



THE WHITE DOVE

Margaret Gibney

I wrote the White Dove in 1996. I was 13 years old and despite the political and social momentum building to bring peace to Northern Ireland, the threat of armed violence was still very much a part of my life growing up on the Shankill Road in Belfast. I was involved in the Wall of Peace Project at my school, Mount Gilbert Community College. As a child I loved to write poetry and was inspired by the letters and poems of support we received to The Wall of Peace* project from world leaders, politicians, musicians, actors and sports personalities.

The White Dove is a call to the end of violence in my community and a wish for the freedom and safety offered by peace. The poem was later set to music and we sang The White Dove as part of the All-Ireland Cross-Community Choir receiving first prize in the 1998 All Ireland Peace Song Competition.

Stop the killing!
Silence the gun!
Let the Belfast children
Skip and run.

Think of others!
Think of peace!
Think of letting
The weapons cease.

Think how lovely,
Peace could be.
The people of Belfast
Fearless and free.

As time goes by,
We'll learn to love,
The sign of peace
The pure white dove.

Light Up Our World