

The Irene Prestwich Trust incorporating the Tirley Garth Trust

Charity No. 241469

Information for Grant Applicants

IPT Grants

24 Greencoat Place, London, SW1P 1RD

iptsecretary@iofc.org

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The Irene Prestwich Trust

The Irene Prestwich Trust was set up in 1949 to support the outreach of Moral Re-Armament (now Initiatives of Change) from her home at Tirley Garth.

The Trust believes that the change resulting from individuals who apply moral standards in their personal lives has a positive effect on social and public issues, including those to do with peace, democracy, the global environment and development.

What The Irene Prestwich Trust gives grants for

The Trust makes grants for projects which continue Irene Prestwich's aim that people find the personal transformation that she herself had had experienced through the Oxford Group/Moral Re-Armament (now Initiatives of Change).¹ The Trust exists to offer grants that support the nurture and training of young people through Initiatives of Change, its conferences and outreach programmes; and places a particular emphasis on new and emerging projects.

IPT prioritises funding for:

- Training programmes
- Work in emergent democracies
- Young People
- Projects that might previously have taken place at Tirley Garth
- Dialogue facilitation
- Conferences or similar

The Trust does not normally give grants for individuals or office and other infrastructure costs, including salary of project co-ordinators.

Priority will be given to first-time applicants whose projects are deemed to fit within the Trust's objectives. The Trustees want to encourage projects to become financially independent of IPT. Therefore projects applying for repeat or like funding will be assessed with consideration to the number of previous applications and any grants awarded may be on a decreasing scale. We also prioritise accommodation over travel.*

At the time of your application round, the size of your grant may be influenced by the total funds available, the size of the project and the specific budget requirements.

Applicants need to be able to show how the application is relevant to the work of Initiatives of Change. Failure to do so, may result in a suspension or refusal of your application.

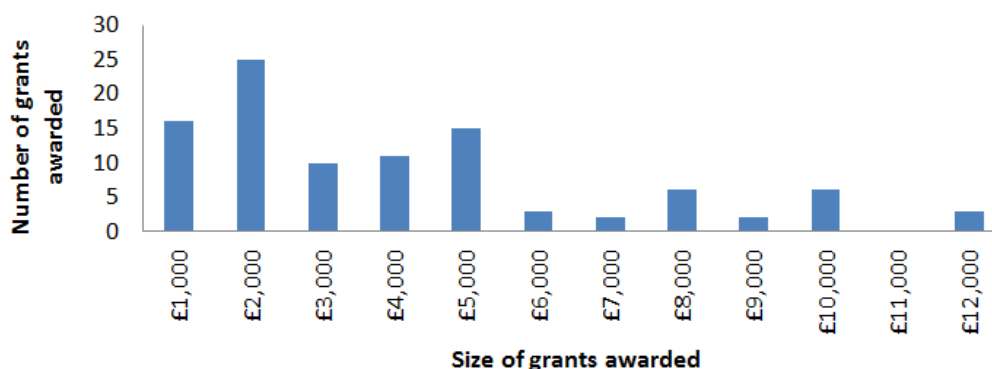
¹ More information about Irene Prestwich is given on page 24.

² The charitable objects of the Irene Prestwich Trust are the advancement of the Christian religion. IPT was set up in 1949 when the choice of charitable purposes was strictly limited. The advancement of the Christian religion is seen to include the promotion of an 'identifiable, positive, beneficial moral or ethical framework' which is 'capable of impacting on society in a beneficial way'. As such it includes missionary and outreach work, including work for reconciliation, truth telling and peace; developing understanding

All decisions by the Trust are at the full discretion of the Trustees.

* particularly applies to accommodation and travel to Initiatives of Change conferences in Caux, Switzerland.

