



Coventry City Council

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Public report

## **REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010

REPORT OF: PeaceJam International Conference

TITLE: Global Call for Action – PeaceJam International Conference

DATE: 10/9/2008 – 13/9/2008

VENUE: Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California. USA

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### **1. Recommendation** For information and update

#### **2. Background**

PeaceJam is an international education program built around leading Nobel Peace Laureates who work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody. The goal of PeaceJam is to inspire a new generation of peacemakers who will transform their schools and communities. At the international conference PeaceJam's Global Call to Action campaign will be officially launched – that is the movement to create ONE BILLION Global Call to Action projects by the year 2018. There are ten areas within the global call for action;

- Equal access to water and other natural resources
- Ending racism and hate
- Halting the spread of global disease
- Eliminating extreme poverty
- Social justice and human rights for all
- Rights for women and children, and their role as leaders
- Restoring earth's environment
- Controlling the proliferation of weapons
- Investing in human security
- Breaking the cycle of violence

A book was also launched at the conference – in which one of the case study features Barrs Hill school and the work they had undertaken with Mairead Corrigan Maguire (Nobel Peace Laureate 1976). A copy of the book has been posted to committee.

This three-day conference will feature thousands of young people showcasing Global Call to Action projects from around the world! In addition, young people will be working on service projects side-by-side with six Nobel Peace Prize winners (Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Shirin Ebadi, Betty Williams, Rigoberta Menchu Tum and Jody Williams) and learning directly from them during Nobel Laureate workshops.

This Conference, was held at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California September 11-13 and the event was open to youth ages 13-25 and the adults who support them. From the UK there were 120 delegates that attended the conference. Coventry had by far the biggest group; 9 young people and two adults. The young people who went from Coventry are part of a

bigger group who have been involved in PeaceJam for over three years and have been working together in their schools and communities on projects in connection with Peace.

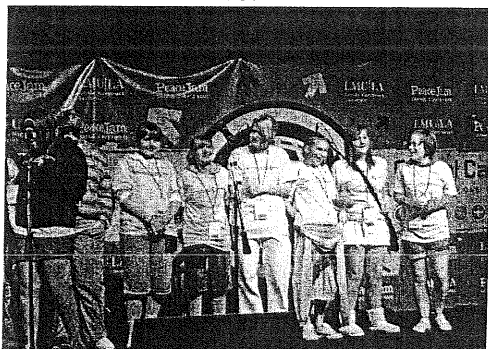
PeaceJam in Coventry has been supported by the Cathedral, Coventry University and the Peace House as well as the City Council. The group also promote Coventry as a city of peace and reconciliation.

## **2. Cost of attending**

All the flights for the students were paid for by the host organisation, PeaceJam USA, this was because the young people had been involved in the project with Mairead. The group contributed £160 each. One girl went free and another paid a nominal amount, due to bereavement.. Both adults funded themselves for everything; flights, transportation and accommodation.

## **3. Benefits**

- The opportunity to meet the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates (a chance in a lifetime). Also to be able to network with a diverse group of young people and adults
- Increased enthusiasm on behalf of the group and their commitment to bring about change. They are already talking about projects that they can be involved in and how to involve others.
- Developing knowledge and new ideas about the way peace can be explored.
- The group has taken on a more responsible and mature outlook and are less prone to violence and are more friendly (see Ellen's story attached)
- Three of the group have remained in school – longer than their siblings and do feel positive about their future life chances
- The group are able to relate this work not just in their school community but also within their wider community
- Group of young people that are confident and are willing to share their learning with others and promote the city of Coventry in terms of its work on peace and reconciliation.
- One of the immediate positive outcomes of this conference was for Coventry to host the UK National Peace Jam Slam in October (as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day educational programmes). The group delivered the keynote speech and supported the conference.



