

**Files of Christine Macy, Senior Speechwriter for the First Lady**  
**Box 3: Files**

Archived from OEOB 100 by Caroline Marvin on June 6, 2000

- ❖ HRC Speeches/Ireland '99
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ HRC Speeches '98 – Women Microenterprise
  - Microenterprise
- ❖ HRC Medicare/Social Security
  - Health Reform
- ❖ HRC Working Women
  - Microenterprise
- ❖ Social Security 1/23/99
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- ❖ HRC: The Hague
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ HRC/Ireland 95-98
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ Palermo/Slovenia '99
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ HRC Vital Voices Speeches
  - Vital Voices
- ❖ POTUS/Ireland
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ Vital Voices
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- ❖ Egypt/Tunisia/Mexico '99
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ HRC—Human Rights
  - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ HRC—Foreign Policy
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- ❖ Democracy/Human Rights
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- ❖ Chile '95
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- ❖ Chile '98, Speeches/TPS
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- ❖ Foreign Trips
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ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS **17205**  
UAM 14442

- ❖ HRC Stories
- ❖ Vital Voices/Stories
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- ❖ School Safety/Foster Care
  - Youth Development/After School/Violence
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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
OUR OBLIGATIONS TO EACH OTHER  
CONTINUING THE QUEST FOR PEACE  
MILLENNIUM LECTURE SERIES  
GALWAY, IRELAND  
MAY 12, 1999

Thank you for this tremendous honor. I'm so glad to be back in Ireland, especially in this beautiful city of Galway. It's a particular privilege to be here at the National University of Ireland. I want to thank your president, Dr. Patrick Fottrell; chancellor and former prime minister Dr. Garret Fitzgerald; mayor [Councillor Angela Lynch-Lupton] ; Ambassadors Sullivan and O'Huiginn; Celia Larkin [tk] aldermen; councillors; distinguished guests; and most important of all – the students of the National University of Ireland.

I also want to recognize a special special guest in our audience today: Margaret Dirrane – who is 105 years old. I'm told she's the oldest woman in the world to be conferred an honorary degree. Margaret was born in Ireland; she emigrated to the United States, and is now back in her beloved country.

She's a powerful symbol of the rich interplay – of lives and contributions and friendships -- that have existed between the people of our two countries for centuries. I think of the Irish men and women who began their journey to the new world in ships sailing from this port.

Some made America their home – part of the legacy of Irish Immigrants who have enriched, built, and lead our nation – and now number 40 million strong. And many are now returning here – as Ireland celebrates an almost unparalleled economic and cultural renaissance.

I know that this University opened its doors in 1849 during the height of the Famine – and you have continued to look forward ever since by teaching countless young people not only the arts and sciences, but timeless lessons about how we honor and serve each other, and use our educations to find peace for ourselves, and make our contributions to peace in our world.

[The topic of my remarks --“Our Obligations to Each Other: Continuing the Quest for Peace” – seems particularly fitting and timely as we end one century – and begin a new millennium.] Last month at the White House we held the sixth in a series of interactive Millennium lecture. The speaker was the Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, and his subject was the “Perils of Indifference.” He looked back on the history of the last one hundred, tumultuous years – and events of the past month.

He reminded us of the terrible destruction and human suffering that have occurred when evil has gone unchecked, when our sacred obligations to each other have been broken or ignored.

This past century has also taught us that economic and social progress is possible when people of different backgrounds, experiences and traditions let go of the past, when they let go of old hatreds – and decide that their common human obligations and potential common future offer greater promise than either indifference or antipathy. Peace in the 21st century will depend on whether we can overcome our past on behalf of that common future.

And nowhere has that progress toward peace been more successful than here, in Ireland. As another Nobel Peace Prize winner, Seamus Heaney – has written:

History says, Don't hope  
On This Side of the grave.  
But then, once in a lifetime  
The longed for tidal wave  
Of justice can rise up  
And hope and history rhyme.