Size of IPT Grants 2011-2013



The Application Form

The application must be made on the most recent application form (<http://uk.iofc.org/funding>) and should give a brief overview of the project, its needs, how any funding would be used and particular issues involved. This information should be within the stipulated word limit and should be clear to someone who has no knowledge of the project. A budget should be included as attachment and state the total amount in local currency and in pound sterling (GBP). The budget must include a detailed breakdown of expected use of IPT grant in pound sterling (GBP). Any requested amount must be given in local currency and in pound sterling. Any further documentation, such as evidence detailing the nature and effectiveness of the project, should not exceed 1,000 words in total. All appendices should be listed at the end of the form.

Applicants should nominate an Independent Referee (to be agreed by the Trust), who will give an independent assessment of the project when it is complete. Before paying any grant monies, the Trust must receive a statement from the agreed Referee about how he/she plans to observe the project. Further information about what is required is found under "Independent Referee and Assessment" below.

Applications need to be clear and concise; and demonstrate a high quality of planning both for the project itself and any follow-up activity. All relevant information should be included on the form itself or in an appendix. Only these documents will be considered by the Trustees when making their decision.

Completed application forms including the signed Statement from Independent Referee should be sent to the IPT Secretary at one of the following addresses (email is preferred):

Email: iptsecretary@iofc.org

Post: IPT (Grants)
24 Greencoat Place,
London, SW1P 1RD
U.K.

Independent Referee and Assessment

At the end of a project for which IPT has granted funds, the Independent Referee must give a critical assessment of how the project worked in practice and of its outcomes. This is so that the Trust has a second view of how its funds are used, how the project has worked in practice, what has worked well and what hasn't. Are there issues that the project organisers need to address? Are there opportunities that the project organisers have not recognised, about how the project might be developed in the future?

In principle, the Trust would like an Independent Referee who can observe the project in operation, and is not connected to the running of it. The Referee is therefore in a position to make a critical assessment of the project, which is independent and free from bias. The Trust acknowledges that such a combination is often not possible. The Trustees would prefer to have a Referee who can observe the project at close hand, even though they are not totally unconnected, than someone who is completely independent, but too distant to make personal observations.

Before paying the grant, the Trust needs to receive a statement from the agreed Independent Referee about how he/she plans to observe the project. Please ask chosen Referee to fill in and sign the Statement at the back of your application form. It can be sent together with the application form or as a separate document. Please note that the Trustees might not agree to the chosen Referee and could request to find another more suitable candidate.

Ways that a project might be observed include:

- Being a delegate at a conference that IPT is supporting.
- Obtaining and reading statements from the participants of a project where participant numbers are restricted, about what the project meant to them and what effect it had; and then interviewing a selection of them afterwards.

To avoid delays, applicants are recommended to start this process before the grant meeting. This is particularly important for projects that are due to start soon after the grant meeting.

Application deadlines

The Irene Prestwich Trust makes grants three times a year: in February, May and October. The closing dates for applications for these grant rounds are as follows:

10th January
10th April
10th September

Grant applications will be decided on at a Trustees' meeting during the following month. Please be aware, you may be asked for clarification or justification of your application by trustees prior to the grant meeting. Responding as promptly as possible to this communication is vital. Applicants will be notified of the results of their application shortly afterwards.

Please note:

- Applications must be received by midnight UK standard time on the above dates if they are to be considered for the next meeting. Applications received after that time will be held over for the next grant round.
- Please allow enough time when completing the grant application and make sure that all questions are answered before submission. The Trust recommends applicants to submit their applications early. Doing so may allow time for the application to be vetted and for any inadvertent errors to be corrected before the closing date.
- The Trust does not have funds to meet all the grant requests it receives. It is therefore in your interest to submit applications that are both succinct yet as complete as possible.

Judging criteria for grants

The funds of the Irene Prestwich Trust are limited and cannot meet all the grant requests the Trust receives. The Trustees will give preference to those applications which score most highly overall with respect to the criteria below. Applications which are weak in one or more of these criteria might not be successful. Applications are therefore assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Value of the project?
 - What is the project seeking to achieve and is it worthwhile?
 - Are the objectives clear?
 - Are the outcomes clear?
2. How closely is the project aligned to IPT's charitable objects?²
 - Can the Trustees justify to the Charity Commission the making a particular grant? Does it promote an identifiable, positive, moral or ethical framework capable of impacting society in a beneficial way?
 - Does it promote peace and trust-building?

