

WORDS & ACTIONS ⁴ PEACE

58 Ratcliffe Terrace Edinburgh EH9 1ST



THE NEWS



Kids art, Ukraine diplomacy, Nobel peace, strategic defence, help for Gaza, peace garden and more...



A WINTER NEWSLETTER

In these grim and dangerous times it is vital to avoid despair and paralysis. The articles in this edition, in their different ways, point to positive responses that are to hand. We are delighted that Almut Rochowanski has adapted for our use her recent Substack article on Inclusive

Diplomacy. Almut has decades of experience working on women's rights and peace in post-Soviet Eurasia and here she outlines an alternative to the bloody conflict in Ukraine. We have included an account of support from Kintyre about the Network for Palestine and a recent trip to Egypt which shows how Scots can respond to that horrific situation. Secure Scotland now has its own Substack, so if you

like our stories do subscribe, or if you would like to suggest an item for publication there, please let us know by email:

Janet Fenton writes about meeting members of Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese atomic bomb survivors organisation which has been awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The work of these "hibakusha" has been vital in establishing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – showing that we can eliminate the threat of nuclear war. Meanwhile the Secure Scotland response to the UK government's call for submissions to its Strategic Defence Review points out that we need to shift away from a violent response to threats, and towards an approach based on common security. In celebrating the new Peace Garden at Bridgend Farmouse Agatha Kai-Kai notes how important ventures like this are for building peaceful communities.

We do not know yet in any detail what the impacts of the result of the US presidential election will be for that country and the world. What is obvious is that it will add to the already considerable challenges for those of us who are working for a peaceful and equitable world. We hope to continue to offer opportunities for reflection, mutual support, local and transnational solidarity, and acts of gentle resistance. The variety and joy on



display at Words & Actions pre-Christmas exhibition of art from children (in response to the questions about what, and where security comes from) is keeping our spirits up with their inventive positivity, a reminder of the huge

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plus of having this home as a place to build community and sustain and nurture our values.

On 28th September Words & Actions for Peace hosted an event with a difference. A birthday party. Not just any birthday party – an 80th birthday party for Words and Actions and Secure Scotland volunteer David Mackenzie. At one stage we were worried that too many people would come but on the evening we had the right number of lively and varied attenders, had excellent vegan catering from Hummus of Morningside, some songs, and all the while a slide-show of photos played on the large screen. The evening confirmed for us that 58 Ratcliffe Terrace is a fine and flexible venue for all sorts of activities – meetings, exhibitions, resource display, workshops, small concerts,

and yes, a birthday party. Maybe you or your group could be making use of it?

Editorial, David Mackenzie



SECURE INCLUSIVE DIPLOMACY



In late September, a few days after this year's UN General Assembly wrapped up, a story about international political efforts to end the war between Russia and Ukraine was reported briefly, *writes Almut Rochwanski*, without making much of an impression. That story is, potentially, about several important diplomatic departures. It begins in 2022, several months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, when several leading countries from the Global South started floating peace proposals. Among them were China and Brazil, whose peace plans in 2023 were really not so much "plans" (as in "X get this piece of territory", "Y gets that type of security guarantee", which unhelpfully puts the cart before the horse), but laid out the principles and processes that must

underpin diplomacy and conflict transformation. In May 2024, the two countries announced that they had merged their peace plans and would proceed to promote a joint peace plan. The latest news on this initiative was that on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in late September, they held a meeting of 17 countries to discuss their joint plan and win support for it. This meeting produced a communiqué, which lists 13 countries as its authors: Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Türkiye and Zambia, forming the new "Friends for Peace" group. Several of them had previously proffered their own peace plans or had been involved in mediation or humanitarian mitigation efforts. This meeting was also attended by Switzerland, in the capacity of an observer. Switzerland is fully signed up to the EU's sanctions packages, venturing further away from its neutrality than at any previous time in its history. It is therefore

remarkable that after the meeting, an official Swiss spokesman stated that the country “supports the dynamic” of the Chinese-Brazilian initiative. This is not quite the same as “supports the initiative” or putting its name to the communiqué, but it is nevertheless important: it is the first time a Western country has endorsed a peace plan proposed by the Global South.

So far, so encouraging.



But the most intriguing aspect of the communiqué may be the following two words: “inclusive diplomacy”. Point 4 of the communiqué reads “We call for support for a comprehensive and lasting settlement by the parties to the conflict through inclusive diplomacy and political means based on the UN Charter.”

