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UNH Hosts 'The F Word: Images Of Forgiveness' April 4 And 5

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March 28, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire will host "The F Word: Images of Forgiveness, An exhibition of Words and Photographs" April 4 and 5, 2006. A powerful photographic exhibition exploring the idea of forgiveness in the face of atrocity, UNH is one of four sites on the Seacoast that will feature it.

The exhibition will be from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 5, in the Memorial Union Building, Room 330/332. A discussion will be held April 4 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in MUB, Room 203. In conjunction with September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows and The Forgiveness Project, the UNH site visit is sponsored by the UNH Chaplains Association and Office of Student Affairs.

"The F Word: Images of Forgiveness" was created by journalist Marina Cantacuzino and photographer Brian Moody who in January 2004, tired of a climate where revenge and retaliation dominated the headlines, resolved to present the public with an alternative view. Traveling to places including the United States, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Romania, Rwanda, Israel and Palestine, as well as the UK, they collected the stories of 24 people whose lives had been shattered by violence, tragedy and injustice -- and who had chosen to take the challenging and often painful journey towards forgiveness.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is featured in the exhibition and is a patron of The Forgiveness Project, describes forgiveness as a journey out of victimhood. "Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done. It means taking what has happened seriously and not minimizing it; drawing out the sting in the memory that threatens to poison our entire existence. In these forgiveness stories, there is real healing."

The exhibition is produced by The Forgiveness Project, a nonpartisan, nonreligious charitable organization working at local, national and international level to promote conflict resolution and restorative practices as alternatives to the endless cycles of conflict, violence and crime that are the hallmarks of our time. Through collecting and sharing personal stories, and delivering educational and self-help programs, The Forgiveness Project aims to reframe the debate about how individuals and communities can learn to celebrate difference and overcome division, thereby fostering positive social change.