² The charitable objects of the Irene Prestwich Trust are the advancement of the Christian religion. IPT was set up in 1949 when the choice of charitable purposes was strictly limited. The advancement of the Christian religion is seen to include the promotion of an 'identifiable, positive, beneficial moral or ethical framework' which is 'capable of impacting on society in a beneficial way'. As such it includes missionary and outreach work, including work for reconciliation, truth telling and peace; developing understanding regarding peace and human rights; and conflict resolution.

- Does it fall in one of the following categories?
Missionary and outreach work; work for reconciliation; truth telling and peace; developing understanding regarding peace and human rights; and conflict resolution.
3. How closely is the project aligned to the moral and ethical objectives of IofC?
 - How closely is the project aligned to IofC?
 - To what extent does the project reflect and promote the ideals, spirit and work of IofC? <https://www.iofc.org>
 4. Effectiveness of the use of grant?
 - To what extent does investing in the project represent a good use of IPT's funds?
 - Does it give value for money?
 - How will this project benefit the public?
 - How tangible are the benefits?
 - What is the quality of the benefits?
 - Who benefits and how widespread will these benefits be?
 - Is there a measurable timeframe?
 - Is the grant contributing towards future sustainability of the project?
 5. Importance of IPT funding?
 - How important is it for IPT to give funds for this project?
 6. Is it a project that has not had funding from IPT before?
 - Is it a worthwhile project that could not get a grant elsewhere?
 - Will a grant enable the project to become financially independent?
 7. Confidence in management
 - What evidence is there of good project management?
 - What is the reasoning behind your choice of Independent Referee?

If you are successful in gaining a grant

Successful applicants will be required to report to the Trust at the end of the project (and at regular intervals if the project runs for more than 1 year). These reports include a statement of how the grant monies have been spent and how the project is working out. A proportion of grant recipients will be asked to submit receipts in support of their financial statements.

Occasionally once a project is under way, the circumstances change or a more advantageous way of running the project is found, and the project organizers may wish to apply the grant in a slightly different way from what was originally envisaged at the time of the application. On such occasions, please notify the Trust as soon as possible. The Trustees will often give their approval provided: (1) they are asked in advance, (2) the reasons for such a change are made clear, and (3) it seems to them that the change is advantageous to the project as a whole. Failure to do this will impact the way the Trustees assess any future grants.

In addition to reports written by the grant recipient, the Independent Referee will also be required to give his/her assessment of the project, and how it has worked in practice.

Examples of completed reports by both the grant recipient and the Independent Referee are given at the end of this document.

Examples of Completed forms

Over the following pages are examples of completed forms, which show the kind of information the Trust is looking for. All these examples relate to a fictitious grant for a one-off youth conference at Loch Rannoch, Scotland.

Examples of completed forms are as follows:

- Application
- Statement of Support by an Independent Referee
- Report by grant recipient
- Assessment by Independent Referee.

Example Application

Application for a grant from The Irene Prestwich Trust

The Irene Prestwich Trust, based in Britain, exists to support the work of Initiatives of Change (IoC) with particular emphasis on new and emerging projects, and those which relate to the training of younger people through Initiatives of Change and its conferences and outreach programmes.

The Trustees will be pleased to consider applications, which meet their criteria.

1. Completed applications should be sent to one of the following addresses (email is preferred):

Email iptsecretary@iofc.org or to

Post IPT (Grants),
24 Greencoat Place,
London, SW1P 1RD,
UK.

2. The closing date for applications is midnight, **10th January, 10th April and 10th September** in each year.

Applications will be considered at a Trustees' meeting held during **the following month**. Applications are not considered at other times.

