FACING OUR HISTORY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Facing History and Ourselves began working in Northern Ireland in 2003, and since 2010 we have partnered closely with Corrymeela—Northern Ireland’s oldest peace and reconciliation organization—to help teachers and students address the Troubles and their legacies. We have trained over a thousand educators, civil society representatives, key educational stakeholders, and students in an effort to support the development of democratic citizens who are ready to face the past and create positive change in their schools and communities.

A UNIQUE APPROACH
We enable teachers and students to wrestle with complex issues, past and present, through our proven approach exploring identity and belonging, prejudice and discrimination, and legacy and memory through the lens of pivotal moments in history, such as the Holocaust. We provide teachers with resources that align with the Northern Ireland Curriculum across several subject areas, particularly in the teaching of History and Local & Global Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4. Facing History’s work and methods informed the 2007 Northern Irish curriculum revision, which now requires teaching the “causes and consequences of partition” and provides guidance based on our approach.

OUR WORK IN NORTHERN IRELAND

500 educators using Facing History materials
40,000+ students reached each year

OUR PARTNER: CORRYMEELA

In partnership with Corrymeela, we provide workshops for teachers, pre-service teachers, and whole schools. Corrymeela also works directly with young people to explore identity, diversity, community, and historical case studies.
“The great thing about Facing History/Corrymeela courses is that they always leave you with the feeling that there is work to do, work that is both necessary and essential. These courses always provide you with the tools to embark on that work.”

- Denver Charles, Magherafelt High School

OUR WORK IN ACTION

TEACHING CIVIL RIGHTS

Facing History’s case studies on civil rights are key resources for our work fostering nonviolent change, democracy building, and youth leadership in Northern Ireland. Denver Charles, a teacher at Magherafelt High School, leads a shared education program that brings 250 students from different backgrounds together each year to learn about civil rights movements in the U.S. and Northern Ireland. Using oral history methods, including live video conferencing with U.S. civil rights leaders Dr. Ernest “Rip” Patton and Dr. Sybil Hampton, Mr. Charles helps students learn from the stories of people who have stood up against injustice and sectarianism.

USING THE PAST TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

At Facing History and Ourselves, we believe the bigotry and hate that we witness today are the legacies of brutal injustices of the past. Through our partnerships, we help educators around the world face our collective history and address racism, antisemitism, and prejudice—so that their students can connect difficult choices made in the past to those they will confront in their own lives. Together, we are creating the next generation of leaders who will build a world based on knowledge and compassion.

Facing History reaches more than 100,000 educators who reach millions of students every year through our nine regional locations and international partnerships in France, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and beyond.

OUR MISSION

Facing History and Ourselves uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate.