

# PROJECT CHILDREN A LANDMARK EXHIBITION

On the evening of 8th of October 2025, Monaghan County Museum opened the landmark exhibition *The Project Children Stories*. The launch of the exhibition coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the pioneering Project Children initiative that gave thousands of young people from Northern Ireland the opportunity to escape the violence during the Troubles.

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Comhairle Chontae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council



*The Project Children Stories* exhibition charts the experience of children from both sides of the community in Northern Ireland as they visited host families in the USA, and the impact it had on their future lives. The exhibition also honours the legacy of the pioneering Project Children initiative and its co-founder Denis Mulcahy.

The exhibition is open Mon to Fri 11am – 5pm & Sat 12pm – 5pm.



Campas Síochána  
**Mhuineacháin**

**Monaghan**  
Peace Campus

# COURT HOUSE GATHERING



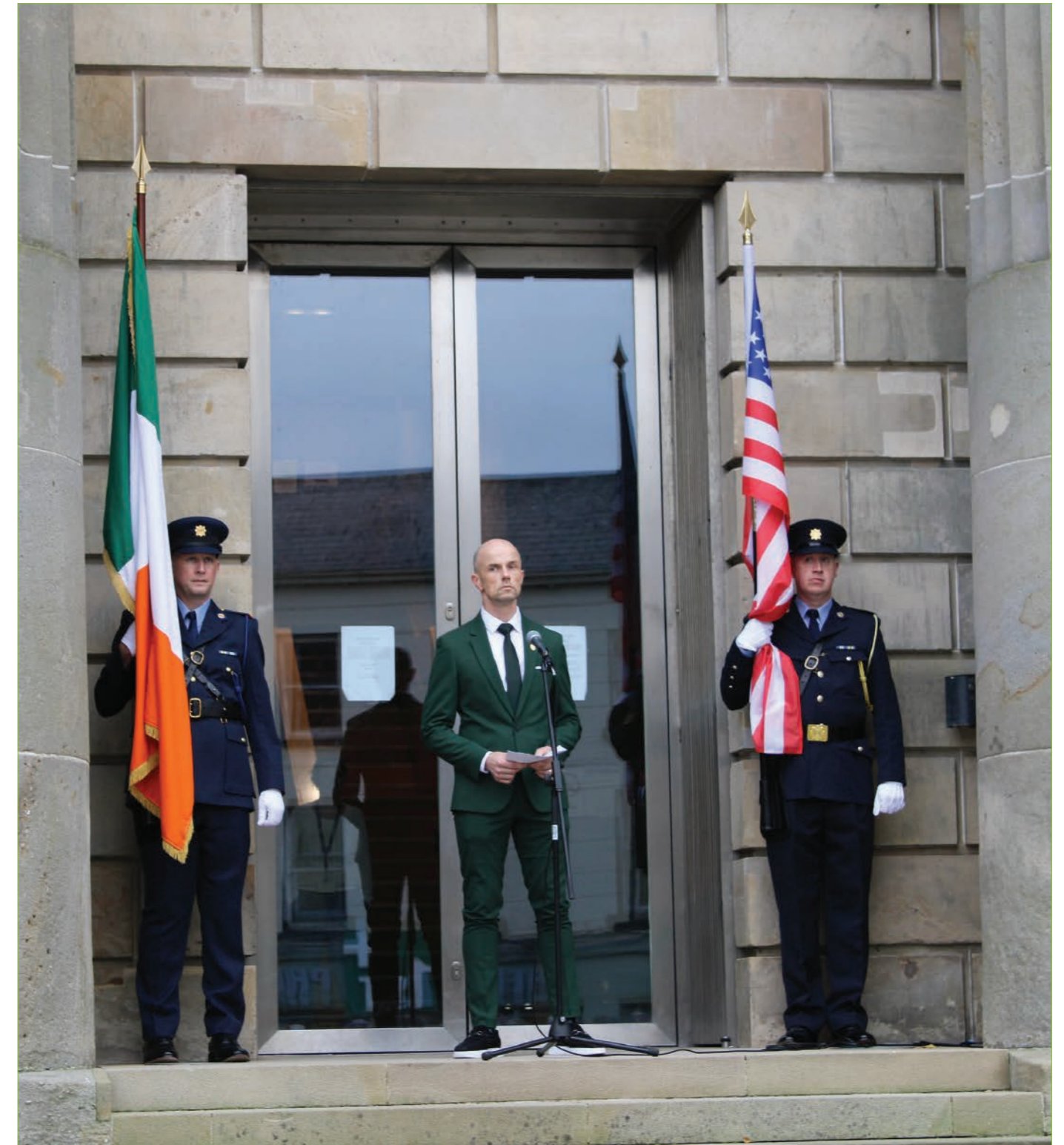
What was a historic day for Monaghan County Museum and County Monaghan began in the equally historic Courthouse Square in the centre of Monaghan town. Many expectant faces looked on in anticipation as the bang of the drum and the sound of the pipes reverberated around the stone edifices of Monaghan.