Since I first visited Northern Ireland with the President in November of 1995, I have seen with my own eyes how far you've moved from history to hope.

We've seen it in the unparalleled economic growth [that is expanding opportunities for citizens, and helping you take your rightful place in the global economy.]

We've seen the movement from history to hope in the guns that have been silenced; the prisoners released; a truly representative assembly elected in the north. The signing of the 'Good Friday' agreement was celebrated not only here in Ireland, not only in America, but by peace-loving, democratic peoples around the world. And now, my husband and the American people have made a promise to stand with those who continue the hard work of implementing the Accord in its entirety.

We know that in the next century, sitting in these very seats, young people will look back at the last few decades and want to know how it happened? How was it that Ireland was able to move from history to hope? And I think they will say that, yes, there were courageous leaders, who were willing to take risks for peace.

But, more than anything, they will point to the people of Ireland -- young and old; men and women; Protestant and Catholic, who decided enough is enough. They knew it was time to end the bloodshed. Time to stop the hatred and the violence. Time to do better for our children. And so, in the North and the South, they set about doing the everyday work of peace in their homes, their schools, their workplaces, their communities.

I'll always remember the group of Protestant and Catholic woman I met in Belfast on my first visit there. We met at the Ye Olde Lamplighter, where we sat and sipped tea, and talked about what had brought these women together who had suffered so much pain and violence in their lives. How they realized that history and religion were keeping them apart even when they all wanted the same things: good jobs and good schools for their children. Streets you could walk down safely. Security and prosperity you could count on . A future you could believe in.

In the end, it was citizens like these raising their voices at the ballot box and on the soap box who are moving Ireland from hope to history, from war to peace, from the past to the future. And, in many ways, they are part of long tradition of peacemakers.

All over the world, I have met people who have seen the worst of what human beings can do, but who have summoned up the best of their humanity to bring peace and dignity to all. I have seen it in places as far from Ireland as Guatemala and El Salvador, where former combatants, who fought each other during bloody civil wars, have now sat down across the table from each other to create a lasting peace.

I saw that commitment to peace in a small community in Israel, where Christians, Jews and Muslims have decided to live side by side, to respect each other, and teach their children to do the same. I watched three young children celebrate their own traditions in a religious ceremony. One lit a Christmas tree; one a menorah; and one a Ramadan lantern. Each of them helped the other celebrate their faith. Each was learning how religion can serve its rightful purpose – as a source of strength and hope, not division.

In Bosnia, I met with a group of people -- Orthodox Christians, Catholic Christians, Muslims, representing each ethnic group who in the aftermath of the Bosnia conflict, were rebuilding their lives, their families, and their communities.

They gave me a small statue of a woman. Embedded in her knee is a piece of shrapnel – a symbol of the war and the pain the people there endured. But on her heart is her hand, and on her hand is the dove of peace. Looking at that statue – one cannot identify the ethnic or religious affiliation of that women. Only her confident smile that seems to say, I will dream and work for my children to live in peace.

As we think of those women in Bosnia, we can't help but think of the women and children and families of Kosovo, and the terrible suffering they are enduring as a result of the inhuman acts of Slobodan Milosovic – and his evil policy of ethnic cleansing.

I know that you have just received your first Kosovar refugees here over the past few days. And I know that you will offer them your hearts and your homes, just as you have always done for those in need. The Irish people have a long and honored history as peacekeepers around the world – whether it be in Bosnia or the Congo or Lebanon.

Last week, I met the first group of refugees to arrive in my country. There were grandmothers in shawls. There were students who spoke perfect English. There were children, some in diapers, others sitting on their mothers' laps. There was even one woman who gave birth shortly after she arrived. As I looked into the eyes of those children, I thought of the atrocities they had witnessed and endured. None of us will ever forget the haunting images of children crowded into trains, robbed of their homes, their families, their childhoods. These are images we never thought we'd see again in this century.

