



**INTERNATIONAL GATHERING**  
**Maynooth College, Ireland 13-19 July 2014**  
*International Gathering Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland*

Hello AVP country leader,

Thank you for registering your appointed representatives to the AVIG 2014.

Here is a plan for fundraising to bring AVPer's from your country to Ireland.

1. Write to the Ireland embassy/consulate in your country, requesting their support. A sample letter from El Salvador follows.
  - \* Where you see highlighting in red, change the text to make it specific to your country. Be sure to include how this group represents AVP in your country, what you will add to the conference and what your program will gain by attending.
  - \* Consult <http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=285> to obtain the name and address of the Irish representative to you country, to use in the address of the letter
  - \*Include a request for a meeting
  - \*Consult <http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8777> to determine if your country's delegates will need a visa to enter Ireland. If a visa is required, list waiver of fees as one way the embassy could support your delegation. Don't refer to "visa" in your letter if one is not required.
2. Follow your letter with a phone call a week later (or other contact as appropriate) to arrange a meeting.
3. Visit in person as a delegation of 2 or 3 people. We were leaving open the size of the "delegation" to be sent.
4. E-mail copies of your letter to Nancy Shippen [Nancy@AVPinternational.org](mailto:Nancy@AVPinternational.org) and Jenny Haughton [artwork@indigo.ie](mailto:artwork@indigo.ie). The Irish team will use your letter as the basis for contacting your country's embassy in Dublin with a similar request for support of travel expenses.
5. We recommend that you use a similar letter for other fundraising. Apply to airlines which fly from your country to Ireland, major companies, your church, local government, and other local resources. They often have some funds to support his kind of work.

Please stay in touch as you implement this plan. We want to share insights between countries where it is being tried.

Looking forward to a great gathering,

Nancy Shippen

[Nancy@avpinterntional.org](mailto:Nancy@avpinterntional.org)



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Actual date. \_\_\_\_\_2013

The Honorary Mr. Roberto H. Murray Meza  
Consul of Ireland  
Boulevard del Hipodromo 539  
Colonia San Benito  
San Salvador , El Salvador

Dear **Honorable Roberto Murray Meza** ,

We are writing on behalf of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) International Organizing Committee to seek the support and advice of the **Consulate (embassy)** in ensuring participation from **El Salvador** in the forthcoming Alternatives to Violence (AVP) International Gathering that will be hosted by Ireland in 2014.

It gives us great pleasure to confirm that the President of Ireland, His Excellency Michael D. Higgins, has recently and graciously agreed to be Patron for this International Gathering. This Gathering will also be supported by a number of agencies including the Irish Prison Service and peace-building communities.

On 13-19 July 2014 the Alternatives to Violence Project International Gathering will convene at Maynooth University, Ireland. AVP is a volunteer, grassroots peace building program which began in USA prisons and now operates in communities, schools, and conflict zones worldwide, including **El Salvador**. **Centro Arte Para la Paz** was an early sponsor of AVP. The program gained momentum after **Salomón Medina** participated in the **2011 International Gathering**. Under his leadership there have been eight workshops so far this year. In July ten new facilitators will join the seven trained in January. The web site [www.avpinternational.org](http://www.avpinternational.org) gives information about AVP.

The goals for the AVP International Gathering are:

1. To raise awareness of *new forms* of violence and conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. To learn *new ways* for AVP in meeting the needs of a broader diversity of communities.
3. To share the insights, curricula and techniques of AVP facilitators working in very difficult circumstances worldwide.
4. To increase the profile of youth in AVP delivery.



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Delegates from six continents will participate in the Dublin Gathering. The delegation from **El Salvador will share stories of their success in working with religious groups (Catholic and Evangelical). They are eager to learn about prison work in Ireland and to get information about working with youth in street organizations and gangs, in hopes of increasing their outreach to these populations in El Salvador in the year to come.**

We are seeking support from the **Consul** for the costs of/or in kind support of **visas**, travel e.g. flights, and registration (450-500 euro) of the **El Salvador** delegation to Ireland. It is important that those least able to afford the cost of flights and accommodation are supported because their sharing and their learning at this Gathering are vital for the development of their own local communities.

We thank you for your kind consideration to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you regarding this request. We would also appreciate your advice of other sources of support that would ensure the successful participation by ...

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Title of the lead AVP person your country**

**Contact information: phone and email**

Jenny Haughton

AVP Ireland Board and Clerk of the Ireland AVP Conference Committee

artwork@indigo.ie

**NAME**

**Any other co-signer (e.g. a Friends Peace Teams member who is helping shepherd the process)**

Cc: Nancy@avpinternational.org