*The Garda and New York Police Department (NYPD) Pipe and Drums bands approaching the Courthouse.*

The Garda and New York Police Department (NYPD) Pipe and Drums bands came into formation on the square in preparation for a parade which would take them, along with a large contingent of Project Children visitors from the US, Northern Ireland and further afield, to the Peace Campus for the official launch of 'The Project Children Stories – A Legacy of Peace lives on in Monaghan'.



*The crowds gathered at the Court House in Monaghan Town for the launch of The Project Children Stories.*



*Monaghan County Museum Curator, Liam Bradley, welcomed everyone to The Project Children Stories launch and flag raising at the Court House.*

Monaghan County Museum Curator, Liam Bradley, mounted the steps of the Courthouse and flanked by a colour guard of the Irish and US flags gave a context for the day and why Project Children had come to Monaghan:

*together, and this new exhibition is a physical representation of that commitment. We now look to build on the legacy of Project Children as we start our new journey in the Peace Campus".*

*"These are two ideas which at their core are about providing a safe space for everyone; Project Children and Monaghan County Museum at the Peace Campus bring communities*

*The parade was then led by Project Children Chairman and co-Founder Denis Mulcahy and his family. It was a day that the county will not soon forget.*

# PARADE

Leaving the Court House, the NYPD Band and Garda Band made a splendid sight as they led the parade through the town via the North Road towards the Peace Campus. This represented yet another historic moment as it marked the first time the two bands marched and played together in Monaghan.



The NYPD Band parade through Monaghan Town to the opening of the The Project Children Stories exhibition at the Peace Campus.



Members of the Gaelic Cultural Society visiting for the launch of The Project Children Stories.



The Garda Mounted Support Unit parading in Monaghan.

The Garda Band were accompanied by their colleagues from the Garda Ceremonial Unit, and Mounted Support Unit as they processed through the town.

# PEACE CAMPUS

The parade halted at the front of the Peace Campus and Denis Mulcahy was invited to inspect the honour guard from An Garda Síochána before entering the building.



Denis Mulcahy inspecting the Garda honour guard outside the Peace Campus.

Inside the packed Peace Campus the crowd listened to moving speeches. Denis Mulcahy spoke about how the launch of the exhibition in Monaghan was deeply personal: That the marking of 50 years of Project Children was more than a look back, and should be about ensuring the lessons and friendships of the initiative continue to inspire.

Cathaoirleach of Co. Monaghan P J O'Hanlon welcomed the Mulcahy family and the visiting Americans and assured everyone that the Project Children Archive will be cherished and preserved in Monaghan for generations to come.



Denis Mulcahy speaking at Monaghan Peace Campus.



Cathaoirleach P J O'Hanlon speaking at the opening of the The Project Children Stories launch.

Before The Project Children Stories exhibition was formally opened many people had the opportunity to have photographs taken with Denis and Miriam Mulcahy.



Front row, (left to right): Denis Mulcahy, Miriam Mulcahy, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor P.J. O'Hanlon.  
Back row: Elected members of Monaghan County Council.



Front row, (left to right): Denis Mulcahy, Miriam Mulcahy, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor P.J. O'Hanlon.  
Back row, (left to right): Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Directorate of Economic Development, Planning & Capital Projects; Olga McConnon, Director of Services, Directorate of Finance, Housing & Cultural; Robert Burns, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council; Peadar O'Lamhna, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ms Carmel O'Hare Director of Services, Directorate of Corporate Services and Innovation.