3. Application Instructions: Please read the brochure, *IPT Application Instructions*, before completing the application form. Please note especially what the Trust does and does not give grants for, and what size of grants it normally gives (page 3).
4. Independent Referee: At the end of the project the Independent Referee is required to give a critical assessment of how the project worked in practice, including what has worked well and what hasn't, and the project's outcomes. The Independent Referee should be someone who is outside the main organising team for the project and who is both in a position to observe the project as it takes place and who is able to retain a sense of objectivity. (Please see *Application Instructions*, page 4 and 5.)

The applicant must propose a suitable referee, to be agreed by the Trust. The Independent Referee must fill in and sign the Statement in the end of this form or as a separate document. The Statement must be received by the Trust before any grant funds are awarded.

5. Reporting: At the end of the project, a successful applicant is required to report how the grant funds have been used and how the project has worked in practice. The Independent Referee also undertakes to make an independent assessment at the end of the project.
6. Please note: any attempt to contact an individual Trustee in relation to your application could disqualify your application. Also, previous success in an application is not a guarantee of future success. The Trustees' decision is final.

To: The Secretary, The Irene Prestwich Trust, email: iptsecretary@iofc.org.
(Emailed applications are preferred. If you have no email access and need to post your application, the current address to use is: IPT (Grants), 24 Greencoat Place, London, SW1P 1RD, UK.)

Summary of the application:

- a) Date of application: 5 January 2015
- b) Name of project or programme:
Loch Rannoch Youth Conference, July 2015
- c) Main contact name and address:
Joe Bloggs
10 High Street
Edinburgh EH2 9LP
UK

Telephone: +44 131 1234567

E-mail: j.bloggs@hotmail.com
- d) What is the total budget of the Project in local currency and in pound sterling?
£20,750
- e) How much are you asking from the IPT in local currency and in pound sterling?
£5,000
- f) If you are successful in receiving a grant:
- (i) When does your project start?
Conference planning & preparations already started
Conference starts 10 July 2015
- (ii) When is the estimated completion date for your project?
15 July 2015
- (iii) When do you need to receive the money?
March 2015

g) Does your project fall in one or more of the following categories? Tick as appropriate.

Training programmes	V	Dialogue facilitation	
Work with young people	V	Work in emergent democracies	
Projects that might have been hosted in Tirley Garth	V	Conferences or similar	

Value of the project:

1. Please give a brief outline of the project/programme, its aims, objectives and proposed outcomes (not more than 250 words)

This is a 5-day training programme aimed at university students and other young people in the 20-25 age group who are ready to explore change in their own lives as part of bringing integrity and positive change in society.

During these days, participants will be challenged to examine their relationships and their role in a changing society. They will be encouraged to look at their own hopes, fears and motivations and look at the direction they will be called to in their professional careers. This will be done through a series of workshops, times of reflection, plenary sessions and community work.

As participants put right mistakes, and acknowledge their hidden agendas, they will find a new transparency in their lives. They will also have greater clarity and will be better able to withstand pressures to get into unprincipled situations. This will benefit them in both their work and personal lives.

2. Please tick the box(es) that apply to your project (for details please see page 6 of Application Instructions):

Missionary and outreach work	V
Work for reconciliation	
Truth telling and peace	
Developing understanding regarding peace and human rights	
Conflict resolution	

3. How does the project fit into the overall objectives and spirit of IofC? Please give examples of how the project reflects and promotes the ideals, spirit and work of IofC. For more information on IofC please go to www.iofc.org

The organisers are targeting young people who have had an initial experience of IofC in Caux and elsewhere, and who have indicated they want to go deeper in their personal lives. The programme leaders, J Bloggs and Anne Other, are both committed to the ideals of IofC, and have worked closely with IofC at Caux, North Africa and Britain during the last 15 years.

The participants will be encouraged to review the way they conduct both their personal and work lives in the light of universal moral values. Participants will be asked to think about how they can put right mistakes and what relationships need restoring; as well as to think about how to find the right career path.

Effectiveness of the use of grant

4. How will this benefit the public, i.e. who benefits and how wide spread these benefits will be?

We are aiming at a gathering of 75 participants, made up of university age people and others at the start of their careers. It is hoped that participants will start to make real changes in their lives. If these changes are real it will have a positive impact on the relationships with their families, colleagues, and possibly their career paths as they face the future.

