

Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference

Session 1: Experience of Nonviolence – Opening, moderated by Pat Gaffney

Pat Gaffney: We've invited four people to help us give this reflection this morning. I will give each of them between about five and seven minutes for their initial reflection, and just to then remind them as their time comes to an end, as in a football match, I will just give them one-minute's notice and that will help them kind of bring their conversation, bring their contribution to an end.

I'd like to introduce our four participants. I don't know yet which order they're going to be in, so we'll keep the suspense going. First of all, I'd like to introduce Pietro from Uruguay and now, I believe, living in Mexico. And Pietro is an activist and an educator in peace and nonviolence and among many other things, he has a lot of titles, but among those he's the co-founder and leader of Servicio Paz y Justicia. And he has very kindly agreed to speak in English for this session. Or would you prefer Italian? He will try in English so that's wonderful.

We have Mairead with us as well. Mairead has come from Northern Ireland. She's known for particularly, for the peace work that she began during the so-called Troubles in Northern Ireland and at that time, with others, setting up what was called the Community of Peace People. And for that work with others, she was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1997. Many years since has become and been an ambassador for Peace. Thank you Mairead.