



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

This article is courtesy of the North Wales Police website at

<http://www.north-wales.police.uk/nwpv2/en/home.asp>

The website has a video precis of the presentations

A symposium to discuss Language; Difference and Opportunity.

Language as a source of division, though not yet sufficiently recognised as a social problem, is far more apparent than language as a route to compromise. To explore this issue North Wales Police and the National Language and Cultural Centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn organised a symposium to consider the possibility of creating a Language and Cultural Reconciliation Centre in the region. If the Centre becomes a reality it will emphasise the use of language and culture not only to respond to tensions which arise because of the use of different languages but also to foster understanding and respect within a multi-lingual society.

A number of speakers agreed to take part. Colin Parry, who lost his son Tim to an IRA bomb which exploded in Warrington in 1993, was the first of our presenters. He created 'The Foundation for Peace' because of his experiences

<http://www.colinparry.co.uk/>

<http://www.foundation4peace.org/>

Mikel Irujo Amezagao, Member of the EU and European Committee on Culture and Education, and native of the Basque region, gave a fascinating insight into many of the wider political issues.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/inOut/viewIncoming.do?language=EN&id=38733>

The 'expert view' was provided by two members of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts: the lawyer and poet, Emyr Lewis and the academic and linguist, **Dr Rob Dunbar**.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/staffmember.php?ID=52>

Richard Brunstrom spoke on the subject of 'Policing Language'. We were also delighted to have an input from the Welsh Culture Minister, Alun Fred Jones. You will see, from this line-up, that we weren't ducking any of the issues.

The symposium coincided with the UNESCO year of languages and took place in the impressive surroundings of the Bangor Management School, on Friday 10th October.

www.unesco.org/culture/

The PPP comments We are not totally clear how more language diversity will generate world peace and better understanding. The originators of Esperanto (in 1887) hoped to achieve this by encouraging us all to speak a common language as well as our own. **<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esperanto>**

It is a very complex subject and for ANY English speaking people, they have the advantage that it is often the preferred 2nd language across the world. This gives us an opportunity and a significant responsibility in international affairs and politics. Irrespective of language, real and sympathetic understanding, as described by Colin parry should be our priority.