Inclusive diplomacy, which is also referred to as *participatory or people-centered peacemaking*, means that communities affected by conflict are at the negotiating table and represented in all aspects of the peace process. The objective of this style of diplomacy is the human security, well-being and rights of the people living in conflict-affected territories. The negotiation process is centred on them and led by them, equally.

Inclusive diplomacy is one of the great achievements of recent decades. That is, to be precise, people have practised this kind of diplomacy whenever they had a chance, although that may not have been too often in the course of human history. Communities affected by armed conflict have always understood that inclusive diplomacy would deliver a better, sturdier, happier, safer peace. Critically, this also means that women should play an empowered and equal role at all levels and stages of the peace process. Not just

any women (“add women and stir” this is not), but women who have served their communities and are accountable to them.

The great achievement of recent decades is that this has been recognized by the UN (first in Security Council resolution 1325 in the year 2000, subsequently reaffirmed and developed in additional resolutions), other international organisations, academia and many governments as best practice.

One beneficial side effect of inclusive peace processes is that when we bring civil society to the table and put civilian bread-and-butter issues on the agenda, the atmosphere becomes calmer, more constructive overall and it becomes harder for all stakeholders to walk away.

This is no feminist fairytale. The numbers back it up: comparative analysis has shown that when inclusive diplomacy and peacemaking practices are applied, negotiations are more likely to succeed, the resulting peace

agreements are more likely to hold, less likely to unravel in new violence and lead to stronger recovery. Inclusive diplomacy isn’t just better at making peace, it makes better peace.

Among the sturdier settlements inclusive peace processes have produced are those of the protracted conflicts in Northern Ireland and Colombia. Given the convincing numbers and international commitments, we shouldn’t be thinking of making peace any more without it being inclusive.

But just as with diplomacy and peacemaking in general, Western decision-makers seem to have forgotten all about inclusive diplomacy and people-centered peace when it comes to Russia and Ukraine. This has been glaring since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion, but it could already be gleaned since the Minsk Agreements in 2014/2015. This failure - this gaslighting pretense that we no longer know how diplomacy works, and works best - brought me to

work in Ukraine with women activists in those years. I found it disturbing already in April 2022, when the West turned a cold shoulder to the Istanbul based negotiations between Ukraine and Russia (and press photos showed long rows of men only on both sides. More about this in my European Leadership Network article.)

In August, we learned that Qatar was about to mediate a partial ceasefire to halt attacks on energy infrastructure in both countries, to ensure the survival and well-being of civilians during the upcoming winter. Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region cut that effort short, but the fact that Qatar came up with this proposal shows that some international leaders continue to see the necessity, promise and imperative of people-centered peace approaches. Ukrainian aid workers and activists, who are out of their minds with anxiety about how their vulnerable communities will make it through a winter without heat and light, agree with them.

Every time someone mentions negotiations to end the war, implying that some territories will remain under Russian de facto control, they are opposed with the argument that this would mean abandoning Ukrainian citizens to violence, repression and genocide. This is a genuine concern, felt deeply by many Ukrainians, especially those who have family and friends in occupied territories. I, too, know people in the occupied territories, so this is not abstract to me. Inclusive, people-centered peace diplomacy could go some way to overcome this conundrum, by making provisions for the safety, well-being, rights and freedom of the residents of those areas, as articulated by themselves.

Finally - and this is pure conjecture - this the first time that either the Chinese or the Brazilian plans or their joint proposal have ever mentioned *inclusive* diplomacy or peace. And it is also the first time that Colombia has joined their initiative. Colombia is famously one

of the most committed, serious proponents of inclusive peace, having adopted this approach in its complex domestic peace process that has been transforming and overcoming decades of civil war. Their path to peace has not been easy and there have been setbacks, as there always are. Chances are, Colombia added "inclusive diplomacy" to the draft communiqué, drawing on hard-won lessons.

Almut Rochwanski works on civil society development, women's empowerment and human rights with grass-roots and international organizations.



**SECURE SCOTLAND'S
RESPONSE TO
THE UK STRATEGIC DEFENCE
REVIEW**

"Describe the strategic, threat, and



*operational context for UK Defence
2024- 2050"*

This first question in the online call for evidence could represent the raw data for a doctoral study on conventional security thinking. The full survey runs on for another 700 words, all of it set within predictably restricted parameters. The word order of the first question implies that you set your strategy before

you do a threat and opportunity assessment. In other words:

Get set, Fire, Take aim.

