



Transitional Justice Grassroots Toolkit

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Beginnings

About Bridge of Hope

Bridge of Hope, a department of Ashton Community Trust, is a health and wellbeing centre that works with individuals, families and communities affected by the conflict. Our wellbeing and holistic services include complementary therapies; life coaching; accredited training; personal development courses; counselling and psychological therapies;. It also seeks to better understand the experiences of people who have lived through the conflict by carrying out community focused research.

Purpose of the *Toolkit*

The Transitional Justice Grassroots Toolkit is a practical guide for people whose lives are changed by conflict and transition.* It is designed to empower, equip and encourage people in resource limited, post-conflict settings to consider how the tools of transition work in practice. The *Toolkit* is also available in Spanish and Arabic.

** The Transitional Justice toolkit title originates in Professor Colm Campbell's Transitional Justice Toolkits course at the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University.*

How it works

The Transitional Justice Grassroots Toolkit draws from experience and knowledge using a participatory approach to explore the causes and effects of conflict and the challenges of social reconstruction. These themes are represented by the Five Pillars framework. The *Toolkit* enables participants to map transition from the personal to the political.

Some useful words

- Grassroots** A reference to ‘ordinary people’ as distinct from the leadership of a group or an organisation; another meaning is ‘essentials’ – what is vitally important or absolutely necessary.
- Toolkit** Set of tools used for a particular purpose and including: personal skills and abilities; resources; map making tools.
- Transitional Justice** A form of justice associated with post-conflict legal and non-legal approaches to deal with past human rights abuses and enable a society to rebuild trust and repair; an area of academic research and advocacy.

Basics

What is Transitional Justice?

This is a kind of justice associated with times of political change. It is the term given to a range of legal and non-legal ways a society undertakes to deal with past human rights abuses including: institutional reform; truth commission; reparation; reconciliation; prosecution & amnesty. This strong focus on the past is matched by a concern with the future and social reconstruction.

Where does it come from?

The international court at the Nuremburg Trials marked the beginning of transitional justice in the 20th Century. In the last two decades it was often part of a negotiated agreement. There have been 640 peace agreements signed since 1990 linked to conflicts in over 85 jurisdictions.

When does it happen?

As a society works out how to deal with past human rights abuses it develops international and home-grown ways to obtain accountability and build social justice.

Why a *Toolkit*?

Past accountability and social justice affects everyone. This *Toolkit* enables those involved or interested in grassroots social justice work to join with others and take part in the social reconstruction of transition.

What is it for?

The *Toolkit* is a practical guide to transitional justice. It is designed to equip people in resource limited, post-conflict settings to explore the experience of transition in everyday life and to assess what does and doesn't work.

How does it work?

The *Toolkit* makes the most of participants' resources and experiences to put together a map of transitional justice. This explores the causes and effects of conflict, dealing with the past and building social justice.

Resources

International Centre for Transitional Justice, New York: www.ictj.org

Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University: www.transitionaljustice.ulster.ac.uk

TOOL 1

Dig Where You Stand

Complete the grid below to provide a checklist of grassroots group resources, knowledge and experience.

GRASSROOTS GROUP RESOURCES

Key conflict events & experiences	PERSONAL / ORGANISATIONAL	POLITICAL	LOCAL	GLOBAL
1960s-70s				
1980s-90s				
2000s-10s				
Current				
Transitional				

TOOL 2

The Five Pillars

Give an example for each of the Five Pillars from other national and international transitional sites. For example from Argentina, Bosnia, Cambodia, Chile, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Timor Leste or another transition.

GLOBAL GLIMPSE

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM	
TRUTH	
REPARATIONS	
RECONCILIATION	
PROSECUTION & AMNESTY	



Police officers in Belfast. The legislation following the Patten Report on policing represents a major piece of Northern Ireland's institutional reform.

