

Rapport

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CYWU assumes secretariat of National JNC

4,000 more Youth Workers still needed

Further details of T&G Merger

The logo for the Community and Youth Workers' Union (CYWU) is displayed in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a black outline, set against a dark, curved rectangular background that resembles a speech bubble or a banner.

Journal of the Community and Youth Workers' Union

Founded 1938

Off to Colombia

Conference agreed to fund a delegate to go on the annual TUC and Justice for Colombia visit to Colombia. Chair of Education and Training Ian Richards (see photo) will be representing the Union on a ten person delegation for one week from the end of September.

CYWU members will be aware from previous Rapport articles, motions, conference debates and guest speakers that Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist and community activist. Thousands of those leading struggles for social justice against the military junta have been assassinated. Over 4,000 trade unionists have been killed over the last 15 years.

The annual trade union visits seek to highlight the terrible situation to the world and put pressure on the Colombian regime. We are delighted that Ian, who brings a wealth of developmental association experience and international solidarity work with him, will be representing us at this important international delegation.

Unfortunately military aid from Britain to Colombia is part of the problem. Trade unionists in Colombia are killed with weapons made here. Sources close to the UK government have indicated that the value of annual arms exports to Colombia exceed £1,000,000. The largest increase in licenses to arms manufacturers was in 2004. We need to pressure the British government to stop these exports and stop granting licenses.



American youth workers come to the U.K.

U.K. – U.S. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORKER EXCHANGE

Making connections that count in the lives of youth workers and young people around the world.

We came, we saw and we were changed forever. Sincere thanks to the Community and Youth Workers Union and all our youth worker friends in the United Kingdom for opening your homes, your work and your lives to your friends from Indiana.

The intent behind the International Youth Worker Exchange was to develop partnerships with sister countries from around the world. We were looking for a country where Indiana youth workers could build life-long relationships, share best practices in youth work, consider how professional youth worker associations enhance the field and explore how academic preparation is approached for prospective youth workers. The Community and Youth Workers Union was the ideal organisation and youth workers in the U.K. created unbelievable experiences for their Indiana colleagues who came to visit.

Paul Basset with Options 2000 had this to say, "Professionally this experience has been life changing for me. I had no idea what to expect and I am amazed at what I have learned and the relationships I was able to develop in such a short period of time. I will consider my American peers as mates for life."

A delegation of thirty Indiana youth workers travelled from the United States to the U. K. as part of the first International Youth Worker Exchange in April 2005. The Journey Fellowship, a fellowship program that explores meaning and renewal in the field of youth work, coordinated the trip (http://www.cpyinc.org/iywe_page2.htm). Journey Fellows who participated in the exchange represented youth development organisations, mentoring programs, youth philanthropy, faith-based initiatives, national health, sports and citizenship programs, juvenile justice programming, specialised education programs as well as programs developed for disabled youth and at-risk teens.

Delegates were matched with youth workers in the U.K who did similar work. Indiana youth workers were graciously hosted in the homes of U.K.

youth workers and had the opportunity to accompany the U.K. youth workers to their work. Each person was able to experience youth and community work, observe the function of youth workers in their own environments and learn about pressing professional issues of the Youth and Community Workers Union while attending the CYWU Conference in Southport.

According to Megan Howey, Indiana youth worker, "The Exchange helps to broaden and expand ideas, and share best practices. This will help both youth and youth workers in all countries involved."

Not only did the Exchange create a new level of awareness between youth workers on both sides of "the Pond" but also an awareness that the challenges facing today's youth are greater than they have ever been. The resources and determination we need to make an impact on their young lives requires more than it has ever required from us as professionals, from our governments and from the private sector.

Plans are underway to host U.K. youth workers in Indiana in the fall of 2006. Youth workers from U.K. will be hosted in the homes of Indiana youth workers and matched according to their specific interest in youth work. In addition, U.K. youth workers will have the opportunity to meet with private funders of youth programs and better understand how non-governmental support is garnered for youth programming in U.S.

For questions or more information, please contact Janet R. Wakefield, The Journey Fellowship Leader at thejourneyemail@aol.com.



Journey Fellows Andy Miller, Janet Casey-Allen, Amanda Suntken and Jean Melvin with Terry Mattison, CYWU Member