history see
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/21190749950/in/album-72157609617432905/
and entry beside it; for photos in general see
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157609617432905
Dawn archives are included with material given to PRONI by INNATE. See also Mac Annraoi 2023.

Glencree 1974 - to date (although closed for a couple of periods)
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation, like Corrymeela named after its location (Co Wicklow in the case of Glencree), emerged from people, primarily in Dublin, concerned with the Northern Troubles and has run considerable programme in relation to the North and other issues. https://www.glencree.ie/ [Mitchell 1978]
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157688879722543

Afri (Action from Ireland) 1975 - to date
Afri was founded in 1975 as an aid organisation but quickly developed a peace-and-justice orientation both for at home and abroad (partly influenced by its special advisor Sean MacBride) and has worked on arms trade and neutrality issues among many other concerns. Affiliated to IPB. www.afri.ie See photos at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157623376298793 Afri archives are deposited in DCU.

Peace People, 1976 - to date
The Peace People was the largest Troubles related peace group, emerging after a particular violent incident and tragedy in west Belfast. There is a very considerable amount of material available about them with it having a large media presence, at home and
abroad, in its early days. There was also the associated Youth for Peace group which ran for a couple of decades, and a related Southern Movement for Peace. There were some offshoots which developed into independent projects and a few of these ran for two or three decades. [Mitchell 1978]


Peace and Reconciliation Group, Derry, 1976 - 2015
This began out of the Peace People in August 1986 but quickly established independence and did a variety of Troubles-related work, including helping people at risk to get out, and mediation. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157705329595385

Churches Peace Education Programme 1978 - 2005
This project, jointly run by the Catholic and Protestant Churches (Irish Inter-Church Meeting and previously the Irish Council of Churches) among other things produced a wide variety of material for primary and secondary schools. See https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/7217720295927588

Women for Disarmament, 1980s
This independent women’s group in Dublin hit the headlines when their picnic in the Phoenix Park was hijacked by the Gardaí during the visit of President Reagan in 1984. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/51249695629/in/photolist-2m5L5ZT-2dbB5YS-5S3U2P and https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/3191817129/in/photolist-5S3U2P

Quaker House, Belfast, 1982 - 2010
This was a long-term political mediation and communication effort on Northern Ireland, run jointly by Irish and British Quakers. See “Coming from the Silence” (Le Mare and McCartney). https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/37382765584/in/album-72157614893100575/

Bishopscourt Peace Camp 1983 - 86
Independent but associated with CND, Bishopscourt Peace Camp in Co Down protested about the presence of the RAF radar base which was part of the UK nuclear weapons system. See https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157612448885973 and 4 page broadsheet at https://innatenonviolence.org/pamphlets/index.shtml

Kilcranny House, Coleraine 1985 - 2012
A peace and ecological centre just outside Coleraine, it was formed primarily out of the Peace People but as an independent entity. A short album is on the INNATE photo site at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157720141020177 and others are available on Flickr.

**Community Conflict Skills Project 1980s**
This project had a focus on skills and training for cross-community work; the project worker, Mari Fitzduff, subsequently became the first director of the Community Relations Council. The first edition of the “Community Conflict Skills” book appeared in 1988. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/22146401176/in/dateposted/ shows the covers of a couple of the editions of this; included is a link to a free online edition and another link to information on a non-profit paper edition of the new, internationally-oriented version, “Dialogue in Divided Societies: Skills for Working with Groups in Conflict” (2019) edited by Mari Fitzduff and Sue Williams.

**Drumcree Faith and Justice Group, Portadown c.1985 - c.1994**
This had an explicitly nonviolent philosophy and was involved with cross-community issues, violence and community development within the Catholic community, and the issue of Orange parades coming through the area. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157717096321767 An article about it appears in Nonviolent News, 2023, https://innatenonviolence.org/wp/2023/12/01/drumcree-before-drumcree/

**Irish Peace Council 1986+ for a few years**
Set up in the International Year of Peace, this was a Dublin based attempt at an umbrella body for peace groups in the Republic, aiming to have various working groups. It had both an Irish and an international peace focus. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/51815283916/in/dateposted/ and https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/52553658735/in/dateposted/

**INNATE 1987 - to date**
Following the demise of the Dawn group, INNATE – an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education – was set up in 1987 and has produced ‘Nonviolent News’ newsheet since 1990 (it has been monthly since 1994) which is a source of information on different groups and events; all issues are online http://innatenonviolence.org/ It has also organised training, seminars and other events including street theatre and demonstrations. For photos see http://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157623376298793 Older INNATE material along with much other material about peace groups has been given to PRONI/Public Record Office for Northern Ireland.

