



2019 Conference Report

Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams Mentors Young People at UK Youth Leadership Conference

PeaceJam UK's annual youth leadership conference at the University of Winchester, took place on 9 and 10 March with Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams from Northern Ireland.

Betty Williams is the co-recipient of the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, for creating the Peace People movement with Mairead Corrigan Maguire, which called for an end to the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland during The Troubles.

The conference was attended by one hundred young people from Universities, schools and youth groups across the UK; giving them the unique opportunity to learn from the inspirational experiences shared by Betty Williams.

Young people explored how to take nonviolent action to solve problems in their community, with a particular focus on tackling knife crime, climate change and mental health problems; issues which are increasingly impacting the lives of young people.

Students presented their local community projects to an audience, as part of the One Billion Acts of Peace movement – a fundamental element of the educational PeaceJam programme.

Results from our conference evaluation demonstrate that ninety-three percent of young people agreed that attending the conference has inspired and empowered them to make positive change in themselves, their communities and in the world. Likewise, ninety-three percent of young people agreed that they are committed to learning how to problem-solve without resorting to violence.

One twenty year old male student from Wales commented, "After attending the PeaceJam conference, I realise young people do have a voice and we can make a difference.

I am personally committed to being a leader for change in my community using nonviolent methods."



PeaceJam UK Conference with Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams
Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March 2019