

Forum for Peace and Reconciliation

Agenda for Fourteenth Plenary Meeting, Friday, 24 February 1995, at Dublin Castle

Public Session

Morning: **Public Hearings on Youth and Children Issues**

Theme: "Social and Economic Reconstruction - Securing the Rights and Interests of Children and Young People"

Programme

10.30-
11.45am

Joint Presentation by Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)

Panel

Mrs Sue Hogg, Vice-Chairman of the YCNI
Mr Simon Nugent, President, NYCI
Mr David Guilfoyle, Director, YCNI
Mr Peter Byrne, Director, NYCI
Ms Marie Therese McGivern, Professional Officer, YCNI
Ms Eileen Punch, Programme Manager, NYCI
Ms Janet Heeran, Board Member, NYCI
Mr Brian Smyth, Participant in the Spirit of Enniskillen Scheme

11.45am-
1pm

Presentation* by Focus on Children

Panel

Mr Owen Keenan, Joint Chairman, Focus on Children and Director of Barnardos (Republic)
Mr Vincent Bent, Joint Chairman, Focus on Children and Ulster Quaker Service Committee
Mr Sean Lawless, Director, Focus on Children
Ms Lynda Wilson, Regional Director Barnardo's (NI)
Sister Paula Carron, Orana House, Newry
Mr John Quinliven, Chief Executive, Child Care Northern Ireland

*[This section will also include brief joint presentation by the youth theatre groups Dublin Youth Theatre and the Rainbow Factory from Belfast]

1pm

Lunch

Afternoon
(2.15 - 4pm)

Regular Plenary Session

- Statement by Chairperson on Joint Framework Document, with particular reference to its consequences for the Programme of Work of Forum;
- Debate on Obstacles in the South to Reconciliation.

Register of Abusers

National programme. NYC

② Problem of Drug Abuse South → North. (Crime: Treatment: Education)

(From 14,000 volunteer workers in Youth Service: R.S.)

③ Sex Education + Counselling. Informed (relationships / matrimony) etc.

Training Schemes - Vocational / Educational (IT skills)

Participation in the Peace Process.

① Initiative to that idea has helped keep so many young people out of cycle of violence: not can they do to help break the cycle of violence + prejudices of the adults.

- Political Education.

- Allocated for political process.

- They know the issues: but not the political process.

* Environmental Concern

Third World Issues.

Against Racism + Xenophobia.

Absence of women in politics.

Political Instabilities.

With 1/3 of our population being children, how are we making children a central political focus. [In N.Y. 39% of children live in poverty.]

? Outbreaks of children.