North Belfast News @ Belfast Media Group

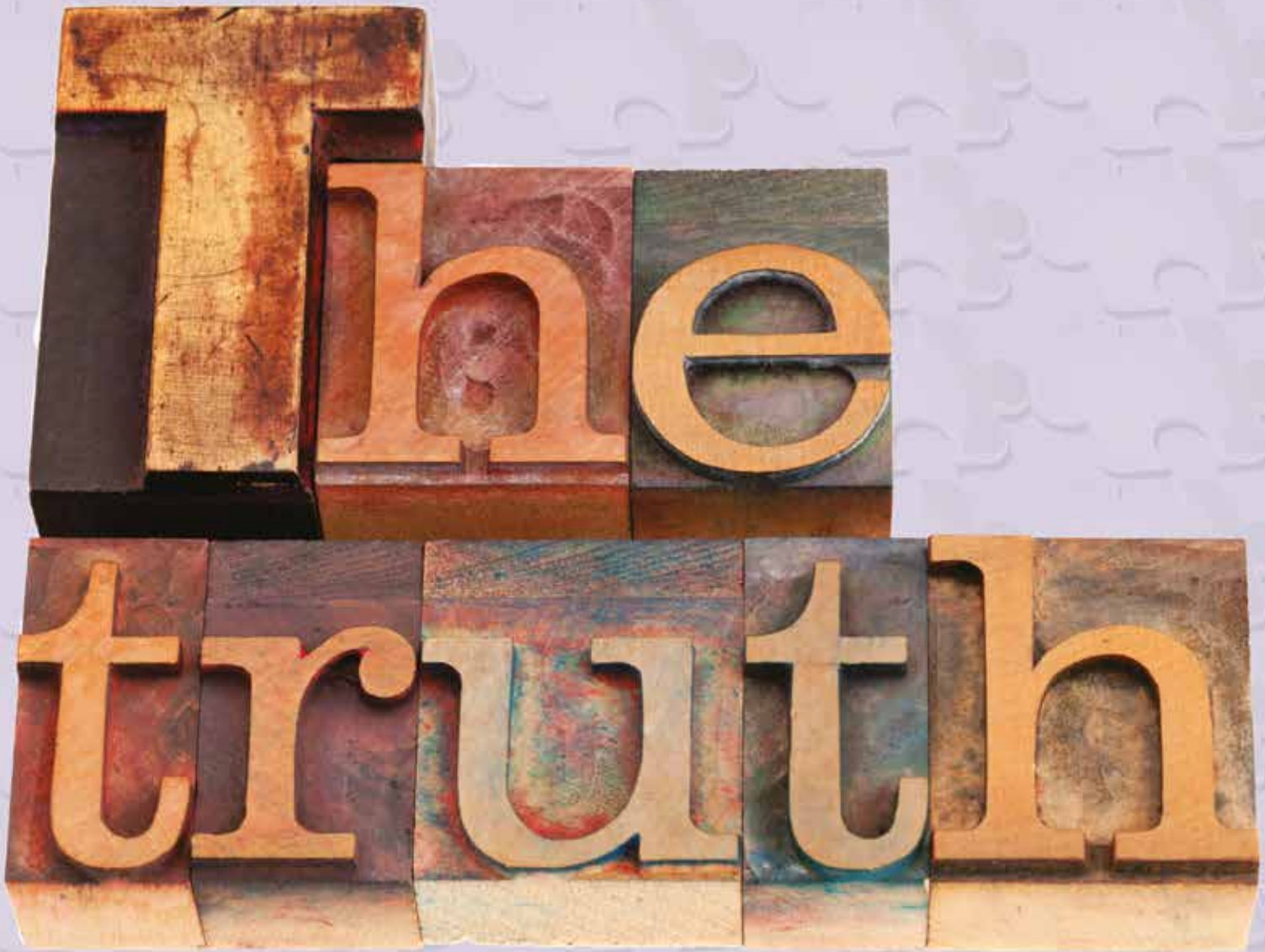
TOOL 3

Institutional Reform

Consider public institutions that have a direct impact on everyday life. For example, to do with: health, education, employment, housing, policing, security, justice, civil service, dealing with the past and so on. Name some that have been reformed in the course of transition. Indicate how useful these have been and give some reason for your view.