On stage at the book launch



Students with Sherin Ebadi



List of background papers

Proper Officer:

Author: Balbir Sohal

Tel Number: 02476 527434

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

Papers open to public inspection

**Description of paper:**                      **Location**

**Approved by Cabinet on:**  
**Report:**

**Part 5.6 – Protocol for Approval for Foreign Travel and Conference Attendance for Councillors and Employees**

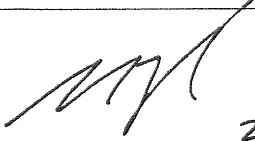
THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Peace Jam International Conference
2. Organising Body	Peace Jam USA See website for further details on organisation <a href="http://www.peacejam.org">http://www.peacejam.org</a>
3. Location	Los Angeles USA
4. Date(s)	9/9/2008 – 13/9/2008
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	N/A
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	Balbir Sohal and Jane Manton
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc	The cost to the City Council is in employee time. The employees are paying for themselves. Peace Jam International are paying for the young peoples' flights and conference fees and the young people have also been raising money for accommodation. The young people themselves are also making a contribution.
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group?	YES
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group?	Number 12 (Coventry delegation, 10 young people and 2 adults)
10. Is there anyone else attending the conference or event with the Coventry delegate(s) or group for whom the Council is not paying the costs of attendance, accommodation, travel, etc? If so, please supply details	<p>Yes Plus 120 others from around the UK (young people and adults)</p> <p>PeaceJam is an international education program built around leading Nobel Peace Laureates who work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody. The goal of PeaceJam is to inspire a new generation of peacemakers who will transform their</p> <p>This conference is an amazing opportunity to spend three days working alongside six Nobel Peace Laureates - Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Shirin Ebadi, Betty Williams, Rigoberta Menchu Tum and Jody Williams - during the PeaceJam Foundation's 2008 Global Call to Action Conference!</p> <p>This Conference, is to be held at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California on September 11-13 and will be the official launch PeaceJam's Global Call to Action</p>

**Part 5.6 – Protocol for Approval for Foreign Travel and  
Conference Attendance for Councillors and Employees**

	<p>campaign – the PeaceJam Foundation's global movement to create ONE BILLION Global Call to Action projects by the year 2018. This three-day conference will feature thousands of young people showcasing Global Call to Action projects from around the world! In addition, young people will be working on service projects side-by-side with six Nobel Peace Prize winners and learning directly from them during Nobel Laureate workshops.</p> <p>This event is open to youth ages 13-25 and the adults who support them. The young people involved in this event have been working together for three years on projects in connection with Peace.</p> <p>Coventry is also to host the UK National Peace Jam Slam in October (as part of HMD) We have also been supported by the Cathedral, Coventry University and the Peace House as well as school. The group will also be promoting Coventry as a city of peace and reconciliation</p>
<p><b>11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance?</b></p>	<p>Completed By/Signed: B Sohal Date: 16/7/2008</p>
<p><b>13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?</b></p>	<p>As yet we do not know but probably not</p>
<p><b>14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee</b></p> <p>(a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council? (b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council? (c) Is attendance recommended?</p>	<p><del>YES</del>/NO YES/<del>NO</del> <del>YES</del>/NO</p> <p>Signed: <i>J. B. Sohal</i> Date: 22/07/08</p>
<p><b>15. Cabinet Member's recommendation</b></p>	<p>YES/NO <i>J. B. Sohal</i> Signed: Date: 22/07/08</p>

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16. Leader's recommendation	YES/NO Signed:  Date: 28/7/2008
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**THIS FORM SHOULD NOW BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL  
AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (Room CH 64)**

**FOR USE OF DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ONLY**

Decision	Cabinet Member/Cabinet Date:
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Notification to: (a) Councillor attending (b) Member of Management Board (c) Members' Services (d) Committee Officer	<table border="1"> <tr> <td align="center"><u>YES/NO</u></td> <td align="center"><u>DATE</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>		
<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>				

Date report back obtained	
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Date of meeting of Scrutiny to receive report back	
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