**Mediation (MNI, MII) 1980s - to date**
What eventually became organised mediation in the shape of Mediation Northern Ireland (MNI, originally named Northern Ireland Conflict and Mediation Association/NICMA) and the Mediators’ Institute of Ireland (MII) in the Republic grew partly from peace movement or peace activist roots. However that is a long story and mediation is now in the mainstream and widespread… https://mediationnorthernireland.org/ and https://www.themii.ie/
For part of the early story see Dawn Train 6, pages 3-7, available at https://innatenonviolence.org/dawntrain/index.shtml
Based in Derry, these projects came to an end with the death of their originator, Jerry Tyrrell, in 2002. However they did some important and pioneering work, e.g. on peer mediation in schools.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/50831350506/in/photolist-2krMXyW

Peace Train 1989 - 1995
This was a campaign which ran for some years opposing Troubles-related violence and specifically the repeated bombing of the Belfast-Dublin train line. See https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/46229118872/in/album-72157614893100575/ and entry beside it.

Community Relations Council (CRC) 1990 - to date
While there had been for a few years a Community Relations Commission at the start the 1970s, the Community Relations Council set up in 1990 was a multi-faceted body set up to support and promote community relations in Northern Ireland and appreciation of cultural diversity.
https://www.community-relations.org.uk/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/37382765584/in/album-72157614893100575/

Meath Peace Group, 1993+
This was set up to promote peace, understanding and good relations between people North and South, and between people from the two main traditions in Ireland.
http://meathpeacegroup.org/wp/news-events/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/3531444495/in/photolist-dg7Yag-6o4zq4

AVP/Alternatives to Violence Project 1994 - to date
Although not a peace group as such, the Alternatives to Violence Project is an important example of a project offering alternatives to violent and unproductive confrontation and conflict at a personal level.
https://avpireland.ie/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157645765804171

PANA/Peace And Neutrality Alliance 1995 - to date
PANA is an umbrella campaign for the retention and development of Irish neutrality and non-involvement with military alliances; it has provided an important focus on this in the Republic. Other groups and organisations can affiliate and be involved.
https://www.pana.ie/

The de Borda Institute 1997 - to date
Wars are binary. And some wars are provoked by other forms of binary decision-making, i.e. majority voting. Indeed, "all the wars in the former Yugoslavia started with a referendum," (Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo’s legendary newspaper, 7.2.1999). Accordingly, the de Borda Institute - www.deborda.org (the website) and www.debordavote.org (for electronic voting) -- aims to replace the politics of exclusion with a more inclusive polity. From work done in Northern Ireland with the New Ireland Group in 1986, and initiatives aimed at preventing conflict in Georgia and Bosnia in 1990/1, the Institute was established by Peter Emerson in 1997 and has worked in a wide variety of areas including the Balkans, the Caucasus, Russia and China.
Hanna’s House 1999 - 2013
A feminist peace initiative which ran programme including a focus on women, peace and security. See e.g. https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/8183047561/in/photolist-drgq65-dt7fWV-drgqcU-8xeCC4-8x53r7

Derry campaign against Raytheon, c.2000 - 2010
See https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157719426151321 for both FEIC/ Foyle Ethical Investment Campaign and DAWC/Derry Anti-War Coalition which were the two principal organisations involved in the campaign to get Raytheon out of Derry. For talks on this successful campaign by three of the people centrally involved, see https://youtu.be/Y0MxO1GmACQ

