

# Opening Doors Workshop

## Registration Form

Name	
Country	
Address	
Phone No	
Email	

Return completed registration to:

Helen Lowry  
C/O Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
55 Parnell Square West  
Dublin 1  
[helen@mrci.i](mailto:helen@mrci.i)  
01 8897570

*Please let us know if you have any accessibility  
or dietary needs*

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## Retreat Dates in Ireland The January Opening Doors

### Sponsored by:

Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation  
Glencree  
Co Wicklow

### Retreat Schedule

**Opening Doors** begins at 10 a.m. on Friday and concludes at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Participants are expected to attend for the full three days. Food and accommodation will be provided for all. Payments are available towards participation costs if required. Please call Helen – 01 8897570 if you have any questions about this requirement.

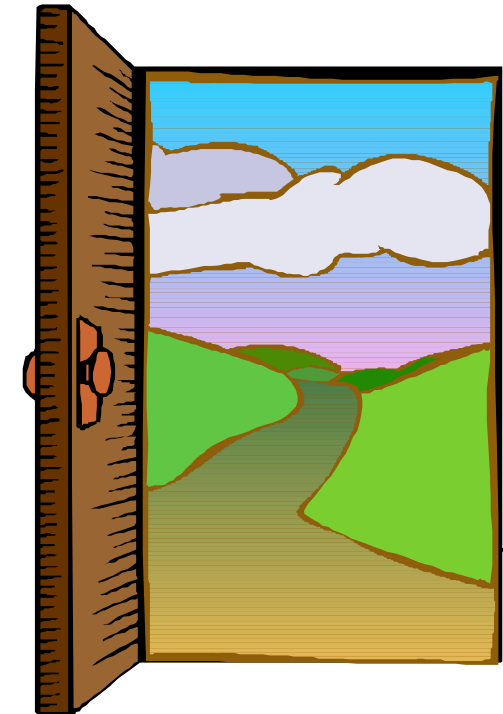
### For more information and to reserve a place please contact

Helen Lowry  
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
55 Parnell Square West  
Dublin 1  
01 8897570  
[helen@mrci.ie](mailto:helen@mrci.ie)

**Before Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

# Opening Doors

*A personal and  
professional journey*



### Mission

The Diversity Project's mission is to provide **quality leadership, technical assistance, training and education that support all dimensions of diversity.** The approach used is distinguished by its vision, by the safe and expansive learning opportunities it creates and its research base.

## What is Opening Doors?

*Opening Doors* is a highly valued, time-tested workshop model for creating a climate for constructive change on diversity for individuals and organisations. For more than 15-years over 1500 participants have experienced the *Opening Doors* three-day retreat. It utilises a holistic approach, focusing on both participants' cognitive and affective growth.

In the *Opening Doors* workshop participants will:

- increase their understanding of diversity by identifying and learning more about their own identity groups;
- develop a common language for talking about power, privilege and difference;
- examine how institutional and personal practices maintain inequalities among people and prevent us all from reaching our full potential;
- identify practical strategies for implementing and facilitating change collectively; and
- build alliances and networks.

## Opening Doors workshop

**uniqueness:** Integrated throughout the *Opening Doors* workshop are three critical elements for creating change on diversity:

1. **Dissatisfaction** with the status quo
2. An inclusive and sustainable **vision** for what can be, and
3. A **process** for getting there

The workshop model is based on a foundational belief that understanding differences and ourselves is a life-long learning journey. This belief supports the creation of a safe learning community free of blame and guilt where participants are engaged and

curious at all stages of personal development. Each person's experience is honored and participants are invited to respectfully share their personal histories from his/her group identities. Diversity is explored through multiple group identities, which allows participants to see themselves in the complexity of their lives and interpersonal relationships across many differences. Participations are invited to create a collective vision that is transformative and based on power-with strategies for change. Finally, *Opening Doors* introduces a lifelong framework for individual and institutional change.

## Who Can Participate?

Everyone in your organisation! *Opening Doors* is beneficial to all employees including educators, professionals, team leaders, support personnel, administrators, executive directors and participants of your organisation's work. This combination of people adds a dimension of diversity that brings much richness to the process.

## What Past Opening Doors Participants Have Said?

*"I really enjoyed this workshop. It's a tool that will be with me always. Thanks for your expertise and your willingness to make a difference"* - Anonymous 2002

*"This three day session was very important and inspiring in helping me value people from other groups and understand more about myself."* Andrea Parrot, Professor, Policy Analysis & Management – Cornell 2000

*"This workshop provided me the opportunity to learn things about myself and how to value differences in individuals. I grew as an individual who will now share my insights with my staff, co-workers and friends."* Anonymous

*"I now know that my journey has begun and I would like to say that this has been the most inspiring and fulfilling training I have attended. If I had to do it all over again, I would not hesitate for a moment."*

Regina Suárez, Section 8 Caseworker – Rural Opportunities Inc., NY Division 2003

## Facilitators

**Betty García Mathewson** is the Diversity Coordinator for the New York State Migrant Education System. Organizational change towards creating partnership is the primary focus of her work as a diversity professional. Betty's experience as an administrator of human service programs aimed at meeting the needs of historically excluded groups is foundational to her approach. Over the last 15 years she has led a range of diversity workshops and keynotes at the state and national level. Betty holds a Bachelor's in Social Theory Social Structure and Change and a Masters in Organisational Development.

**Maryellen Whittington-Couse** is a diversity specialist for the NYSME Diversity Project. For over 12 years she was the Director of a NYS regional Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Center where she provided professional development and technical assistance to school districts with English language learners. Since 2001 Maryellen has been facilitating *Opening Doors* with a focus on white identity development. Maryellen holds a Bachelor's in Educational Studies, a Master of International Administration from the School for International Training and is a Cornell Certified Diversity Professional.