5. The amount applied for from the IPT, as shown in Q1e) above:
(Please note that the Trustees may find it necessary to ask for extra clarification regarding the financial information supplied)

- a) In bullet points explain how do you intend to use any grant from the IPT?

We have decided to charge a conference fee of only £250, even though it does not cover the full cost of the conference (see attached budget). We feel £250 is as much as most students can afford. In order to make up the shortfall, we wish to raise funds separately for the venue. We are conscious that a few students will find even the £250 rate difficult. We therefore wish to have funds in place to enable us to give bursaries to a few deserving students who are serious about applying change in their lives, but are unable to pay the conference fee.

The IPT grant will therefore be used for venue hire £2,000; and for giving bursaries to those who are unable to afford the full conference fee. The amount has been calculated at 12 bursaries at £250.

- b) Please give figures showing how you arrived at the amount applied for, i.e. how the money will be used. Alternatively, please attach a budget both for the whole project, and the IPT part of it in pound sterling. This information may be shown on a separate page(s).

Venue hire	£2,000
12 bursaries @ £250 ea.	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>£5,000</u>

6. What steps will you take to ensure sustainability of the project, both in terms of finance and people to run the project? (not more than 125 words)

This application is for a one off event. However, the follow-programme listed in Q.6 below, which will involve some costs.

The organisers are exploring the idea of creating a network of 'friends and family', i.e. people who will be willing to support participants after the conference on into the next stage of their personal journey. We hope they befriend the participants and will be available to talk to if required. So far, we have written to about 30 people we hope might be willing to take part in this programme. We have also invited them to contribute financially to the onward programme.

Although any friendships must develop organically, we are keen to create a structure that enables a healthy network of friendships and support to develop.

7. How do you hope your project will develop after the project or programme for which you are requesting a grant from the IPT is completed? (not more than 125 words)

A series of six-weekly follow-up meetings are envisaged after the conference. This will allow participants to share with each other how they have got on with carrying out decisions made at the conference, what resulted, and how they have dealt with any difficulties. The project leaders will also visit selected participants on a one-to-one basis; and selected participants will be invited to speak about their experiences in Schools and Sixth-form colleges as part of an ongoing Schools Programme.

Importance of IPT funding

The Trust hopes that projects will be able raise their own funds after three years, though it takes a flexible approach. After five years it will review whether it should make further grants.

8. How many awards has your project or a related one received from the Irene Prestwich Trust in the last five years?

One grant for Edinburgh Youth Conference, July 2010: £2,500

9. Are you applying, or have you already applied, to any other organisations for funding? Yes or No

Yes

- a) If YES please give details of to whom and for how much:

We have applied for the following grants, for which we have yet to hear the results:

Highland Council	£3,000
The JKL Faith in Education Trust	£2,000

If successful, these grants will be enable us to provide further sponsorship for participants who might not otherwise be able to come.

Confidence in management

10. What experience do you have of delivering projects and programmes of this sort, and what their outcomes have been? (not more than 125 words)

AN Other has been running workshops, seminars and youth conferences over the last 20 years, in North Africa, where she worked till 2007, and now in her current role Chaplain of ABC University. She has been involved with the planning and running of IofC conferences at Caux since 1995, and was co-ordinator of the Youth Conference, *Service for a Human World*, in Caux 2002.

J. Bloggs has had a long career working with young people, first as a teacher and later at University level. He is currently Senior Lecturer in the Education department of XYZ University.

11. Please nominate someone who can act as an Independent Referee and ask them to fill in and sign the Statement below. The Trust needs to agree this choice of Referee based on the Statement submitted. For further information on Independent Referee please see the Application Instructions, page 4 & 5.

Name of proposed Independent Referee: Albert Smith

Contact details:

1 Upper Street
Glasgow, G3 1DS
Tel: +44 131 98765432
E-mail: a.smith@aol.com

12. What is the reasoning behind your choice of Independent Referee?

Albert Smith is not part of our organising team but he will be there during the training as a volunteer. He is covering his own expenses therefore not benefiting from the grant in any way.

