



International School
for Peace Studies

Programmes

“ *The International School for Peace Studies (ISPS) is dedicated to the study of conflict transformation and community relations. The ISPS rejects all forms of violence or intimidation as a means of creating change.* ”



International School for
Peace Studies

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“ Why was I not taught this in my history class at school?
- Why was it kept from me?
It was the story that was to transform my life...
- **Glen Barr OBE**

The International School for Peace Studies (ISPS) was created by Glen Barr OBE, to promote the potential for mutual understanding, respect of differences, and reconciliation through remembrance of the World War One events of June 1917, when the traditional opposing factions of Irish politics, Catholic nationalists and Protestant unionists, fought and died together for a common cause on the Messines Ridge, Belgium.

ISPS continues to develop impactful programmes dedicated to the study and understanding of the issues that sustain social division as well as promoting peace and understanding in a shared cultural environment.

ISPS programmes focus on experiential learning, historical tours and open dialogue encouraging course participants to explore past and current events which continue to shape our identity, culture and traditions. Through our exploration of diversity and mutual understanding, we offer this generation, and future generations, a way to engage in practical & peaceful conflict resolution.

4 CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

One Day Introductory Programme



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20
Duration: **3-4** Hours

The International School for Peace Studies was created to promote and celebrate mutual understanding, respect for differences, and reconciliation. We do this by remembering a unique event on the 7th June 1917, when the traditional opposing factions of Irish politics, Catholic nationalists and Protestant unionists, fought side by side for a common cause on the Messines Ridge, Belgium.

It is estimated that 50,000 men from the island of Ireland died fighting for the freedom of small nations in all theatres of war between 1914-1918. Many were honoured, some were reviled, but all were remembered.

Our aim is to resolve the deep differences between our communities, to create a society based on mutual respect and tolerance. The programme will give participants a better understanding of their shared history, the events of 1914-1918, its true diversity and why people choose to remember.

Course Themes

Outbreak of War 1914:

What was the Island of Ireland like prior to WW1?

-How and why three voluntary Divisions were formed?

What were the main causes of WW1?

1916:

What was the Easter Rising?

What happened during the Battle of Hulluch?

What's the significance of the Battle of the Somme for the Island of Ireland?

Battle of Messines Ridge:

Why does this battle hold hope for those that fought there?

What is reconciliation through remembrance?

Why should we remember?

5 FLAGS, IDENTITY, CULTURE & TRADITION

Far more than “Two Traditions”

One Day Introductory Programme



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20
Duration: **3-4 Hours**

The Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition was formally launched by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 20 June 2016 as part of commitments made under the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements.

Participants will explore the role and findings of the Commission, how history has shaped our cultural identities and the way we express them in public space through flags, emblems and territorial markings. Our cultural identity is an important part of our social life as expressed through festivals, ceremonies, parades, commemorations, sporting events, concerts and religious occasions. These experiences help to inform and reflect who we are.

In our society today, our culture is too often presented as being neatly divided into two opposed identities. Such an analysis ignores the rich identities and cultural heritages that we share which in recent years has been further enriched by a wide range of ethnic & faith communities.

Course Themes

Flags and Emblems:

- What is a flag, what purpose do they have?
- What are the flags flown in our diverse society?
- What is meant by flag etiquette??

Territorial Markings:

- Definition and boundaries?
- Removal or safety?

Our Shared History and Cultural Diversity:

- Industrial
- Leisure
- Immigration
- Conflict

GENOCIDE A WARNING FROM HISTORY One Day Introductory Programme



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20
Duration: **3-4 Hours**

Exploring the history of genocide can provide us with an insight into the origins of social behaviours which lead to prejudices, stereotypes, racism, religious hatreds, ethnic hatreds and ultimately mass murder. If tolerated as acceptable within a group this behaviour can, in certain situations, lead up to and result in genocide.

Genocide has been perpetrated for as long as humans have been recording history. It remains a social pathology which continues to claim victims to the present day. Any study of genocide should explore the conditions of economy, political groups and social customs which have contributed to the classification and polarisation of different groups within a region.

Remembering is very important in providing us with a benchmark of our morality as a society and our ability to say no to evil. It is also one step in the long chain of procedures towards rehabilitating survivors from horrific & dehumanizing experiences.



Course Themes

The Context of the Genocide:

- What is Genocide and who are the victims?
- What does ethnic cleansing mean?

The Road to Genocide:

- The Road to the Nuremberg trials.
- What did the Nuremberg trials achieve?

Genocide

- What are the stages of Genocide?
- What is Genocide Watch?



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20

Duration: **3-4 Hours**

The Holocaust was a defining event in human history and continues to shape the modern world.

The Nazi regime and their collaborators attempted to murder an entire people, using all of the resources at their disposal. The results fundamentally changed the fabric of European society and culture and had global reverberations.