LOCAL EXPERIENCE

INSTITUTION	REFORM	VIEW	REASON



The Truth - One of transitional justice's key concepts and one that is most debated globally.

TOOL 4

Truth

Societies in transition find different ways of dealing with the ‘truth’ of what happened in the past. List the truth that is needed. Give reasons why and name ways to find this truth. Note some consequences. Examples can be from local and/or international contexts.

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES

TRUTH NEEDED ABOUT	REASON FOR SEEKING TRUTH	HOW TO FIND TRUTH	CONSEQUENCES



Crumlin Road Gaol, one of Europe's most high profile prisons that was closed in 1996 and which is now a significant tourist attraction.

TOOL 5

Reparations

What reparations happen after political conflict? What for? How? Who decides? What is excluded? Consider reparations made historically, locally and/or internationally.

HISTORICALLY, LOCALLY, INTERNATIONALLY

REPARATIONS?	WHAT FOR?	HOW?	WHO DECIDES?	EXCLUSIONS?



Beacon of Hope sculpture at Queen's Bridge or as it has been dubbed locally Nuala with the Hula was erected in 2007. It has become a symbol of peace and thanksgiving.

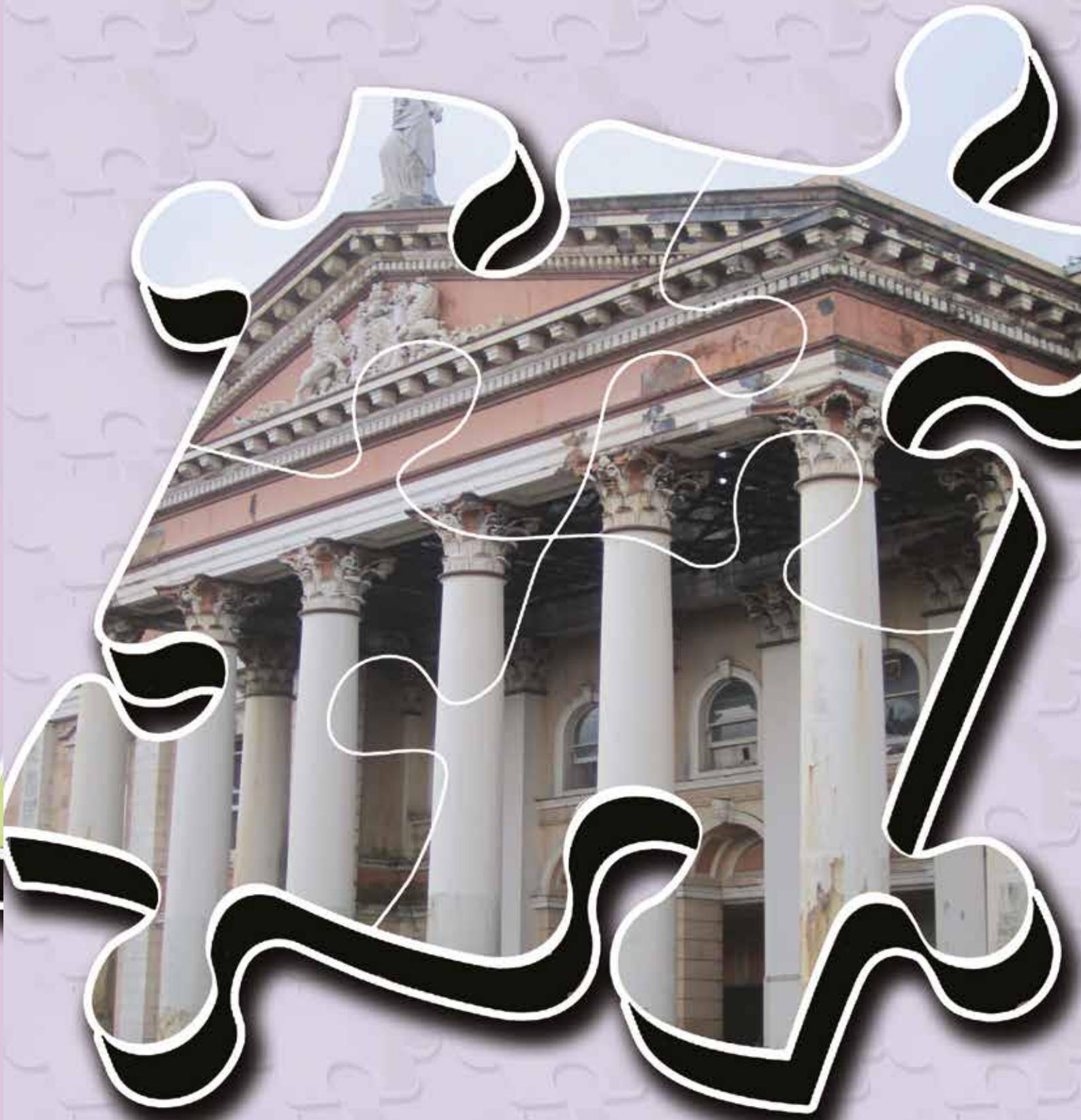
TOOL 6

Reconciliation

Which actions, events or processes do you see as involving post-conflict reconciliation?
What do they achieve? How? Suggest some pros and cons.

THINKING THROUGH PROS & CONS

WHICH?	WHAT?	HOW?	PROS & CONS?



Crumlin Road Courthouse: closed in 1998 this venue was the scene for many high profile cases including so called 'supergrass trials'.

TOOL 7

Prosecution & Amnesty

Give examples of prosecution and amnesty in transitions. What is the role locally and internationally? Note some examples and say what has to be taken into account. What are the problems?

DEALING WITH THE PAST

EXAMPLE	ROLE	INTO ACCOUNT?	PROBLEMS

TOOL 8

Map Making

