ILGA 2018
Belfast
Foreword
Why Belfast for ILGA?

Northern Ireland is often the forgotten part of the United Kingdom in terms of LGB&T equality. We believe a unique opportunity exists within through holding the annual ILGA conference in Belfast to highlight the inequalities that still exist in this small post conflict society.

Moreover, while LGB&T still experience inequalities in Northern Ireland it is also a great place to be LGB&T. With a vibrant and effective LGB&T sector, scene and infrastructure Belfast offers expertise and experience on LGB&T issues and the campaign for LGB&T civil rights. The Rainbow Project is Ireland’s largest LGB&T support and advocacy organisation. We are a direct service provider to our community with a range of mental, physical and sexual health services including:

- Co-cultural LGBT affirmative counselling
- Advocacy support for victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crime and for those LGB&T people experiencing homelessness
- Rapid HIV and Syphilis sexual health testing
- Outreach GUM Clinics in partnership with local GUM clinics
- Personal development programmes using a psychoeducational approach
- Peer and social support groups for LGB&T on a range of issues including addiction, ethnic minorities and young people.

We are also a campaigning and advocacy organisation and carry out regular research into the experiences of LGB&T people in rural Northern Ireland which can be viewed here [http://www.rainbow-project.org/assets/publications/OUTstanding%20in%20your%20field.pdf](http://www.rainbow-project.org/assets/publications/OUTstanding%20in%20your%20field.pdf).

One of the cores values of The Rainbow Project is our partnership work with LGB&T groups from across the spectrum of women, trans, arts and culture and political advocacy. The Rainbow Project is also a member of the Love Equality consortium campaigning for equal marriage in Northern Ireland. More information on the Love Equality Campaign can be found here [www.loveequalityni.org](http://www.loveequalityni.org).


Why Belfast as a destination?

Over £1bn has been invested during the past decade to transform Belfast and Northern Ireland into an exciting new tourism destination. Today, Belfast is a vibrant, innovative city on the brink of one of its most exciting periods of growth and regeneration.

Belfast regularly outperforms cities double its size in terms of innovation, invention, technology and investment. We are building buses for London, manufacturing a third of the world’s aircraft seats, we’re shooting Hollywood blockbusters and we have the fastest internet connection in Western Europe.

The city has recently hosted the third largest multi-sport event in the world - the World Police and Fire Games, World leaders at the G8 Summit and we’ve just hosted one of the most prestigious cycling events – the Giro D’Italia.

Belfast was has been listed as the Best Conference and Incentive City Destination in the UK at the C&IT awards in London and the Financial Times ranked us as one of the ’Top 10 Cities in the World to Host a Conference or Event’.

Visit Belfast will work closely with the Rainbow Project organising team to determine the most suitable venues, social programme options and accommodation for delegates.

On behalf of ‘Team Belfast’ we assure you of the enthusiasm of all the conference providers in the city in both hosting and successfully delivering this conference.

John O’Doherty
Director
The Rainbow Project

Deborah Swain
Conference Sales Manager
Visit Belfast
Team Belfast want to ensure the warmest welcome from the moment your delegates step off the plane. That is why we brief our whole tourism industry when ILGA come to town. From our taxi drivers to our Lord Mayor.

That is the Belfast difference
The Belfast Welcome
We are famous for our hospitality and genuine warm welcome, and are dedicated to making your delegates feel as important as they are to us. From the moment they step off the plane we will make sure they feel a warm Belfast welcome!
As such we have created a bespoke package for ILGA:
- Discounts & delegate offers for a range of tours, bars and activities around Belfast and beyond
- Downloadable guides and maps

Dedicated Conference Account Manager
We want to make sure your event is a complete success and that’s why we will provide the local organising committee with a dedicated Conference Manager who will be your main point of contact for anything they need, from sourcing suppliers, liaising with venues, supporting your accommodation requirements, briefing members and sourcing bespoke delegate offers, and arranging delivery of literature.

The Belfast core organising team
John O’Doherty – Director
Gavin Boyd – Policy and Advocacy Manager
Pat Nairn – Finance and Admin Officer
Jayne Robinson – Sustainability Officer
Stephen Donnan – Campaigns and Communications Officer
Daniel Peters – Advocacy Officer
Martin Rolston – Co-Cultural Counsellor
Dean Lee – Co-Cultural Counsellor
Mary Hassan – Social Enterprise Development Officer
Nuala Devenney - LGB&T outreach Officer
Maeve O’Neill – LGB&T Outreach Officer
Colleen O’Neill – LGB&T Youth Development Officer
Leo Lardie – Sexual Health Development Officer
Michael McCartan – Relationship and Sexuality Education Officer
Harriet Long – Employment Consultant and Diversity Champions Officer

Hosted Site Inspections
Visit Belfast would be delighted to host a site inspection to visit some of your preferred venue options. This will also be a great opportunity for us to learn more about what is important to you in making the event a success.
Political Context

There has never been a better time to be an LGB&T person in Northern Ireland however, there remains much work to ensure that LGB&T people are treated equally and with dignity. Northern Ireland continues to lag behind other parts of the UK, Ireland and the European Union in terms of the legal protections afforded to LGB&T people. There are a number of key policy areas where Northern Ireland falls behind other UK regions such as; adoption, education and marriage equality. We believe that it is important that the rights of LGB&T people are harmonised across these islands.

