

PRESS RELEASE



2nd European Mediation Conference

Building Relationships and Getting Results

April 10 - 12 2008,

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Almost ten years ago in Belfast, on Good Friday 1998, international mediators were acknowledged for their contribution to a milestone in the Northern Ireland peace process. Ten years later, on the anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, mediators from across Europe will gather in the city's Waterfront Hall at the launch of the 2nd European Mediation Conference.

The three day event aims to attract some 400 mediators and policy-makers to advance mediation in the service of social and economic progress in a changing Europe.

Programme content will:

- explore developments in the practice of mediation.
- reflect on the task of building peace for Europe and the world.
- raise awareness of mediation among policy makers, opinion formers, and the general public.
- strengthen relationships in the European mediation field.

The event is jointly organized by Mediation Northern Ireland and the Scottish Mediation Network and is supported by the European Mediation Network.

Amongst the keynote speakers will be:

- Jan Egeland, the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Conflict Resolution;
- John Paul Lederach, Mediator and Professor of International Peace building who has written widely on mediation & peace building;
- Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of Conflict Prevention at the Organisation for Security & Co-operation in Europe;
- Arlene McCarthy MEP, Chair of the EU Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and draft person of the EU Directive on Mediation

Delegates will be able to share in the diverse experiences and best practices of mediators in workshops and training sessions hosted by experienced practitioners from across Europe. More information and registration on the conference website: www.mediationconference.eu.

Notes for editors

The Scottish Mediation Network is based in Edinburgh.

The Scottish Mediation Network is working to embed mediation into the way that conflict and disputes of all forms are handled in Scotland by:

- encouraging awareness, understanding and appropriate use of mediation;
- supporting and promoting education, training and research in skills and best practice in the use of mediation;
- creating and encouraging links among the various fields of mediation; and
- promoting and organising standards of professional conduct and training.

Established in 2003 and based in Edinburgh, the Scottish Mediation Network recognises the needs for an increasing interdependence of mediators throughout the UK and Europe in the advancement of the mediation.

Mediation Northern Ireland was established in 1991 and is a not for profit social enterprise based in Belfast.

Much of our work is in Northern Ireland and increasingly we work in other parts of UK, Ireland or further afield, with people who are affected by conflict, division and violence, or who want to build better relationships in their community or through their workplace.

From our Belfast headquarters the organisation:

- delivers mediation services
- develops mediative practices.
- provides training in mediative skills
- facilitates learning about conflict, division and the promotion of peace.

The European Mediation Conference is supported by the **European Mediation Network Initiative**, a cross- European network of mediation organisations established in 2007 www.mediationeurope.eu

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