



***For immediate release***

### ***News release***

#### ***Atrocity sets the Foundation for Peace***

Fourteen years ago on, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 1993, the day before Mothering Sunday, IRA terrorists exploded two bombs without warning in a crowded shopping area in Warrington, Three year old Johnathan Ball was fatally wounded and twelve year old Tim Parry was so seriously injured that five days later his parents had to approve the decision to turn off his life support system. Over fifty other people were wounded and became victims of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'.

The deaths of Tim and Johnathan brought universal condemnation. Thousands of people took to the streets of Dublin in protest. British Prime Minister John Major, just weeks after hearing from the IRA's political representative that 'the war is over', was forced to reconsider the future for peace in our islands.

At his son's funeral service, Tim's father Colin, expressed his hope that Tim would become a symbol of peace and that his sacrifice would contribute to world peace. Later that year the BBC screened a programme which followed Colin and Wendy to Ireland and the USA, as they tried to understand the causes of Tim's death. The programme attracted record viewing figures.

In 1995, Colin and Wendy founded a charitable Trust which would organize youth exchanges between Warrington, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These were so successful that in 1998 they began fundraising to build a Peace Centre in the name of Tim and Johnathan. In 2000, the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing, the Centre opened. Now a further seven years on the work of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace is taking on international significance.

The Foundation is an educational peace charity. It inspires and enables people to lead more peaceful lives by helping them understand the nature and causes of conflict through educational peace programmes which challenge perceptions and prejudice and aim to encourage tolerance and the acceptance of diversity. The programmes not only work with young people, communities and survivors in the Anglo-Irish context but internationally in areas such as the Balkans, Israel, Palestine, Madrid and in communities experiencing conflict nearer to home such as Oldham and Leeds.

The Foundation has established an International Peace Commission and is increasingly helping formulate policy and undertaking research and development into many areas of conflict and peace studies. All of this from the Peace Centre in Warrington and in memory of two boys who had their lives taken away by terrorists.

On the fourteenth anniversary of the bombing, Colin Parry the Co-founder and Chairman of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace said: "the last fourteen years has seen us continue to expand our remit. Our name, work and profile are extending not just nationally but internationally. This is only the beginning of the outreach work we intend to undertake and our growth and development is absolutely necessary if we are to continue our work for peace."

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March the Foundation will launch its new 'Pound for Peace' appeal which is asking for a commitment from individuals of £1 per week to support our work in the future.

- Ends -



## **Notes to Editors:**

For further information contact Clare White on 01925 581 231

See [www.foundation4peace.org](http://www.foundation4peace.org).

The following people are available for comment or interview:

- Colin Parry OBE – Father of Tim, Co-founder, Chairman of the Foundation
- Ian White OBE – Chairman of the International Peace Commission and a leading peace and conflict resolution practitioner
- Clare White – Chief Executive of the Foundation
- Kelly Simcock – the Foundation's Programme Manager, Youth and Community

The following notes provide a sample of the Foundations' work available for you to feature:

### *International Peace Commission*

The *International Peace Commission (IPC)* has been developed by Foundation to refine and strengthen its existing work and to develop new programmes for young people. The Chairman is Ian White OBE, a leading peace and conflict resolution practitioner. Myself as co- founder of the Foundation; Dr David Bloomfield of the Berghoff Foundation for Peace Studies; Prof Oliver Ramsbotham of the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University; Dame Helen Reeves, former Chief Executive of Victim Support; Karen Chouhan CEO of the Black Human Rights Organisation the 1990 Trust and a Joseph Rowntree Visionary, Roelf Meyer, Former Minister of Defence for South Africa; Dr Saeb Erekat, Chief Negotiator for the Palestinian National Authority and Prof Dan Bar-On, founder PRIME (Peace Research Institute in the Middle East).

The *IPC* members bring with them knowledge of the world of conflict, its devastating effects and its resolution, combined with enthusiasm and support for the Foundation's work and developing internationally.

### *Communities for Peace*

The Foundation worked in a school merged from one with predominantly White pupils and one with predominantly Asian pupils in the Middleton Grove area of Leeds, close to where the London 7/7 bombers lived. The combination of these events created a lot of tension and unrest at the school leading to high levels of conflict and racial abuse. 72 young people undertook courses at the Peace Centre looking at conflict resolution, leadership, self awareness & identity. During the course, Guantanamo detainee, Moazzam Begg, addressed the pupils about his experiences and highlighted the need for communication, peace and reconciliation. The programme is being extended to other schools in conflicted areas.

The *Tim Parry Leadership Development Programme* continues our Anglo-Irish youth exchange programme in association with the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in Wicklow and Opportunity Youth in Derry. The programme continues to extend internationally with work in the Balkan regions of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina.

Most recently, young Palestinians and Israelis have been working with us as part of an international conflict resolution programme. Israelis including religious Jews from West bank settlements and secular Israelis from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv joined Palestinians from Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem were they met and worked with participants that had been through the *Tim Parry Leadership Development Programme*.

### *Children for Peace:*

The *Full On* course has been delivered in inner city areas within Greater Manchester including Oldham, Salford and Bury. *Full On* works with young people aged 13-16 who are at risk of exclusion from school.

Over a thousand young people took part in an anti-bullying project called *A Bit of Fun* enabling them to understand bullying and test out a variety of techniques for dealing with such situations.

*Tiny Steps*, our diversity and social inclusion project for children aged 5-7 uses drama, puppetry and circle time to encourage children to be more accepting, tolerant and inclusive of others regardless of individual differences.