And yet, despite all they have suffered, the refugees I met wanted more than anything to be able to return home and begin rebuilding their lives in peace and safety. [That is why we are in Kosovo. And that must continue to be our goal.]

People in Kosovo – and all over the world – who want to know if it is possible to move from history to hope...can look to your example. And see that we are not destined to repeat our past. That human beings can let go of old hatreds. That we can learn that when the dignity of one of us is threatened, the dignity of all of us is threatened.

People can look to Ireland and see that even after generations of bloodshed, it is possible to come together to build a future of peace in Kosovo, in the Middle East; in every corner of the globe.

But, as we enter a new millennium, you can teach the world even more. You can teach that an enduring peace depends on not just the absence of conflict – but the presence of justice. How, then do we ensure – in the words of the poem we began with – the tidal wave of that justice can rise up?”

We know that justice can rise up only when every single citizen has access to the tools of opportunity. When all citizens have quality education, health care, jobs and credit. When all citizens can make their voices heard -- at the ballot box, in the board rooms and classrooms, at the national government and in the local government.

Justice cannot rise up unless women can take their rightful place in their families, their governments, their economies, their nations.

Eight months ago, I was privileged to help launch the Vital Voices Women in Democracy Conference in Belfast. Women had come from all over the island. There were members of both traditions. Some were experienced activists. One, who introduced me, was a high school student. But they all spoke the same language of hope.

As one woman described it: “ For many of us, it was the first time we realized a sense of possibility. We realized we could be the architects of a new Northern Ireland.” And they have. What was unleashed there is already having a profound effect not only on the progress of women – but on the progress of peace.

Tomorrow, I will have the pleasure of reconnecting with the men and women of Northern Ireland who have moved the Vital Voices initiative forward. During a video conference in Belfast, I will hear reports from Craigavon, Derry, and county Cavan about the progress that has been made in less than a year.

Today, public/private partnerships – some of them involving American companies and organizations -- are helping to strengthen community organizations, expand child care services; assist women in starting their own businesses, and strengthen women's leadership and advocacy skills.

I remember some of the young women who participated in the first Vital Voices conference. Some of them had come to Washington, D.C. earlier in the summer with the Children's Friendship Project to learn how to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities. On the day before one of them, Janette Rooney, came home, the Omagh bomb went off. Several of these students turned on the t.v. and saw their own friends being taken away to the hospital. One of Janette's best friends was killed.

When the director of the Children's Friendship Project called Janette at home a few days later to extend her condolences, Janette's mother mentioned how her daughter had just received an invitation to the Vital Voices conference. How, during this time of suffering and unspeakable loss, this conference gave Janette something to look forward to. And how proud her mother was that her daughter was part of the solution...part of a new generation...part of the future of Northern Ireland.

And that is exactly what you are working to create at this University – particularly at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Because as you know, justice will only rise up when the everyday lessons of peace and freedom and mutual respect are passed down to every generation.

And today, I'm very pleased to announce a new partnership between our two countries that will strengthen that important mission. The Irish government has agreed to join an American philanthropy – the Ferris Foundation – to create ten scholarships for outstanding African American graduate students to study at colleges in the north and south of Ireland – including here in Galway. I'm pleased that Michael Ferris – a member of the Irish parliament – is representing the Ferris family here today. All of us owe him and his family a debt of gratitude for this new initiative.

I'm also told that a group called Cooperation Ireland is helping to build trust and friendships between Catholic and Protestant children – by organizing exchanges across the border. Children who lived only a few miles from each other but have never met are now visiting each other's schools, and staying in each other's homes.

And they are beginning to learn the most important lesson of all: how to respect one another, how to understand that what unites us is so much stronger than what keeps us apart.

[And last year, the President announced a new children to children exchange, known as Civic Link – that will bring Protestant and Catholic young people together to promote civic involvement in their common communities. And I'm pleased that in just a few weeks, our Secretary of Education – and an Irish American – Richard Riley will be here to formally launch that initiative – which will involve students from schools in both the north and the south.]

