



**VENICE CITY COUNCIL ASSESSORATO ALLA PRODUZIONE CULTURALE  
ALLE POLITICHE GIOVANILI E PACE, KROSSING/PLANET K,  
MARCO POLO SYSTEM, ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPA LEVANTE  
*in collaboration with* BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE MARCIANA**

**14 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Antisala della Libreria Sansoviniana  
(Sale Monumentali della Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana), Piazzetta S. Marco 13/a**

**PEACE PROCESSES  
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Dialogue is the only way forward in resolving conflicts and must be between equals. But a dialogue among equals is possible only when the parties involved recognize the existence of a reality until now denied. There can be no pre-conditions dictated by one or the other party in a conflict to sit around the negotiating table. South Africa led the way in this direction by developing a series of important mechanisms in the resolution of the conflict that became a model for other conflicts. First of all in Ireland, where a peace process - even with ups and downs and certainly not yet complete - has been possible thanks to the recognition by all of the parties involved, the British government, republicans, unionists, the Irish government, that the only possibility to initiate a fruitful dialogue was to sit around a table as equals. Today many conflicts are still open, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Kurdish-Turkish conflict, the Basque-Spanish conflict. Venice has always played an important role as a place where open and frank debate can take place, as long as the parties involved are on equal terms. So it is in Venice (which through the years has hosted several times conferences and meetings and has commented on the conflicts we are going to discuss about) that the international conference on peace processes and conflict resolution will be held. The conference will not only be a statement on the current state of conflicts, those which are being resolved, and those which have been resolved (albeit partially), but will above all be a time for discussion and proposal. Proposal and discussion coming from the parties in the conflict which are generally considered to be second class, or against which conditions and preconditions are set before they can sit at the negotiating table. The South African and the Irish experience teach us that only when attempts to set preconditions are abandoned, and only after full acceptance of the other as legitimate partners with equal dignity and rights, dialogue has been possible. A dialogue at time hard but frank that has led to important results in the difficult building of a just and lasting peace.



In Venice these are the people who will meet, discuss and present their proposals:

**Brian Currin** (South African lawyer, mediator in the Irish conflict, in the Basque country, in Sri Lanka), **Raymond McCartney** (Sinn Fein International Department, MLA - deputy Northern Irish parliament), **Emine Ayna** (DTP chairwoman, party of the democratic society), **Jone Goirizelaia** (lawyer representing Ezker Abertzaleak, Independentist Basque Left), **Haluk Gerger** (writer, Turkey), **Irfan Dundar** (lawyer of Pkk president Abdullah Ocalan.)

Video messages by **Nelson Mandela** (Nobel Peace Prize), **Gerry Adams** (president of Sinn Fein), video of the Independentist Basque Left (with a speech by **Arnaldo Otegi**),

**Moni Ovadia** (musician).

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## PROGRAMME

**SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 10 am**

### **PEACE PROCESSES. THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND IRISH EXPERIENCES**

Introduction by **Luana Zanella**, peace and cultural minister of Venice City Council

Message by **Nelson Mandela**, Nobel Peace Prize

Video message by **Gerry Adams**, President of Sinn Fein

**Raymond McCartney** (The road towards the Good Friday Agreement)

**Brian Currin** (The South-african experience)

**Emine Ayna** (Kurdish initiatives for dialogue)

**Jone Goirizelaia** (Basque initiatives for dialogue)

Video-letter by **Moni Ovadia**

Introduction **Gianfranco Bettin** (writer)

Chair **Gabriele Polo** (journalist)

**SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 3pm**

### **DIALOGUE, DIALOGUE, DIALOGUE. IDEAS FOR KURDISTAN AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY**

**Haluk Gerger** (Turkey and the Kurdish question)

**Emine Ayna** (The Kurdish proposal)

**Irfan Dunder** (Abdullah Ocalan's road map)

Video of the Independentist Basque Left containing a speech by **Arnaldo Otegi**

**Jone Goirizelaia** (The Basque Left proposal)

**Brian Currin** (Ideas for a possible dialogue)

Introduction **Pietrangelo Pettenò** (president Marco Polo System)

Chair **Gabriele Polo** (journalist)