Indeed, the consultation does not extend to seeking our opinions about threats. Instead, the preamble to the survey tells us what they are. As Henry Ford said: you can have any colour you like, so long as it is black.

"The UK faces threats that are growing and diversifying: war in Europe; conflict in the Middle East; states across the world that are increasingly acting in ways that challenge regional and global stability as well as our values and interests; terrorist groups; hybrid attacks; and instability caused by climate change."

Instability caused by climate change? Sure. But the box-thinking limitations of conventional "security" discourse ensure that we are not looking here in the round at what climate collapse is bringing and will bring, or what its effects will be across the globe (including within the UK's borders), we are simply focussing on how the armed forces

might be expected to respond. (And ignoring, of course, the significant carbon emission impact of war-making machinery even when not in combat.)

No mention of pandemics, nuclear war, mass movements of people, decline in and erosion of democratic institutions, bio-technology gone rogue, AI, chronic and worsening inequality, racism, murderous violence against women, repressions, etc. What is common to that frightening list is that effective responses require a new level of international and transnational co-operation, not the ratcheting up of international tensions or a new arms race.

And instability – a key word in the conventional security lexicon. One might have thought that the review helmsman George Robertson, a key member of the Blair gang that pushed us into the Second Gulf War, would by this time have had a wee thought of what that special military operation provided in the way of

instability, as well as a persisting legacy of chaos. What they really mean by instability is any potential shaking of the foundations of the status quo that guarantees for the West a continuing supply of cheap resources and labour in order to maintain our unsustainable lifestyles.

It is sadly not surprising that the survey does not raise the question of any prudential, legal or ethical restraints on the UK's military activities. Take just two examples screaming for attention. The UK is a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and formally rules out the use by its armed forces of this vicious and indiscriminate weapon. But we remain willing to fight alongside other forces who use the weapon and would even call upon fire support in an operation, even when that support is likely to include cluster munitions. Shameful and sleekit as that is, we are in another dimension entirely when it comes to the UK's nuclear arsenal. Possessing nuclear weapons means nothing other than the willingness to

commit a hideous atrocity, whether or not that response is in retaliation to a nuclear strike. An atrocity moreover that would bring the roof down on all of us, worldwide, and, as Annie Jacobsen points out in her "Nuclear War – A Scenario", it would all happen within a matter of a few hours. In the meantime this dependence on ultimate and suicidal violence for "security" poisons the whole social atmosphere.

Given the UK's almost complete subservience to the US in foreign policy and war-making, all of this is grimly predictable. We must somehow shift from the dangerous and limited militarised concepts towards "common security". That term does at least allow us to recognise that our safety depends on the safety of others, including non-human nature. We are far less likely to feel and be safe in Flat 1A in the block if the folk in Flat 6B are in a pickle. We are almost beginning to realise that events like floods in Pakistan or China will not leave people in the rich north and west

unaffected. The old, sectional and militarised approaches are utterly useless in this situation. When it comes to a rational response to what we are facing globally all of that takes us deep into chocolate teapot territory.

There are other territories of course. One example is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It is based on a realistic assessment of the nature, potential impact and actual risk of nuclear war. It recognises that total elimination of these weapons is the only safe option. As a Treaty it is working to engage with all of the world's states to that end. So far there are 94 signatories and 73 states parties. There is a growing pattern for large financial institutions to disinvest from nuclear weapon production – a sure sign that the Treaty is moving nukes into their proper category as pariah weapons. One small step by the UK could make a big difference here. If the UK could simply say that it truly recognises the extreme danger and intends to be an

observer at the next Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons it would be a hugely significant shift, and give real hope to people across the world. The need to live and act as global citizens is greater than ever.

DELIVERING KINDNESS AND COMPASSION, THANKS TO GENEROSITY OF KINTYRE

Kintyre folk deliver food and fun to Gaza refugees on Cairo trip

Thanks to donations raised locally, three Kintyre locals (recently returned from Cairo) were able to share support for Gaza refugees who have fled Israel's relentless bombing. Ailsa, who manages a charity in Argyll and 16 year old student Eilidh, teamed up with Sharyn, author of "Gaza: Beneath the Bombs" (Pluto Press, 2010), to carry on an Argyll tradition of peer-to-

peer aid, exemplified by another local project

Funds raised prior to the visit to Cairo paid for a bulk order of nappies, toiletries and baby milk for the Pali Boutique, a project of the Network for Palestine, a grassroots project initiated by Egyptian and international mothers to support Gaza refugees.