Whether justice rises up will depend upon these young architects of peace in the next Millennium...it will depend upon the lessons we teach them, and the lessons they, in fact, will pass down.

I imagine that at the end of the next century students and faculty of the National University of Ireland will come together at a gathering similar to this. It might be a virtual lecture. The speaker might be separated from the audience by thousands of miles.

But the purpose will be the same. They will want to know how to move from hope to history, from the past to the future. And they will look at all we did to move them further down that road. What do you think they will say?

I hope they will say that we taught each generation that the work of peace is not an easy task, that we cannot simply take a vote or pass a law, that we have to struggle every day, as nations, as communities, as universities, but most of all, as individuals.

Only individuals can decide whether they are going to love or hate; whether we will respect one another or use their skin color; or gender, or religious faith as a reason enough to treat them as less than human. Only individuals can stay true to our obligations to each other as human beings. Only individuals can create a true and lasting peace.

This past year, my husband and I read a letter from a man whose family suffered because of the terrible bombing at Omagh. He wrote about his hope for his daughter: “We have a dream of what Ireland might be like when she grows up. Ireland could be a place where dreams would come true, where people would achieve things never imagined before; where people would not be afraid of their neighbors.”

All of you here today – and across this country, north and south, are the ones who will ensure that child – and every child of Ireland – will grow up in such a place. I will see a glimpse of that future later today, as I travel to Belfast, to see a park that will one day soon become a PlaySpace for the children of that community. It is the children themselves who have designed this playground.

They want to build a treehouse and a birdhouse. They want to have a footbridge; a maze constructed from bushes, and an environmental area to plant things in. In a few months, thanks to the work of two companies from America and Northern Ireland, and the young architects themselves, that quiet patch of soil will be filled with the joyful shouts of children.

Catholics and Protestant kids, once locked away inside for fear of violence – will play together for the first time.

They will learn to play without fear or prejudice. They will learn how to solve their problems without violence. And when they grow up and leave the playground, they will learn to be architects of communities where their children will always play in peace...where justice will rise up...and where, in the next century, hope and history will always rhyme.

Thank you for making that possible. Thank you for this tremendous honor. Thank you very much.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
VITAL VOICES TELECONFERENCE  
BELFAST, IRELAND  
MAY 12, 1999

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- I want to say how thrilled I am to be here with all of you, for this Vital Voices teleconference, and to hear first hand from the four Northern Ireland and border county sites about the remarkable progress you have made since the Vital Voices initiative was launched nine months ago. And I want to applaud Discovery for its public service announcement that began this meeting -- for reminding us once again that Vital Voices is both the work we do here in our own communities; and a powerful global democracy movement in which women are key players in their own destinies.
- First, I would like to thank Caroline Wilson for that kind introduction. I'm so pleased to see you again, and to hear your report today about what the young people of Ireland are doing in their communities, and the role they see themselves playing as leaders in new future of Northern Ireland.
- It's a particular pleasure to have so many people joining us who have played such pivotal roles in the Vital Voices initiative -- and without whom we would not be here today.
- It's a delight and an honor to have First Minister designate David Trimble and Deputy First Minister designate Seamus Mallon with us today, and have them take part in this important discussion. We all recognize their invaluable contributions to the success of the Vital Voices initiative last September, and their continued support on the ground, through their representatives on the Vital Voices Advisory committee.
- They both told me yesterday of their commitment to bring to life the new institutions of the Accord -- and their belief that peace is the single most important factor in ensuring economic development in this country. They also told me about their strong commitment to Vital Voices.
- And even though she was unable to make it here today, no one has been such a powerful guiding light to the Vital Voices initiative than my friend and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam. We are deeply grateful for both her political will and financial support for moving the work of the Vital Voices initiative forward.

