

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Carol Jenkins

Special Consultation

Wales Peace Institute and the National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee.

“We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the potential for and practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with Peace and Human Rights, comparable with those supported by state governments in Flanders, Catalonia and elsewhere in Europe.”

I write on behalf of Canolfan Morlan in Aberystwyth in support of the above petition; we do not wish to provide oral evidence.

Morlan is a centre for faith and culture. In addition to hiring out its facilities to a number of groups and organisations, the centre also schedules its own programme of events on a wide range of social, political, religious and cultural themes. Many of the events organised raise awareness of peace, justice and human rights issues.

For example, we hope to invite *The Forgiveness Project* exhibition here next year. The project’s aim is to build a future free of violence by sharing the stories of people who have been the victims of violence, adversity and injustice and who are learning to forgive and to move on. The aim is to encourage people who visit the exhibition to consider the value of forgiveness rather than retaliation—politically and in their daily lives.

This is one small example over a short period of time.

A Peace Institute in Wales would be a long-term solution that could achieve so much more. The Institute, based on extensive research and fair opinion, could provide guidance for the National Assembly and other organisations in Wales on justice, peace and human rights issues. It could contribute towards educational provision in peace studies and offer advice and guidance with regard to the National Curriculum in Wales. It would create a culture of peace, show that there are other ways of solving conflicts and raise awareness of justice and human rights issues.

We do not feel that we have the expertise to comment on the constitution of such an organisation—it would be better to leave that to those with expertise in the field—but we feel that any organisation that promotes a culture of peace rather than war and flies the flag for freedom, justice and human rights is a positive development of which to be proud. It would raise Wales’s profile, and show that we are innovative and confident.

Therefore, Morlan supports and welcomes any steps to establish a Peace Institute in Wales, and we feel that it is very important to have such an organisation.

Yours sincerely

Carol Jenkins
Manager