I, the applicant, have read and understood the Trust's terms set out above

Signed: **Joe Bloggs**

Date: 5 January, 2015

Additional Documentation

Please note that, excluding any budget, supplementary documentation totalling over 1,000 words will not be circulated to the Trustees.

The following documents are attached to this application form:

1. Budget
2.
3.

Statement of support by an Independent Referee

(Notes about what is required are found in Application Instructions, page 4 and 5.)

1. Name of Project: Loch Rannoch Youth Conference, July 2015

2. Referee name and address:

Albert Smith
1 Upper Street
Glasgow, G3 1DS

Telephone: +44 131 98765432

E-mail: a.smith@aol.com

3. How well qualified are you to comment on this project? Explain how you will ensure that you are in a position to observe this project as it develops?

I am in regular communication with Joe Bloggs and Anne Other. I will be at the conference and will be giving a talk on "Finding a Calling". I shall be meeting the participants while I am there. I will therefore be able to see how the conference preparations develop, and will be able to experience how the conference works at first hand.

4. a) Do you personally stand to gain financially if money is given for this project?

I do not stand to gain financially.

b) Are you involved with managing the project, and if so in what way?

I did attend a planning meeting for this conference in November to talk over what I felt were some of the issues. Apart from that I am not directly involved in the conference organisation.

5. How will you ensure your objectivity when giving your assessment of this project?

While I am sympathetic to the aims of this project, I don't have a vested interest in it. I will say truthfully what I think does and doesn't work, and if there are issues that need to be thought about or brought to bear on it.

I am familiar with this project and support this application.

I will provide an objective and critical assessment on completion of the project. This will include an assessment of how the project has worked in practice, what has worked well and what hasn't, and the project's outcomes. I will also answer any other questions about the project that you require of me.

Signed: **Albert Smith**

Date: 5 January, 2015

Attachment 1:

Highland Youth Conference, July 2015 – Budget

<u>Income</u>	
Conference fee (75 x £250)	£18,750
Grant for venue	<u>£2,000</u>
	£20,750
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Accommodation (425 bednights @ £30)	
NB includes 25 bed nights by leaders & assistants outside the conference period)	
	£12,750
Fees (workshop leaders and others)	£2,000
Food	£3,200
Travel of leaders	£240
Display & workshop Materials	£250
Venue	£2,000
Contingencies	<u>£310</u>
	<u>£20,750</u>
	<u>-</u>

Example Report Form

Report of use of grant from The Irene Prestwich Trust

to be completed by Applicant/project manager

Name of recipient group, organisation or individual:

Loch Rannoch Youth Conference, July 2015

Date of grant: **17th February, 2015**

Amount of grant: **£3,000**

Purpose for which money was requested:

Venue hire and bursaries for participants

Please answer the following questions using not more than 200 words in any one section. Bullet points are fine. Any supplementary documentation (e.g. account spreadsheet) should be attached as an appendix and listed at the end of the form.

1. How has the IPT money been allocated and spent? Please add a small account spreadsheet if appropriate. *(NB ONLY the IPT money, not the whole project.)*

See attached document

2. What tangible outcomes resulted from the IPT grant?

The grant helped to pay for the venue, which was a key part of the Rannoch Youth Conference expenditure.

Bursaries were given to 9 students, who otherwise could not otherwise have afforded to come. With one exception, the bursaries went to pay not more than half of the costs, the rest being raised by the participants themselves.

Bursaries were awarded to those students we felt were most serious about learning more about IofC as well as on a basis of need. With 65 participants in all this means that one in 7 participants had help towards their costs. We felt it was important that the participants pay at least part of their expenses themselves, and therefore felt they had invested in the conference themselves, and were more likely to work to get something out of the time in Rannoch.

3. How this project has enabled moral spiritual growth and personal change to take place?

4. To what extent have you achieved the aims set out at the beginning of the project?

65 students and young working people attended for 5 days. There was a good atmosphere, with time to walk in the Scottish hills, set alongside workshops and times of meditation were more challenging.