The unique political structures of Northern Ireland create significant barriers to the progression of LGB&T rights in the region. Political parties elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly are not strictly divided along left wing/right wing policies but along unionist and nationalist policies i.e. the difference between those who want Northern Ireland to remain a region of the UK or to reunify with the Republic of Ireland. LGB&T issues have traditionally garnered more support from nationalist parties than unionist parties, with the largest party, the Democratic Unionist Party being the most vociferously anti-LGB&T party anywhere in these islands.

However, Northern Ireland’s conflicted past means that these different parties are required to work together and achieve agreement and without agreement on LGB&T issues, there has been virtually no progress on LGB&T rights through the Northern Ireland Assembly since it was created in 1998. All forms of progress have come either from Westminster imposing laws on Northern Ireland or through successful legal challenges in the Northern Ireland courts.

LGB&T issues are now at the forefront of Northern Ireland politics and culture. This is, in no small part, due to the role of The Rainbow Project, as supported by JRCT, to make visible representations on LGB&T issues in the media. Pressure exerted by The Rainbow Project on the Department of Health in Northern Ireland relating to adoption inequalities and the ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men has led to increased media scrutiny of the Department and its ministers. This increased scrutiny ultimately led to the resignation of Health Minister Jim Wells MLA after he was recorded, at an election hustings in April 2015, arguing that ‘evidence’ suggests that children should not be raised by same-sex couples. This marked the first time a Northern Ireland minister was compelled to resign for exhibiting anti-LGBT bias.

Following the passage of legislation covering England, Scotland and Wales and the successful referendum campaign in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland is now the only region in the UK or Ireland where same-sex marriages are neither conducted nor recognised.

There have been four votes on marriage equality in the Northern Ireland Assembly, all of which have fallen because of the use of the petition of concern by the DUP; requiring a majority of unionists to vote in favour of marriage equality for it to become law. As the DUP represent a majority of unionist assembly members and are universally opposed to LGBT rights, the petition of concern is essentially a veto.
Fundraising and Themes

Fundraising

We would envisage fundraising/sponsorship coming from the following areas:
- Corporate support
- Free facilities at Ulster University and Queens University Belfast
- Fundraisers through the Belfast LGBT Scene

Suggested Speakers and Themes

LGBT Equality in a post conflict environment
- Political representatives
- Rainbow Project representative
- Dr Katy Radford, MBE – Institute for Conflict Research

LGBT Equality and Queer Art
- Ruth McCarthy – Outburst Queer Arts Festival
- Dr Alyson Campbell – Director the GLRY Project
- Niall Ray – Theatreofpluck Queer Theatre Group

How the YES was won (reflections on the Irish Referendum for Equal Marriage)
- Representatives of the YES Equality Campaign
The Belfast Difference

We are No.1

Belfast was recently voted ‘Best UK Conference & Incentive Destination City’ by Conference & Incentive Travel Magazine (C&IT). It might therefore come as no surprise that Instagram voted us the ‘Happiest City in the UK’.

We go the Extra Mile

We go the extra mile and offer the VIP Treatment, because it really matters to us that you are here.

In Good Company

Belfast has proven year to year that we are capable of hosting major events, including the MTV Awards, Giro D’Italia, World Police & Fire Games and G8 World Summit.

In Belfast YOU are the Big Fish

Not only is Belfast easy to get to, but our compact and walkable nature means that when you and your delegates are in town the whole city knows about it. We will brief taxi drivers, hotels, venues and attractions that the conference is in town, making sure that you have the best welcome and that the conference is the best it can be. Choose Belfast and the whole city will be behind you!

We are Easy and Affordable to Get to

Flights are comparable with UK rail travel, 2 airports 158 international destinations via Belfast and Dublin, and only 1 hour from London or 90 minutes from Dublin.

