

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT FOR LAUNCH OF PROJECT WEBSITE



I am delighted to offer my support to Springboard's Global Peacebuilders project and to the launch of the dedicated website to highlight and promote peace building activity both locally and internationally.

I am aware of Springboard's considerable efforts over the last 15 years to promote mutual understanding and enhance capacity for reconciliation work within individuals and divided communities. This work has taken on a greater significance as we move from a conflict situation into a new era of peace and stability. Government has a key role to play in working with statutory and voluntary sector organisations to support this work and deliver on its Shared Future commitments.

There are many lessons to be learned from our own peace process and the Global Peacebuilders project provides an opportunity to highlight our local success stories to an international audience. It is also important that we learn from others who have overcome deep divisions and conflict as we face the challenges which lie ahead and seek to move to a truly inclusive and peaceful society.

MARGARET RITCHIE MLA

Minister for Social Development