

Bio: Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate (1976) Hon. President, Co-Founder Peace People, Northern Ireland.

Mairead (Corrigan) Maguire is a Nobel Peace Laureate (1976) Hon. President and Co-founder of the Peace People, Northern Ireland.

Mairead was responsible for co-founding the Peace People, together with Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown, in 1976, after her Sister Anne's three children were knocked down and killed by an I.R.A. (Irish republican Army) get-away car when a British soldier killed its driver. Consequently, a number of marches were organized in Northern Ireland demanding an end to the violence in Northern Ireland.

She had previously worked as a private secretary in a major Northern Ireland company and was a volunteer with a Catholic lay organization, where she began her volunteer work with adults, young people, and prisoners. Mairead is a graduate from the Irish school of Ecumenics.

She has continued her work with inter-Church and inter-faith Organizations, and is a member of the International Peace Council. She is also a Patron of the Methodist Theological College and N.I. Council for Integrated Education, and a member of the Nobel Women's Initiative.

Mairead has received many honours and awards, including an honorary doctorate from Yale University, the 'Pacem in Terris' Peace and Freedom Award, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 'Distinguished Peace Leadership Award' and the Nobel Peace Prize Award (1976).

Mairead is an active pacifist passionately committed to nonkilling and nonviolent social and political change. She believes 'When we reject weapons and war, when we uphold Human Rights and International Law, when we build nonkilling, nonviolent societies and world, refusing to kill each other but seeking nonviolent solutions to our problems, then we will have come of age as the human family'.

She has travelled to lobby successfully for the proclamation by the United Nations of the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence. She has written extensively and a selection of her written works has been published. "The Vision of Peace – Faith and Hope in Northern Ireland" is published by Orbis, New York. (Translated into Tamil and Urdu).

Mairead is married to Jackie Maguire, the widower of her sister Anne, who died in January, 1980. They have two children, in addition to the surviving three children from her sister's marriage.

www.peacepeople.com www.nobelwomensinitiative.com

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