

UNITY 2017 - CALL FOR PAPERS

Care, Connection & Context: Commitment to Relational Based Practice 13th – 15th November 2017, Regency Airport Hotel (Whitehall), Dublin, Ireland

The Gateway Organisation, in conjunction with TransformAction International, Empower Ireland and CYC-Net, are delighted to broadcast this Call for Papers for the 4th annual 'Unity through Relationship' International Conference.

The event is open to all who are involved in the provision of care, education, therapy and other services to children, youth and families, including but not limited to: front-line practitioners (social work, social care, teachers, family support staff), clinicians, educators, justice professionals, mental health staff, therapists, researchers, managers, carers and students.

*The theoretical basis for effective child and youth care is the creation and maintenance of the **therapeutic relationship from within the life space** of the client. All other intervention strategies and theoretical applications are secondary to the creation and maintenance of this vital element (Phelan¹, 2003).*

An effective alliance with the children, youth, families and communities whom we provide support and services to is essential if we are to be of any true assistance to them. At the foundation of this is an understanding of key principles such as; making connections, understanding context and really caring. Unity2017 is seeking to draw from the expert knowledge of colleagues who have a particular interest in exploring these concepts and sharing their insights with colleagues.

Thom Garfat explained in 2003 that a relational approach is '....the presence of the necessary clarity, boundaries and relationship-based expectations that provide containment while promoting empowerment and growth.' Unity2017 will provide a platform to expand on this radical statement.

The objectives of this 3-day conference are:

- (i) to provide a forum to present thinking and share views and practice experiences;
- (ii) to aid in the understanding of the components of relational practice;
- (iii) to share progressive and contemporary knowledge, with a focus on a relational response.

At this time, we are sending out a **call for papers** seeking applications to join our keynotes, Jack Phelan of Grant MacEwan University, Alberta and Dr Larry Brendtro of Resilience Resources, South Dakota. to contribute to the conference theme. If you have an idea you would like to propose or want some help with the application process, we will be happy to provide support.

Completed application forms to be returned to: info@empowerireland.com.
Visit the Unity WEBSITE for more information and to view videos from previous years:
www.unitythroughrelationship.com

¹ Phelan, J. (2003). Child and youth care family support work. In T. Garfat (Ed.), *A child and youth care approach to working with families* (pp. 67-77). Binghamton, NY: Hawthorn Press.

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Call for Papers – Unity 2017	
Name of Contributor/s	
Session Name <i>(working title is acceptable at this time)</i>	
Session Structure <i>(45-minute plenary/workshop or 90-minute workshop)</i>	
Session Detail Please provide a brief description/abstract of your presentation (up to 150 words)	
Key Messages Please list the intended outcomes for participants (bullet points).	
Presenter Bio Provide a brief biography for each presenter (150 words max)	
Special needs	