Perspectives on Police Reform and Abolition from Northern Ireland and the United States

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2021 | 12:00 PM

This panel will be a comparative exploration of policing in Northern Ireland and the United States and of those efforts by community activists to reform the police and policing practices. The nationalist/repulican community in Northern Ireland and communities of color in the United States have a shared historical experience of the police not having the support of the community they were there to serve. Police reform was central to the peace negotiations in Northern Ireland and a key part of the Good Friday Agreement. In the US and specifically, Los Angeles, police in communities of color have been heavily armed, enact disproportionate numbers of arrests and focus on suppression, while the communities of color need support. This panel is an opportunity for activists to share insights on why fundamental reform of policing is essential and share visions of what a just system of public safety would look like.

SPEAKERS
Conor Houston, Director, Houston Solutions Ltd.
Andrée Murphy, Deputy Director, Relatives for Justice
Fernando Rejón, Executive Director, Urban Peace Institute
Debbie Watters, Director, Northern Ireland Alternatives
Joseph Paul, Jr., Managing Director, LA Regional Reentry Partnership

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