

# THE JOHN HUME & THOMAS P O'NEILL CHAIR IN PEACE

IN 2011, THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH THE JOHN HUME AND THOMAS P. O'NEILL CHAIR IN PEACE AT ITS MAGEE CAMPUS IN LONDONDERRY/DERRY. THE CHAIR, THE MOST SENIOR OF ACADEMIC POSITIONS, WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THESE TWO GREAT CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: FORMER SPEAKER OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THOMAS P. (TIP) O'NEILL, JR AND NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE, JOHN HUME.

The Chair is the embodiment of the deep and powerful friendship which these two men shared, their unique and dynamic role in creating peace in Northern Ireland, and the vision of The Ireland Funds in supporting the original Tip O'Neill Chair. During the dark days of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, John Hume forged a strong professional and personal relationship with Speaker O'Neill. In sharing his compelling vision of a Northern Ireland at peace, John Hume found an enthusiastic partner in Tip O'Neill.

During many visits to educate US political leaders about the need for a peaceful resolution in Northern Ireland, he briefed the Speaker and others about the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland and how it was inspired by the Civil Rights Movement in the US.

The Chair, supported by both the O'Neill and the Hume families, is the perfect legacy to ensure that this story of transatlantic cooperation about a vision of a Northern Ireland at peace remains alive for generations to come.

## Building Peace Locally, Making Peace Globally



Based in an international centre of excellence for peace and conflict work, the Chair will play a key role in the on-going efforts to maintain peace in Northern Ireland and to share the lessons with other areas of conflict. Thanking The American Ireland Fund for its support of the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, Tip's son and American Ireland Fund Board Director Tom O'Neill said that, "the Chair would go a long way towards educating a new generation of peace-makers across the globe."

Since the Chair was announced at The American Ireland Fund Washington DC National Gala in 2012, significant progress has been made. The \$4.8m required to establish the Chair as a permanent, endowed full-time academic position has been raised. The International Fund for Ireland has generously awarded £1.4 million towards the endowment.

The Chair will be an integral part of the world-renowned International Conflict Research Institute based at the University of Ulster's campus in Derry/Londonderry.

Vice Chancellor Richard Barnett, President of the University of Ulster, has said that, "in addition to focusing on the peace efforts of Nobel Laureate John Hume and US House Speaker O'Neill, the Chair will promote the legacy of the peace process itself and all those individuals who contributed to it.

It will give substance to the goals of both the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland governments to train scholars and practitioners around the world, especially in war-torn areas, about the conflict resolution techniques that helped, and continue to help, resolve the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The University of Ulster is proud to establish this important legacy, borne out of the relationship between two countries and two men."

US House Speaker O'Neill and Nobel Laureate John Hume



#### THE CHAIR WILL WORK IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND GLOBALLY TO:

- Honor the Irish-American contribution to creating peace in Northern Ireland;
- Consolidate the University of Ulster's pioneering and ground-breaking work in peacebuilding both locally and globally over the past 40 years and take this work to a new level;
- Equip a new generation of peacebuilders worldwide;
- Lead work on global initiatives, making a practical difference to ensuring peace for future generations.