The Pali Boutique provides donated goods with dignity, to those who have been displaced from their homes in Gaza due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Charity manager Ailsa, explained "There is no official support for refugees in Egypt and an estimated

100,000 people fled to Egypt from the Israeli bombing in Gaza prior to the border being closed. That's

more than the entire population of

Argyll. And those are the fortunate ones, as the border was closed by the Israeli military in May this year.

"We were able to volunteer with the Network for Palestine which is based in a private house, whose owners have offered space to provide room for the welcoming 'Pali Boutique'. Gaza families who reach the top of the months-long waiting list are offered one of 18 appointments available a day to come 'free shopping' in order to obtain donated clothes with dignity."

Sharyn, a midwife and previous human rights observer in Palestine spoke about the work they did whilst there, "We spent part of our time helping with unpacking and sorting donated items. The young folk we worked alongside were business managers, pharmacists, and medical students unsure how they will ever resume their studies, all volunteering to support their fellow refugees,"



"I also accompanied a Gaza nurse as he delivered nappies and baby formula to families sheltering in temporary Cairo accommodation. Some of these were the 'lucky' ones whose injured family members were evacuated to Egypt for medical treatment. On the discharge of these patients, who often had lost limbs, the Palestine consulate could only provide a one-off support payment of £30. Donations to Network for Palestine help provide food boxes, as well as formula for babies whose mums were too malnourished to produce breastmilk."

A highlight of the trip was funding activity days out to families with children, to a Cairo water park.

"One parent told us, 'My kids were so excited when they heard they were invited to the water park today, that they insisted on putting on their best clothes last night before bed!'", said Eilidh. "The children had never seen anything like the slides and

pools before. It was great to see the happiness that donations from Scotland could bring. By the end of the visit people were calling us 'Team Scotland'. Being able to bring smiles with support from home was very much appreciated."

The latest figures from the Palestinian Ministry of Health highlight that since October last year, 44,300 people, including nearly 17,000 children have been killed, more than 104,000 injured and at least 10,000 missing.

The need for support continues, so if you would like to donate to support this important work, find the Network for Palestine at <https://www.instagram.com/networkforpalestine>, donations at www.solidarityandbiscuits.wordpress.com

Article compiled by Jan Benvie. WandA volunteer who works with Anglican Peace Fellowship and who has lived and worked in Palestine.

Stop press! Sharyn Lock has just completed a 5 day fast outside the Scottish Parliament, talking to MSP's and passers by.

Sharyn wore a Palestine Red Crescent vest to represent emergency workers and health professionals and called on all parties to protect civilians, medical personnel, health facilities and those sheltering in them.



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS



The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) partners from Scotland are absolutely delighted to see that Nihon Hidankyo, the group made up of survivors of the 1945 attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has deservedly won the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize for its powerful work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

ICAN partners from Scotland and around the world have all learned so much from Hibakusha (survivors of the 1945 attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki), from veterans impacted by the tests and from indigenous people around the world about the effects of that testing on their environment and their peoples.

I've been involved with ICAN since its early days, campaigning in Scotland since before the official Scottish Parliament 2009 ICAN

launch with Bill Kidd MSP and have been lucky enough to meet some truly amazing people, working together towards a lasting and permanent treaty that could eliminate these most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons from the world. They included academics, diplomats and even military experts, but the key voices have always been from those directly affected by the catastrophic effects of the weapons.

Toshiyuki Mimaki, co-head of Nihon Hidankyo, is the ultimate approachable campaigner, known for attending international meetings wearing a tabard printed with "ask me anything about nuclear weapons" and always quick to smile but also to cry, and always ready to explain what he had experienced from his exposure at age three to nuclear attack and everything that had happened since. When ICAN received the Nobel prize in 2017 it was Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima

survivor and the dearly beloved and dignified septuagenarian who personified ICAN on the international stage, representing all of us and expressing our shared hope for the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.

My experience of Mimaki and Suechi Kido, general secretary of Nihon Hidankyo, was similar, they were always accessible always polite and fun, but absolutely unwavering in understanding that nothing short of elimination would do.

The hope is that this recognition of the tireless efforts of the first, but sadly not the last, generation of those directly affected in Japan will add to that attention. The attached picture is typical of the approach and the cooperation.

At the December 2023 meeting of the states who have joined the treaty, the Scottish delegation was organising a photo at the iconic UN broken gun, when Kido was passing.

