



Belfast, Northern Ireland: Project Common Bond Unites Teens Whose Lives Have Been Touched By Terrorism

NEW YORK, July 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Seventy-five teens from around the world who have lost an immediate family member to a terrorist incident will join together in Belfast, Northern Ireland to form an international community called [Project Common Bond](#), under the auspices of [Tuesday's Children](#), the premiere nonprofit organization serving the needs of the 9/11 community.

The eight-day community-building and educational program, in partnership with the [Harvard Law School Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program](#), will be held at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland from August 1

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For the third year, this unique program will allow teens from the United States, Spain, Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Argentina to form a community of peers that contribute

to international dialogue about terrorism, peace, and other issues that impact their lives. This marks the first time that Common Bond is being held outside the United States and is hosting teens from nations in conflict.

Harvard's clinical program serves as an important partner and has designed a curriculum focusing on conflict resolution and communication. Led by a professional faculty including psychologists, educators, social workers and health care professionals who are trained in leadership, peace-building, traumatic loss and resilience, the group will engage in discussions on global leadership issues, and will participate in team-based activities designed to foster trust, healing, cooperation and communication.

"For children whose lives have been directly touched by terrorism, the sudden, violent, and public nature of their loss becomes an overwhelming and defining characteristic of their lives," said Terry Grace Sears, president of Tuesday's Children. "Tuesday's Children created Project Common Bond so that children from all over the world who have experienced similar tragedies can build resilience and strength together and positively shape their own future."

Sears continued, "this special program could not have been possible without the generous support of our Irish partners, the American Ireland Fund, the Ireland-US Council and Belfast Harbour Commissioners Chairman Len O' Hagan."

"What makes this project unique is that we're weaving together skills training and conflict resolution in order to transform the experience of trauma into the positive experience of personal growth," said Monica Meehan McNamara, Curriculum Coordinator for Project Common Bond.

Project Common Bond is designed and directed by Tuesday's Children with the active engagement of its international partners. Organizations participating in the 2010 initiative include:

- **European Network of Victims of Terrorism**, an organization that aims to stimulate trans-national co-operation between associations of victims of terrorism and enhance the representation of victims' interests at European Union level;
- **Mothers of Beslan**, a [support](#) and [advocacy group](#) of parents whose children were

among the more than 365 victims of the 2004

[Beslan school hostage crisis](#)

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- **The Parents Circle**, based in the Middle East and works with Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost a loved one, helping turn grief and anger into a dialogue of trust and reconciliation;

- **Russian Children's Welfare Society**, a nonprofit charity dedicated to improving the lives of orphans and other disadvantaged children in Russia;

- **S.A.V.E.R./N.A.V.E.R.**, a distinctive European Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation;

- **Seeds of Peace**, dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence;

- **Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding**, a secular, non-sectarian organization providing education and tools to resolve religious tensions in schools, at work and in war zones;

- **The Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University**, internationally recognized for the extensive range of degree programs that reflect its ongoing commitment to scholarship, research and practice.

The young adults, ages 15 to 20, will participate in therapeutic group work and community-building activities such as mural painting, music, drama and team sports. They will also take advantage of the culturally and historically rich city of Belfast, with a tour of the famed Peace Walls, and a day-long workshop at the world renowned Corrymeela Peace and Reconciliation Center in Ballycastle.