- And thank you, Helen Jackson, for bringing a message from Mo to the conference, and for your own tireless leadership in the Vital Voices follow up.
- I want to recognize other strong leaders -- like Pearl Sager [SAY-ger] and Bronagh [BROO-NAH] Hinds -- whose leadership within the Vital Voices Community has been recognized by the international community -- with Pearl receiving the Order of the British Empire, and Bronagh -- selected as the UK Woman of the Year from the European Union.
- We definitely would not be here today without BT Northern Ireland -- and its dynamic leader, Lucy Wood -- who are sponsoring this video-conference. Thank you, Lucy, for your very generous support. I also think we should all applaud Pamela Ballentine, for being such a skillful moderator.
- I want to talk for a moment about how impressed I am with the extraordinary things that are happening as a result of the energy and hope that was unleashed at the Vital Voices Conference here in Belfast last year, which I was so privileged to attend.
- But first, I want to recognize the sense of loss we all feel about the murder of a remarkable woman -- Rosemary Nelson. The attack on her was an attack on the rule of law and the very fabric of your democratic system. It was also an attempt to derail your common efforts to bring about peace and inclusivity in Northern Ireland. Her killers must not be allowed to succeed, as we seek to bring them to justice.
- Today, you are showing all of Ireland that those forces for justice and empowerment are strong. And that the people of Northern Ireland -- particularly its women -- are coming together, and moving forward.
- As I look out across this room, I can see hanging on the wall a beautiful "peace quilt." It was created four years ago at the 4th UN Women's Conference on Women in Beijing -- where women of every religion, background; and culture came together to talk about their common goals, and to forge a common future.

- Each country brought a piece for the quilt, and after they sewed them all together, they stretched this beautiful patchwork across the Great Wall. As many of you know, the quilt from Ireland was woven together by women from both communities.

- That is what all of you are doing today -- as women from all walks of life weave communities together through shared experiences and resources and expanded tools of opportunity -- to strengthen the forces of peace and justice.

- Today, we've heard about a great partnership in Derry to train young people in tourism. We've heard that in County Cavan, women in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are sharing ideas for success and leadership in business. In Craig-GAH-von, communities and businesses are improving child care services -- to help parents balance work and family. And here in Belfast, we've heard about new strategies to sustain community organizations, and about new training seminars that have already helped women pursue careers in public life.

- I was thrilled to welcome some of you at the White House -- after you participated in some of those top level training and strategy sessions.

- None of these efforts would be possible without the public private partners who are working so closely with the Vital Voices initiative: partners like Ford Motor Company and Marriott, and many others. Stream International --- for example -- has just created a terrific new website for the Vital Voices of Northern Ireland to connect women; share ideas; and spread the word about some of the successful projects that we've spoken about here today.

- Making connections. Sharing resources and best practices. Promoting women's leadership. Weaving communities together. The work that you do as part of the Vital Voices initiative is all around us.

- Yesterday, I was privileged to meet with women members of the new Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont, and heard from them about their keen interest in exchanging ideas and building connections with the women in the Dail [DOYLE] of the Republic of Ireland -- as well the women in the new assemblies in Scotland, Wales, and the Parliament in London. This is a very exciting project.

- In my travels around the world -- in places like El Salvador -- I've seen the extraordinary progress that can be made when women legislators from different political parties and beliefs come together around common goals -- like family; and jobs; and the care of our children. And when I return home, I will work hard to help push this exciting effort along.
- Today, I want to congratulate all of you for the strides you are making in every community to empower women, and to strengthen the forces of democracy and peace here in Northern Ireland. Hearing from all of you, however, has made one thing very clear. All of you have taken ownership of this remarkable initiative. By creating a Vital Voices Advisory committee; by developing your own website; by building strong public partnerships in areas so critical to women -- you are making extraordinary progress. And like all of the people of Ireland -- north and south -- you are taking your destiny into your own hands.
- Thank you for giving me this opportunity to hear about that progress here today.