He greeted us in friendship, and offered to be in our picture as a message to the people in Scotland from the people of Japan.

This award to Nihon Hidankyo will increase the group's media reach and capacity and it is our hope that it will also focus global attention on the threat of nuclear conflict which is heightened by the fighting in both Ukraine and the Middle East. It is time now to awaken the world to the urgent need to eliminate all nuclear weapons and address climate disaster *Janet Fenton Secure Scotland Organiser & Secy. Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament.*

GOING FORWARD

in 2025

Secure Scotland's core group took an October weekend to think about what's next after learning that the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

will give funding to keep us at Words & Actions for the next two years (yay!), and decided to set up Fundraising Secure Scotland, a subgroup to consider how we meet the costs of projects, outreach and fees, including through an appeal. Fundraising Secure Scotland would really welcome help, so if you might like to join the group, or can help in any way, please pop in or get in touch by phone or email. Phillit Wiona Sophie (you may have seen her art in the last exhibition) is now the Outreach Associate and is in Wanda on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. And you can always simply donate, one-off or a small regular amount by standing order, in the shop or via the Secure Scotland website.

In October, Peace & Justice said goodbye to Jane Herbstritt, their long-time Administration and

Information Coordinator. It was a sad goodbye, but we also wish her well in her new job. Mark Birkett has completed his role as Peacebuilding Coordinator and is set for a year of travelling.

Over the next month the Peace and Justice Trustees will be planning the way ahead, but as with so many peace groups, funding is a major issue for them also. P & J's Peacebuilding projects over the past year have successfully been funded through grants, but the core admin costs are paid for by membership subscriptions and subsidised by a previous legacy (which is coming to an end).

We are grateful for those who are able to contribute regularly to P & J and invite supporters to consider if they can increase their giving.

Currently there is a small Peace and Justice Board, and more Trustees are

PHILIP CAMPBELL
FOR NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT



needed to oversee things and to attend bi-monthly trustee meetings which are mainly held online via zoom. If being a Trustee isn't for you, but you'd like to help with organising events, with mailings or the website, please do be in touch. You can find out more about Peace and Justice at the website (<https://peaceandjustice.org.uk/get-involved/>)

WandA's future plans also include ensuring collaborative events on the 'special' anniversaries, especially next years' Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80th commemoration, which the organisations at WandA are already committed to.

As part of a previous collaboration with Edinburgh Yes Hub, during the pandemic, Secure Scotland presented "The Weekend Starts Here" (a weekly hour long Zoom event) with high-quality input on a wide range of topics: Degrowth, Nature and Humanity, Climate

Change, Overlander's ecological bike trip, Recovery, Grass-roots resistance, Scotland's fishing challenges, Just Transition, Life at Faslane Peace Camp, Casualties of War, Food Security, Universal Basic Income, Travelling people, Scotland's Energy all featured.. With help and support, and all the great experience that Peace and Justice could add, we hope that this event could be repeated as a regular live Friday gathering in WandA for 2025. Anyone out there interested in helping to make it happen?

In response to controversy around privilege and race in the context of sexually motivated murder by a police officer, Secure Scotland supported a young women's group in establishing a social media support network and facilitated a special women's panel event The Big Sisters' Blether with representation from hospitality and arts sectors, gender studies academics,

parliamentarians, Womens Aid and Shakti. Along with P and J, Secure Scotland sees vigils and panel events of that sort are as essential as organising demos and showing films in contributing to a culture of peace. WandA is proving effective for this work. Before the two organisations moved into WandA (and after the pandemic restrictions allowed us to gather out of doors), Secure Scotland used five questions which could be posed at festivals and gatherings. Responses gave rise to the idea for the current children's exhibition, The World Around Us, as well as the material for an earlier window display of adult responses (you can view some of these on the website).

There is now have a prototype board game, (beautifully designed by Keith) using images (try and google safe and security!) and questions.

The first outing with it was to the recent Radical Book Fair for a try out. The range of images, words and questions stimulated much discussion and we would welcome a chance to bring it to your meeting or social occasion and learn a bit more before finalising it. Alternatively pop in for a shot at it!



THE PEACE GARDEN OPENING CELEBRATING THE PEACE GARDEN

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of
God" (Matthew 5:9)

The peace garden started as an
experiment in peacebuilding and
we gathered at Bridgend
Farmhouse on Sunday 18th
August to celebrate conclusion
of planting.

It is a collaborative project
sponsored by Peace & Justice
(Scotland),

Multicultural Family Base and
Bridgend Farmhouse.