Cosantóirí Síochána 2000+

Galway Alliance Against War (GAAW), September 2001 – to date
GAAW opposed the US invasion of Afghanistan. It campaigns for peace and Irish neutrality on different fronts: successfully opposing the militaristic Salthill Airshow; seeking to free Assange; campaigning against EU militarism and the US wars waged via Shannon airport. On Shannon its work ranges from educational to direct action. https://www.facebook.com/groups/312442090965

Irish Anti-War Movement (IAWM), 2002 - to date
Coming partly from a smaller socialist political party background, IAWM has been opposing war and Irish involvement in wars (e.g. Shannon) and supporting neutrality and has had constituent local groups. It was also behind the launch, in cooperation with others, of a new Irish Neutrality League in 2022. https://www.irishantiwar.org/

Justice Not Terror Coalition 2002+
Justice Not Terror Coalition (JNTC) formed in 2002 as a spin-off group in Belfast from INNATE to oppose what became the 2003 invasion of Iraq; it organised a weekly stall in Belfast city centre. It held blockades and die-ins at sites in Belfast including the Thales missile factory https://tinyurl.com/29rprzwk and the US Consulate https://tinyurl.com/437kvr3b

Pitstop Ploughshares 2003 - 2006
Initiated by the Catholic Worker, the Pitstop Ploughshares took a nonviolent action at Shannon Airport in February 2003 in opposition to US military use of that facility; their action included significant damage to a US warplane. The five members (three women and two men) of this protest faced not one but three trials, two collapsing, before eventually being acquitted in 2006. While not the first, and certainly not the last, activists to protest at Shannon they have perhaps been the best known. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitstop_Ploughshares and other web sources including https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/46304663924/in/photolist-2kYwac4-2dxMvmy-2dxMjNQ-yQhhnC-o1YxjM/
Make Trident History 2006
JNTC in Belfast (see above) morphed into Make Trident History in 2006 which actively supported the Faslane 365 year-long blockade of the Faslane naval base in Scotland where Britain’s Trident submarine-launched nuclear missiles lie.  
https://tinyurl.com/p47wjw

Shannonwatch 2008 - to date
This is a group of peace and human rights activists based in the mid-West of Ireland monitoring and opposing foreign/USA military use of Shannon Airport in contravention of Irish neutrality. There were others campaigning locally before 2008.  
http://www.shannonwatch.org/

Why Violence? 2008+
A project originating with Quakers which ran for a few years looking at a broad range of aspects of violence reduction.  
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/46698896382/in/photolist-2e9C3VU-S6aGbG-2ks8URY-bCsvsw/

Veterans For Peace Ireland 2012 - to date
Veterans For Peace (VFP) are former army veterans who live in any part of Ireland and who served in any formal army but who now support peace and peaceful resolution of conflict.  
https://www.facebook.com/veteransforpeace.org.ie  
VFP UK is also active in Northern Ireland, and some of its members are also members of Veterans For Peace Ireland. For information contact Edward Horgan, edwardhorgan45@gmail.com

Peace Brigades International 2014 - to date
An Irish section of Peace Brigades International (PBI) started in 2014 although there had been a group in the 1990s. PBI takes a nonviolent approach to peacebuilding and protecting human rights defenders.  
https://www.pbi-ireland.org/

World Beyond War (WBW) 2016 - to date
An Irish chapter of World Beyond War was established after initial work in 2016 and a WBW international conference took place in Limerick in 2019.  
https://www.facebook.com/Ireland-for-a-World-Beyond-War-266928003750617/  
https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland/albums/72157711244251492

StoP/Swords to Ploughshares 2020 - to date
This network brings together people from different organisations and locations who are interested in opposing the arms trade and countering the increased and increasing militarisation of life in both jurisdictions in Ireland.  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/457937902289814/user/100073118285975

Updated to 2024

Suggestions for corrections and additions to this listing should be sent to INNATE
innate@ntlworld.com
The Price of Peace

FOR Pax Christi

Irish Anti-War Movements 1934-1974

FOR on mediation

Bishops Court Peace Camp

Churches Peace Education Programme

FOR-IPM conference 1958

All illustrations on this page appear on the INNATE photo and documentary site https://www.flickr.com/photos/innateireland

Text in red has been added to indicate the organisation referred to.