There was a positive response to the sessions, particularly the workshops, with the following statements being typical:–

- I thought I was basically an honest person. But I am realising I need to find a deeper level of honesty – in all my relationships
- I need to learn to give positive leadership without being controlling
- A fear of being rejected should not stop me from giving love
- It was intense, full of ups and downs, disappointments and challenges, as well as great gratitude

As a result of the conference 5 participants have decided to take part in an ongoing Schools programme, telling about their experiences.

The test will be to see how well we can follow up with the students that came to the Camp, and give them support so that they are able to stick with decisions made at the conference in their own situations back home. It is to that end that a series of six-weekly meetings have been organised.

5. Have there been outcomes you did not foresee at the beginning of the project?

We had two film evenings with a discussion afterwards. Unexpectedly about ten people from the locality came to these evenings and contributed to the discussions. This helped to bring a note of reality from outside the conference, and sparked a cross-generational discussion, which was helpful; at least two of these people also asked to know more about IofC.

6. With the benefit of hindsight how could the project have been improved?

The plenary sessions, where much of the teaching happened, were less well attended than some others.

This meant that participants did not benefit from the teaching that took place in these meetings. There is therefore a need to rethink both how to make these plenary sessions more attractive, and how on another occasion, the best way teaching should be conveyed,

7. Since your original grant application, has your project achieved greater self- sustainability?

This grant was towards a one-off event. However, it is part of an ongoing programme of work with young people in Britain. The test will be to see how many participants come to the follow-up meetings; and more importantly stick with the personal decisions made at the conference. To this end, a team of those organising the conference have taken on to see the participants on a one-to-one basis, to see how to carry them forward. This post-Conference work is only just starting now as I write.

Signed:

Joe Bloggs

Date: 28 August, 2015

Please return this completed form to: iptsecretary@iofc.org
or: IPT (Grants), 24 Greencoat Place, London, SW1P 1RD, UK
by **31 August, 2015**

Additional Documentation

The following documents are attached to this report form:

1. Use of IPT Grant
2.
3.
4.

Please note once the project is complete and the Trust has received your report, the IPT will ask the Independent Referee, **Albert Smith**, for his own assessment of the project. This is in addition to this report.

Attachment 1:

Use of IPT Grant £3,000 for Highland Youth Conference, July 2015

	£	Contributed by participants themselves £
Venue hire (part)	1,939	
Bursaries		
Participant 1	200	50
Participant 2	125	125
Participant 3	125	125
Participant 4	100	150
Participant 5	125	125
Participant 6	100	150
Participant 7	125	125
Participant 8	90	160
Participant 9	125	125
	<u>1,115</u>	<u>1,135</u>
	<u><u>£3,054</u></u>	

Example of Independent Assessment

**Independent assessment of use of grant from
The Irene Prestwich Trust**

Name of recipient group, organisation or individual

Loch Rannoch Youth Conference, July 2015

Date of grant **17th February, 2015**

Amount of grant **£3,000**

Purpose for which money was granted

Venue hire and bursaries

Name of reference person (person named on the application form)

Albert Smith

How closely were you able to observe this programme?

I am in regular communication with both Joe Bloggs and Anne Other, so I was able to ask them about developments in the lead-up to the Youth Conference. I attended 4 out of the 5 days of the conference itself. Unfortunately, I was not able to be present on the final day, when I understand a number of participants shared what the week had meant to them. However, since then I talked to a number of students who had been at the Conference during a follow-up meeting month ten days ago. Many shared what the time had meant for them personally, and I was able to talk individually after the meeting.

Has the money been applied for the purpose for which it was granted?

As far as I am aware, the money has been used in the way indicated. Originally, the organisers had planned to give full bursaries to a handful of students. In the event, the organisers paid bursaries which gave a helping hand to those who were committed enough to raise funds for their own expenses – a policy decision I consider sensible.

How well do you feel the report of the project reflects the way the programme has worked in practice?