Participants included Sudanese,
Ukrainians and Polish most of
whom had experienced trauma.

This was a celebration of

diversity of peoples of different
cultures, gender, ages,
ideologies, and faiths but all
focusing on creating a peaceful
space to relax and enjoy
together. The primary goals of
peacebuilding programs at the
community and global level are
to prevent disputes from
escalating, to detect concerns
before they become conflicts,
and to formulate long-term
plans to maintain a defined
peaceful and resilient
environment. But in practice
peacebuilding begins with the
individual, peace within the
individual extends to peace in
the home and in the
communities

Why We Must Be Peacebuilders

Peacebuilding must be a serious responsibility and commitment because most people need peace, it is an innate desire just as water, food, love etc. We have direct experience of hostility and war and acknowledge the harmful effects of conflict and violence. Peace is essential for trauma healing and to develop other good personal qualities like truth, honesty and kindness etc. Peace building is important for freedom from anxiety and fear, to ensure that people feel safe in their communities and encourages inclusion and integration. Maintaining peacebuilding allows for economic and social development. For those with faith and searching for

purposeful living peace is essential in a faith journey and on the path to God.

My personal reflection working on the peace garden emphasized the philosophical understanding of peacebuilding. The process was slow and mostly controlled by the natural environment. The plants needed a good soil to make good roots and grow well so the early activities were preparing the soil and removing hostile structures like stones. Similarly peacemaking requires addressing the underlying causes of conflict. It requires continual effort, patience, creativity and self-reflection to identify factors that hinder peace and a timeline to develop the positive attributes of peace process. All participants in the garden were initially

strangers but after a day working together barriers were dissolved and developed emotional conditions for openness, trust and cooperation.

What Can We Do To Achieve Peace?

We despair about world peace but as individuals we can focus purposefully on what is achievable, working for peace in our families and communities. The Peace Garden brought people together of similar and dissimilar ways of thinking and ideology and language but all of us with a common deeper purpose to create a beautiful space that we all can admire and enjoy. We came with open minds and hearts willing to learn from each other to converse, understand and respect each other's differences and

communicate in a common language of love thereby producing a single thought process from several fragmented pieces. The success of the garden involved a system of interconnected people, roles, and activities, linked together and affecting each other. With people at the core, peacebuilding is intimately connected to the nature and quality of relationships. The garden supported interdependent relationships necessary for pursuing and sustaining desired changes. We formed relationships between people that are not like-minded. The project can be a model for inclusion and practical demonstration of the elements of peacebuilding known as the four C's of peacemaking: contact,

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cooperation, communication, and conciliation. I hope that we will continue to improve on these skills in our environment to make Edinburgh a more integrated and peaceful city.

Agatha Kai-Kai is a Trustee with P and J. She holds a Ph.D. in neurophysiology and lectured in preclinical veterinary science. Through her lived experience with people fleeing from civil war she now acts as an ambassador for refugees and asylum seekers.

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Left behind

You dancing? You asking?
each parish hall Friday,
priests supervised distance,
smiles shook us together.

Flying in to New York,
our farewells at your back,
all adventures in front;
those crazy dreams and fears.

You wrote about buildings that rise
to the sky;
homeless and tired, you joked about
needing a lift.

I walked quiet streets
saving your emails,
like echoes of music.

How can we see things so differently
now?
One lost their religion while the
other still prays.

Both wedded to reason which
punches to rage
at a glimpse of the other one's
heroes:
Establishment puppets or criminal
frauds.
No morals; deplorable isn't the
word.

Migrants stealing our jobs
or that's blaming the poor.
We can be great again
if we open our arms.
Gay marriage is normal
or it's staining the world.

A world where some people cannot
see,
because their own were taken first,
the children dying in Gaza.

Romeo killed Paris,
his rival in love.
We're back there again
like drunks in a cell.
What wouldn't I give
to bring distance down.

You dancing? You asking?

*(No one remembers Paris. We
remember the romance but
Shakespeare's Play also cries out
against senseless killing.)*

by William and Heather Geary

Photos courtesy of Margaret Ferguson Burns and Janet Fenton

THE NEWS
from Secure Scotland & Peace & Justice
Scotland

@

58 Ratcliffe Terrace
EDINBURGH EH9 1ST

opening hours: 10.00 - 4.00 Monday -
Friday

**Community lunch - last Sunday of every
month**

12.00 - 2.00

ALL WELCOME

07949479977

contact@wordsandactions.scot