Symfiliosi, Cyprus

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Summer June 20, 2008

Rethinking Reconciliation and Cooperation with View to Reunification in Cyprus: Challenges for Citizens, Political and Social Actors

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Rethinking Reconciliation and Cooperation with View to Reunification in Cyprus: Challenges for Citizens, Political and Social Actors

Friday 20th and Saturday 21st June 2008, at the University of Nicosia

Conference Details
The two day conference will take place on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st June 2008, at the University of Nicosia (Intercollege), at the UNESCO Amphitheatre. It involves papers presented by scholars, researchers and activists followed by a discussant, who will have viewed the paper beforehand and who will be given 15 minutes to comment. Then the discussion will be open to the floor for questions and comments. The conference will be in English with simultaneous interpretation in Turkish and Greek. Conference is open to all.

Organisers: SYNFILIOSI/ UZLAŞMA (RECONCILIATION), ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORICAL DIALOGUE AND RESEARCH, CYPRUS SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFICE IN CYPRUS, RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE OF INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM AGAINST RACISM & NATIONALISM, CYPRUS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology).

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Concept
The conference aims to initiate a dialogue between the two communities on the concept as well as the potential for reconciliation and cooperation in Cyprus today: at a time when working groups and technical committees are engaged in a dialogue preparing the ground for the face to face meeting between the leaders of the two communities, academics, researchers, activists and concerned citizens cannot stand by and watch; they need to find ways to constructively engage in the debate over the future of Cyprus and contribute to building trust, communication and understanding between the two communities. The conference proposes to rethink the content, the prospects, the means and methods that need to be adapted to the specificities of Cyprus and to focus on three major dimensions of reconciliation which attempts to bring together the two communities:

- Rethinking education for peace;
- Rethinking the content, means and practices of reconciliation;
- Rethinking the politics of reconciliation and reunification.

Conference Programme
Friday 20th of June 2008

15:00-15:15 Welcoming speech: Fevzi Oseray & Nicos Trimikliniotis

15:15-16:30 Session 1: Education and Reconciliation
Discussant: Aydin Mehmet Ali
Chair: Charis Psaltis

Stavroula Philippou, Loizos Symeou, Mehves Beyidoglou & Shirin Jetha: Geography education for Reconciliation: Comparing geography educators’ views of European geography across the divide in Cyprus

Chara Makriyianni: History, museums and national identity

Antonis Antoniou, Maria Asvesta, Popi Grouta & James Corkhil: The Challenges for intercultural and integrated education for the English School

16:30-17:30 Session 2: Education and Reconciliation
Discussant: Yiannis Papadakis, Ulus Irkad
Chair: Eral Akarturk

Stavroula Philippou & Andrekos Varnava: Constructions of solutions (s) to the Cyprus problem: Exploring formal curricula in Greek Cypriot schools

George Stoyias, Herodotos Herodotou & Rena Hoplarou: “How peace will come?” What the books “I do not forget and I struggle” and the primary school anthologies want our children to learn

Dilek Latif: Peace Education in Divided Societies: Rewriting the history books in the north

17:30-17:45 Coffee break

17:45-18:00 Messages of support

18:00-18:30 Keynote speech by Professor Ari Sitas (University of Kwazulu-Natal): “Rethinking the Ethics of Reconciliation”
Chair: Nicos Trimikliniotis

18:30-19:45 Session 3: The relatives of the missing people as a catalyst to reconciliation
Discussant: Ari Sitas
Chair: Christos Stavrou

Speakers: Hussein Akansoy, Katerina Antona, Veli Beidoglu, Petros Shoupouris
Saturday 21st of June 2008

8:30-9:00  Registration

9:00-10:30  Session 1: Politics of Reconciliation
Discussants:  Ayla Gurel, David Officer
Chair: Maria Hadjipavlou

Rasmiye Alpar Atun: Prospects for development thinking and practice: Towards integrated and sustainable spatial development of Cyprus as a whole

Isabelle Calleja (University of Malta): The role of external players in democratization and conflict resolution in an island micro state: The case of Cyprus in the 21st century

Socratis Stratis: The notion of ignition project in architectures of emergency: Pyla Cyprus

10:30-11:00  Coffee break

11:00-12:00  Session 2: Institutions and processes of reconciliation
Discussants:  Fevzi Ozersay, Aristos Tsiartas, Erol Kaymak
Chair: Ayla Gurel

Nicos Trimikliniotis: Rethinking the Process of Reconciliation: Time for a Cypriot Truth & Reconciliation Commission?

Amaka Megwalu & Neophytos Loizides: Dilemmas of justice and reconciliation: Rwandans and the Gacaca Courts

12:00-12:30  Break [Sandwiches & Snacks]

12:30-13:50  Session 3: Research on Intergroup relations in Cyprus and reconciliation
Discussants:  Vassos Argyrou, Youli Taki
Chair: Josef Bayada

Charis Psaltis: Trust, contact and identities in the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot community

Dilek Latif: Prospects of reconciliation, co-existence and forgiveness in Cyprus in the post-referendum period

Gregory Ioannou: Beyond the Greek Cypriot No: an examination of its rationale and a vision for its transcendence

Hüseyin Çakal: Aspects of plurality in the public and private domain: The promise of Pyla

13.50-14.00  Concluding Remarks: Aris Sitas, Aydin Mehmet Ali, Vassos Argyrou
Chair: Nicos Trimikliniotis