Use the *Toolkit* to draw a map of transitional justice. The empty box is for a heading of your choice.

FROM THE PERSONAL TO THE POLITICAL

Key factors of personal experience	Collective & neighbourhood experience	Comment: Women, Men, Children	State, non-state & international actors	Equality & Human Rights	

Additional Resources

Amnesty www.amnesty.org.uk

Ashton Centre www.ashtoncentre.com

Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium www.bcrc.eu

Belfast Interface Project www.belfastinterfaceproject.org

Bridge of Hope www.thebridgeofhope.org

Commission for Victims and Survivors www.cvsni.org

Committee on the Administration of Justice www.caj.org.uk

European Court of Human Rights www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/homepage_en

Facing History And Ourselves www.facinghistory.org

Healing Through Remembering www.healingthroughremembering.org

International Centre for Transitional Justice www.ictj.org

International Conflict Research Institute www.incore.ulst.ac.uk

International Peace Institute www.ipacademy.org

Loughview Community Action Partnership www.l-cap.org

NI Community Relations Council www.nicrc.org.uk

NI Equality Commission www.equalityni.org

NI Human Rights Commission www.nihrc.org

Pat Finucane Centre www.patfinucanecentre.org

Relatives For Justice www.relativesforjustice.com

School of Law at QUB www.law.qub.ac.uk

United Nations High Commission for Refugees www.unhcr.org.uk

Victims & Survivors Service www.victimsservice.org

Wave Trauma Centre www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE BUILDING JUSTICE

To find out more about the Transitional Justice Grassroots Programme, a partnership between Ashton Community Trust through its Bridge of hope department and the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University contact:

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