The extended Mulcahy family visiting the Peace Campus for the launch of The Project Children Stories exhibition.

Before moving to the ribbon cutting ceremony to open The Project Children Stories the crowd were treated to a musical performance by Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan who played a specially commissioned piece composed by Michael Rooney to celebrate the story and spirit of Project Children.



Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan performing at the launch of The Project Children Stories exhibition.

# THE PROJECT CHILDREN STORIES EXHIBITION



Monaghan County Museum Curator: Liam Bradley discusses the exhibition with Denis Mulcahy and his wife Miriam.

With the ribbon cut, the crowds thronged in to view the exhibition that charts the human stories behind the simple idea that changed the lives of many children from Northern Ireland. The Project Children story began in the summer of 1975 when six children, three Protestant and three Catholic travelled to Greenwood Lake, a small town in New York State for a six-week holiday. The idea, the brainchild of Denis Mulcahy and his brother Patrick, was simple yet powerful: to give children from the divided communities in Northern Ireland a break from 'The Troubles' in a place where they could just be kids.

The exhibition brings together photographs, personal testimonies, and rare video footage that records the visits of Northern Irish children. From the first six in 1975, Project Children organised for some 23,000 children over the following decades, to escape the violence of everyday life in Northern Ireland!

Over the years the visiting children experienced a peaceful life with 16,000 host families spanning twenty-two states across the US. This volunteer run program was ably supported back home in Northern Ireland by a team of Project Children Coordinators.



Denis Mulcahy with Catherine Flood (left) and Linda Croston (right) volunteer coordinators of Project Children at the exhibition launch.



Map in the exhibition showing the Project Children Coordinator locations across Northern Ireland.



Visitors perusing the The Project Children Stories exhibition.

The exhibition also focusses on Denis Mulcahy and his life of dedication and work for peace. Denis, who was born in Co. Cork emigrated to America at the age of seventeen. He joined the New York Police Department, progressing to the elite NYPD Bomb Squad where he spent most of his service.

Denis has been the recipient of many awards: These include the NYPD Medal of Valor, the Benemerenti award from Pope John Paul II, an OBE by Queen Elizabeth II and a Presidential Distinguished Service Award from Irish President Michael D. Higgins. As the 1995 recipient of the Top Cop award Denis Mulcahy first met President Bill Clinton, who later invited him to be part of the official entourage for his historic visit to Northern Ireland.



(Left to right): Liam Bradley, Monaghan County Museum Curator; Robert Burns, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council; Denis Mulcahy, Project Children Chairman and Co-Founder; Miriam Mulcahy.

The exhibition showcases some of the unique archive of objects, images, video and interviews that document the fifty years of Project Children. This archive has been transferred to Monaghan County Museum at the Peace Campus. Speaking at the exhibition opening, Denis Mulcahy alluded to the shared ethos of the archive's new home and Project Children, stating:

"It's a true honour to see the Project Children exhibition housed at the Monaghan Peace Campus. It feels especially fitting that the story of the programme, and of all those who shaped it, is being preserved in a place so deeply connected to the values we stood for".

Project Children Stories exhibition at Monaghan County Museum is open to visit free of charge at the Peace Campus Monday – Friday, 11am – 5pm and Saturday 12pm – 5pm.



At the Peace Campus a tree-planting ceremony occurred to mark the building as the new home of the Project Children archive. Picture (left – right) Councillor P.J. O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; Denis Mulcahy, Project Children co-founder; Miriam Mulcahy; Robert Burns, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council; Liam Bradley, Monaghan County Museum Curator.



Plaque commemorating the cultural partnership between Monaghan Co. Council and Project Children at the Peace Campus.



Monaghan County Museum team (back row, left – right) Patricial Barbour, Denise Henry, Anna McCann, Liam Bradley, Theresa Loftus, Helen Doherty with (front row, left to right) Denis Mulcahy, Miriam Mulcahy and Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor P.J. O’Hanlon.

**PLEASE CHECK MUSEUM WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

**[www.monaghan.ie/museum/](http://www.monaghan.ie/museum/) and Facebook page or call us on 047 82928**

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  Twitter:@museum\_county 
  Website: <https://monaghan.ie/museum/>