Unique and World-Class Venues

The Financial Times voted Belfast as ‘One of the Top 10 Places in the World to Host a Conference or Major Event’ and CNN included Belfast within Europe’s Hottest Destinations for 2013, and when you visit us you can see why. From castles to a gaol, parliament buildings and museums, or the most famous ship in the world, we have unique and interesting venues that you’ll only find in Belfast.
Proposed Conference Venues
Hastings Europa Hotel

Hastings Europa Hotel
Great Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT2 7AP
+44 (0) 28 9067 4167
+44 (0) 28 9032 7800

The Europa Hotel has 17 highly flexible conference suites including the Eurobusiness Centre and the new Europa Exhibition Centre. The Grand Ballroom is one of Northern Ireland’s largest hotel function suites, suitable for large conferences, exhibitions, banquets and televised events with vehicular access to the Ballroom, perfect for car launches. They can also provide staging and also has a full range of AV equipment available in all their rooms. The Europa have a mezzanine floor with a private bar, reception, registration and cloakroom facility. The Penthouse Suite on the 12th floor boasts panoramic views over Belfast and has a private bar facility.

The Eurobusiness Centre is a suite of 9 purpose-built executive meeting and private dining suites. There is also secretarial assistance available on request.

Last but not least they have their Exhibition Centre which is a flagship in Northern Ireland. This is a 550sqm open space where all your meeting needs can be catered for.

The hotel is well known for its banqueting and conference and exhibition facilities and has hosted numerous national and international conferences including the prestigious MTV awards event.
Queen’s University Belfast

Add a unique dimension to your event by placing it against the inimitable backdrop of a venue in Queen’s University - a highly respected, world renowned academic institution, steeped in history and reflective of success, talent and unique achievement in Northern Ireland.

At Queen’s you’ll find:
- Venues that can host from 10 to 1200 delegates, whether for day or residential conferences
- 1000 modern en-suite bedrooms available outside term time at Elms Village, just a short walk from the main campus
- Full on-line registration service available
- Superb choice of rooms to suit specific requirements, many with bespoke AV equipment and in-house technical staff on hand if required
- Excellent catering to suit all budgets, tastes and requirements
- Favourable rates for conference delegates at many of Queen’s facilities
- All facilities fully wheelchair accessible
- Many areas Wi-Fi enabled
- Room hire available on full day and half day rental
- Range of support services tailored to your every requirement
- Bright, spacious and professional environment.

The Eventus team has years of experience in managing events and conferences and are uniquely placed to provide every aspect of event and conference management from initial briefing to final delivery:
- Attention to detail throughout, from sound and lighting to flowers and speeches; with a range of services and ideas to personalise each event or conference.
- Guidance in matching the right venue for each event or conference - from dinners in the Great Hall to small drinks receptions in the Naughton Gallery or Black and White Hall.
- Excellent relationships with internal and external service providers.
Architecturally stunning and with a spectacular riverside setting, the award winning Belfast Waterfront brings the city’s renowned warmth to world class conference and meetings facilities. Perfectly located right in the heart of the city, many of the finest hotels, attractions, shops and restaurants are within easy walking distance. Built to the highest specifications, this top tier venue hosts international association conferences as well as corporate events. The modern, purpose-built facilities offer choice of flexible conference, meeting, break-out spaces, accommodating from 10 to over 2000 delegates, and up to 2400m² of exhibition space throughout the building. Quality catering can be tailored to meet your needs, whether for an informal reception or themed gala dinner.

The new £30m extension opened in May 2016 offering 7000sqm of flexible space.

“I can honestly say that in ten years of organising conferences for a major international client portfolio, Belfast Waterfront must rank as one of the best venues that we have had the pleasure of working with.”

- Convenus, PCO for British Burn Association
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La Mon Hotel & Country Club

Mon Hotel & Country Club has created one of the largest State of the Art Conference and Events Suite in Northern Ireland. La Mon now offers a premier venue with 12 purpose built conference rooms adjacent to a large Suite capable of hosting 1000 delegates theatre style and 600 guests for gala banquets. La Mon's contemporary events suite also offers guests ground floor reception areas for 1000 guests complete with free broadband WiFi.

Located only 15 minutes from the city centre and 20 minutes from the George Best City Airport La Mon provides all its guests with 300 complimentary car parking spaces and sumptuous gardens. Its facilities are perfect for Conferences, Seminars, Away Days, Trade Shows, & Gala Banquets. This is the perfect venue to escape the city rush.

La Mon's Conference & Banqueting Suite firmly places La Mon on the map as a Premier Corporate Venue and is complete with Four Star facilities including 120 Bedrooms with deluxe executive accommodation, luxury Country Club complete with 15m swimming pool and award winning cuisine.
Ramada Plaza

Ramada Plaza is Belfast’s premier conference and events venue, boasting extensive meeting and convention rooms catering for events of all sizes.

The business Centre at Ramada Plaza Belfast has had a stunning new makeover. The new ‘Great Oak Conference Centre’ has benefitted from a £500k makeover with each of the 12 meeting rooms and receptions areas all receiving a luxurious renovation.

