

The Homecoming & Belfast One City Conference 2014

An Teachta Abhaile – Comhdháil Aon-Chathrach Bhéal Feirste

• PRIMETIME SPONSORS •



Homecoming: Pledges, Commitments, Actions

The Homecoming and Belfast One City Conference is all about lifting up the great city of Belfast in partnership with our friends in the global Irish diaspora. As a participant, we encourage you to make pledges and commitments across a range of areas, which will bring benefits to Belfast and to our partners abroad. Areas, which are ripe for mutually beneficial partnerships include:

1. JOBS: Investment, job creation, trade and business exchanges.

Ask from Belfast: To facilitate the first trade and investment mission in 20 years from Belfast to Boston. To bring back professionals from the Diaspora to start-up businesses or take up positions in Belfast technology companies.
Ask from Diaspora: To deliver one foreign direct investment project.
Exemplar: Chicago Mercantile Exchange investment in BelfastFilm producer Mark Huffam's pioneering of movie production in Belfast.

2. TOURISM: Encouraging inward visits with a special emphasis on conference business linked to the opening of the Belfast Convention Centre in 2016.

Ask from Belfast: To win one major international conference for Belfast.
Ask from Diaspora: For Tourism Ireland to share its expertise in tourism promotion with the State of New York
Exemplar: GMB trade union conference 2016 coming to Belfast; spend of £2m, 800 delegates.

3. WORLD-CLASS: Promoting excellence in everything we do through learning exchanges.

Ask from Belfast: Gathering of Global City Mayors in Belfast.
Ask from Diaspora: Assistance on policing issues in US cities from those who have created inclusive policing structures here.
Exemplar: Urbanist and CUNY Professor Michael Sorkin's winter school in Belfast in 2010. Ireland Fund-endorsed economic mission to Belfast in February 2014.

4. FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Promoting the very best in third level education through exchanges and by encouraging students to study in Belfast.

Ask from Belfast: Funding of a Belfast Diaspora Scholarship by a company or individual for an overseas student of exceptional ability with a link to Belfast to undertake a postgraduate course at the UU Belfast campus. Two year long placement pledges by US corporations to local graduates through the US-NI Partnership Programme.
Ask from Diaspora: Initiatives to share Belfast expertise in cancer research and financial services technology.
Exemplar: Annual summer school of Fordham Law School at QUB. MoU between UMass Lowell and QUB.

5. A CITY OF QUARTERS: Regenerating the vibrant Gaeltacht, Cathedral, and Titanic Quarters through hospitality, festival, community and business initiatives.

Ask from Belfast: Increased and co-ordinated attendance from Diaspora at Eastside Arts Fest, Féile an Phobail 30 in 2017 and Belfast Festival at Queen's.
Ask from Diaspora: An annual exchange of chefs with Irish American-owned hostelries and local restaurants.
Exemplar: Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival

6. ARTS: Boosting the arts and culture sectors through events, exchanges and partnerships, which broaden our horizons and treasure creativity.

Ask from Belfast: A prestigious international city art gallery to partner Belfast in the development of its first civic arts gallery.
Ask from Diaspora: First-ever tour by Irish American writers, poets and musicians to Belfast
Exemplar: 64-strong Belfast Community Gospel Choir playing New Brunswick, NJ, and Harlem churches in June 2014.

7. SPORT: Using the power of sport to build communities through competitions and exchanges.

Ask from Belfast: To bring four New England college teams to Belfast to play an ice hockey tournament with Belfast Giants in December 2015.
Ask from Diaspora: Belfast to host a tournament for North American GAA teams.
Exemplar: Boston Bruins visiting Belfast in 2010 to play Belfast Giants. Belfast ex-pat Jim Gillespie of Texas founding Belfast Giants

8. COMPASSIONATE CITY: Engaging in activities, which recognise Belfast as a member of the global Compassionate Cities network by promoting exchanges between our faith communities and peace networks.

Ask from Belfast: A gathering of the Compassionate Cities network in Belfast.
Ask from Diaspora: To facilitate a visit by ministers from Boston who are community leaders
Exemplar: Founding of Black Mountain Zen Centre in Belfast and hosting of annual retreats by Ryushin Paul Haller of the San Francisco Zen Centre.

9. SOCIAL JUSTICE: Activities, events and relationships which value diversity, underpin human rights and boost social justice.

Ask from Belfast: An annual Human Rights Symposium attended by senior jurists from the Diaspora. Support for the Community Foundation NI bid to raise \$1.5m towards a Human Rights Endowment.
Ask from Diaspora: Support from Belfast peacemakers for global efforts to end conflicts across the world in conjunction with governments and NGOs.
Exemplar: Visit by Belfast delegation including Alex Maskey MLA, Sammy Douglas MLA and others to Thailand in September 2014 to meet parties to conflict there and encourage peace negotiations.

10. GIVING: We endorse philanthropic giving to not-for-profit organisations in Belfast, which are building the peace.

Ask from Belfast: \$1m Challenge by Ciste na Gaeilge for Irish language capital projects. Contributions to £2.1m NI Hospice Rebuild programme.
Ask from Diaspora: Irish American Partnership request for communities to identify education projects with life-changing potential which will most benefit from grant support.
Exemplar: \$1m grant to Co-Operation Ireland by Ireland Funds in June 2014. Chuck Feeney's giving away billions to good causes through Atlantic Philanthropies, including, this month, £25m for dementia, early-years and shared education.

At the end of each session of conference, panelists will be asked to identify opportunities for positive actions to build Belfast in consort with our global partners.

• SHOWTIME SPONSORS •



• CHARITY PARTNER •

• MEDIA PARTNER •