To my mind the Report accurately reflects the spirit of the conference itself, though less about the impact of the IPT grant itself. To my mind the list of people who were given bursaries as a result of the IPT grant were of a very high calibre.

In your opinion, what were the positive outcomes of the programme?

I was very impressed with the quality of the students and young professionals that came to the conference. Many of them had been to Caux previously, or had got to know Anne Other through the Chaplaincy of ABC University. The quality of the students was in part due to the

conference invitation which made it clear that participants would be challenged about their responsibility for the kind of world we are in.

What were the negative aspects? How critical do you feel these to be?

The plenary sessions were not well attended. The days were very fully planned, and participants chose to go to the workshops, which were more fun than the plenary sessions. Another reason was that some work shifts (e.g. cooking) that were timetabled at the same time as the plenaries.

The lack of 'draw' in re the plenary sessions was more than made up by the high quality of the workshops. These had been thoroughly thought through, so that they were both enjoyable and had the kind of content that made the participants ask searching questions about the basis on which they were going to run their lives. That said, the role of the plenary sessions, along with the balance between different types of activities, how the work gets done, needs to be reviewed if such a conference is planned again. Plenary sessions, if they are to happen at all, need to be sufficiently engaging that participants don't want to miss them out.

Is the programme working towards financial sustainability; and if so how/on what time frame?

This was a one off event. Overall the conference covered its costs, though there was a small shortfall of £87 which has been borne by the organisers.

Do you feel the money has been well used? Would you support the funding of any similar programme in the future?

Generally, there was a very good response to the conference, with a high quality of the participants, a number of whom made important decisions. I would certainly support funding a similar event, provided there is the right follow up with the different participants in the months to come.

Signed: *Albert Smith*

Date: 8 September, 2015

Irene Prestwich and Tirley Garth

The Trust takes its name from Irene Prestwich, who lived in Cheshire in the north of England. Irene was the daughter of a prosperous businessman who lived a privileged life at Tirley Garth, a 40-room house with beautiful landscaped gardens set in the Cheshire countryside.

In 1932, Irene and her sister Lois were introduced to people in 'The Oxford Group, the forerunner of both Moral Re-Armament and today's Initiatives of Change. They were challenged to build a world that works', through 'sacrifice, hard thinking' and founded on people living high moral standards and obeying the 'will of God on a moment to moment basis'. As Irene put these ideals into practice, she put old resentments right and began to find a new relationship with her sister.

Irene Prestwich longed that her large family home, Tirley Garth, was used so that 'thousands' could find the personal change she had found: 'I thought of my home with throngs of people coming in with their problems, and going out with God.' During the War Irene Prestwich made her home available as a centre for Moral Re-Armament (MRA), as the Oxford Group was now called. It became a haven for soldiers on leave and people from blitz-torn London, while land girls who by day grew crops on the cultivable parts of the 39-acre garden spent their evenings writing morale building articles which were published on the printing press there.

In 1949 Irene Prestwich spent all her savings to enable the Tirley Garth Trust to buy Tirley Garth, which had previously been rented, so that it could continue to be used as a conference centre for MRA. The Irene Prestwich Trust was set up at the same time to manage this work. From its base at Tirley Garth, the Irene Prestwich Trust sought to reach out to people involved in all aspects of life. There were training camps for young people. Others came from the medical profession, industrial, trade union, education and many other strands of British and international life. Over the years thousands came to Tirley Garth from Britain and around the world, for meetings and conferences or to stay, living in community, seeking how to live a life of faith in such a way that would affect the direction of their lives, their neighbourhoods and influence the direction of nations.

Although Irene had given her home to Moral Re-Armament, Irene Prestwich continued to live in two rooms at Tirley Garth for the rest of her life. She would meet and take great interest in all who came until she was well into her eighties.

When Tirley Garth was sold in 2002, the proceeds were invested with the aim of providing income streams that would support the work of Initiatives of Change. In allocating grants, the Trustees wish to support ventures that carry on Irene Prestwich's commitment and vision of a world remade as individuals make practical steps of change in their own lives.