Holocaust education offers a form of history which goes beyond a dry study of the actions of states and governments. It engages participants with the lives of ordinary people not too dissimilar to themselves.

Our Holocaust Awareness training is developed around three main themes, which collectively offers participants a better understanding of the history of the Holocaust and invites them to grapple with its ethical implications and continuing relevance.

Course Themes

Wartime Persecution and Murder:

-How and why did the Nazis persecute different groups of people?

-How did persecution increase during the war?

When and how was the Holocaust perpetrated?

-How did people respond?

The Context of the Holocaust:

What was the Holocaust and who were its victims?

-How and why were the Jews of Germany persecuted before 1939?

-How did Britain respond?

Reactions to the Holocaust:

-How did some Jews and non-Jews resist the Holocaust?

What happened after the Holocaust?



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20

Duration: **3-4 Hours**

The former Yugoslavia was a socialist state created after German occupation in World War II and a bitter civil war. A federation of six republics brought together Serbs, Croats, Bosnian Muslims, Albanians, Slovenes and others under a comparatively relaxed communist regime. Tensions between these groups were successfully suppressed by leader President Tito.

After Tito's death in 1980, tensions re-emerged. Calls for more autonomy within Yugoslavia by nationalist groups led in 1991 to declarations of independence in Croatia and Slovenia. The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army lashed out, first in Slovenia and then in Croatia. Thousands were killed in the latter conflict which was paused in 1992 under a UN-monitored ceasefire.

On 11 July 1995, Bosnian Serb units captured the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their forces systematically murdered more than 8,000 Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) within 10 days, the worst act of mass killing on European soil since the end of World War Two.

Course Themes

The Former Yugoslavia:

- The History of Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Fight for independence, Bosnian War 1992-1995

The Road to Genocide:

- Siege of Sarajevo
- Safe zone at Srebrenica

Genocide:

- Srebrenica Genocide, the failure of UN Forces
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

What is Remembering Srebrenica NI?

One Day Introductory Programme



Ideally suited for groups of
16 - 20

Duration: **3 Hours**

The First World War brought many changes in the lives of British and Irish women. It is often represented as having had a wholly positive impact, opening up new opportunities in the world of work and strengthening their case for the right to vote.

The reality is more complex. Not all of the opportunities that the war provided to women were entirely positive or long lasting.

Here we'll explore some important facts about women during the First World War which help to illustrate the ways in which women's lives changed during this period.

During the workshop participants will look at how the role of women in peace building has developed over the years and why it is so important. Women play an immeasurable role in preventing or de-escalating conflict, brokering local ceasefires, promoting cultures of peace and coexistence, and preventing recruitment of children as combatants.

Course Themes

Women pre and post 1914:

- What was a woman's role in society pre 1914?
- How and why did their roles change?

Wartime Roles:

- What roles did the women of Britain and Ireland take up during the period 1914-1918?
- How did this change their roles in society today?

Women and Peace Building:

- What is the role of women in peace building?
- Why are women important to the peace building process?

Programme Development & Costings



All programmes can be designed and developed to meet the needs of each organisation. These short courses are design to last between 3-4 hours, which can be delivered in one session at a time best suited for its participants or broken down into shorter sessions as required.

All programmes are hybrid in their design and development. They can be delivered in a classroom setting or facilitated through group discussions and workshops.

Programmes can be delivered by our experienced facilitators in person or if more suitable online via Zoom or other media platforms.

Costings will vary, dependent on the size of groups, delivery method, venue hire, travel expenses and any other additional extras required.

Multi-Session Programmes

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The following multi-session workshops are available as fully accredited OCN programmes.

Holocaust Awareness OCN LEVEL 1

6 workshops (3 – 4 hours per workshop)
1 visit to Jewish Synagogue Belfast (1 full day)
Holocaust Memorial Day
1 final event.



Messines Home Phase OCN LEVEL 1

5 workshops (3 – 4 hours per workshop)
1 Visit to Somme Centre, Newtownards (1 full day)
Dublin Residential (2 days or 3 days)
Evaluation session
1 Final Event



Messines Overseas Phase OCN LEVEL 2

1 pre-departure session (4 hours)
Overseas to Belgium & France with tours (5 days)
Evaluation session
1 Final Event



Holocaust Overseas Krakow

1 pre-departure session (4 hours)
Overseas to Krakow with tours (5 days)
Evaluation session
Final Event

Flags & Emblems

6 workshops (3 hours per workshop)
Workshop 1: Flags & Emblems
Workshop 2: Territorial Markings
Workshop 3: Memorials
Workshop 4: Sharing our History
Workshop 5: Dealing with the Past



“ To embrace the story of Mesen/ Messines and its spirit of brotherhood is to be freed from the slavery of bigotry and intolerance”