The Great Oak Conference Centre features the latest technology, luxury meeting rooms and stylish seating areas with luxurious furnishings and fittings. Ramada Plaza also has 3 fantastic suites including The Grand Ballroom which is Belfast largest dedicated Conference and banqueting space, facilitating up to 580 guests for a gala dinner or 900 delegates theatre style, The Laganview Suite catering up to 170 guests and the newly refurbished Malone Suite catering up to 180 people.

The four-star deluxe Ramada Plaza benefits from extensive onsite facilities including complimentary use of DW Sports Fitness Centre, 120 luxurious bedrooms and 3 onsite restaurants. In addition Ramada Plaza offers all guests complimentary Wi-Fi and Free car parking.
Accommodation

Belfast has 4,522 hotel bedrooms in the greater Belfast area with 7,000 bed spaces across all accommodation types. We have the big brands and local treasures with all major hotels within 5-10 minute walk of each other. Quality is affordable in Belfast & we can cater for every budget with campus accommodation ranging from £40, 3* accommodation from £75 B&B, 4* from £85 and 5* from £100.
Accommodation

Hastings Europa ★★★★★ (4 star)  
Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP  
Our world-famous Europa hotel is home to some pretty important people when they visit Belfast. People like Presidents, Prime Ministers, Celebrities... Why? Well, maybe it's the VIP treatment everyone receives. The choice of 272 newly refurbished bedrooms – including 92 Executive Bedrooms and Suites. The elegant décor, contemporary bistro, bustling bar and relaxing piano bar lounge. Or perhaps it's the superb city centre location with shops, restaurants, theatres and more – right at the front door.

Malone Lodge Hotel ★★★★★ (4 star)  
Eglantine Ave, Belfast BT9 6DY  
Relax in luxury at the award winning Malone Lodge Hotel Belfast, a chic Victorian town-house hotel, only minutes from Belfast city centre. Set in the luxurious tree lined avenues of the Queens University Quarter of South Belfast, Malone Lodge is located just off the exclusive Malone Road & fashionable Lisburn Roads. Surrounded by beautiful parks and gardens, these beautiful environs are reflected in every aspect of the Hotel.

Park Avenue ★★★★★ (4 star)  
Holywood Road, Belfast BT4 1PB  
Located in the vibrant Belmont area yet less than 2 miles from Belfast City Hall, The Park Avenue Hotel Belfast provides a unique experience for people who are tired of the usual and want something different. 56 bedrooms boast the finest in Belfast hotel accommodation, all completely refurbished and designed to create an ultra stylish environment yet offering all you would expect from today's modern hotels in Belfast and more - ensuring that your stay is comfortable and enjoyable.

Radisson Blu ★★★★★ (4 star)  
Cromac Street, Belfast BT7 2JB  
An architecturally striking hotel in the epicentre of regeneration, where old meets new. This stylish impressive 120 bedroom hotel should appeal to both business and leisure travellers alike with state of the art technology and stunning bar and restaurant. During their stay guests can enjoy the traditional Italian, Filini Restaurant.

Ramada Plaza ★★★★★ (4 star)  
Shaws Bridge, Belfast BT8 7XP  
Our Business Floor features 12 meeting rooms of various sizes, whilst our Grand Ballroom is one of the largest ballrooms in Belfast facilitating up to 580 guests for a gala dinner or banquet and 900 delegates theatre style. Whilst attending a conference or event we are delighted to offer a number of facilities and services including an exclusive Executive Lounge, extensive Health & Beauty facilities as well as LA Fitness Centre, 120 luxurious bedrooms and 3 onsite restaurants. In addition to this we offer complimentary car parking for over 300 cars.
Accommodation

Ten Square ★★★★ (4 star)
Donegal Sq South, Belfast BT1 5JD
Ten Square is no ordinary boutique hotel. Located in Belfast's most central district for business, shopping and dining, the hotel makes the perfect base whether you're visiting the city for business or pleasure. This unique Belfast hotel is located just steps from the historic City Hall, Waterfront Hall, the business district and the Victoria Square shopping mecca, and offers a variety of award-winning luxury hotel rooms.

Wellington Park Hotel ★★★ (3 star)
Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6RU
The Wellington Park Hotel, located in the fashionable Malone Road area of Belfast, is only minutes away from the city centre and 5 miles from George Best Belfast City Airport. A member of the Mooney Hotel Group, the Wellington Park has an entire floor dedicated to conference and meeting business, facilitating all sizes and types of events on a daily basis. All meeting rooms are sound proofed, independently controlled, air conditioned and equipped with free broadband connection. The Wellington Park is also popular for its friendly and reliable service, great food and its spacious and comfortable bedrooms.

Jury's Inn ★★★ (3 star)
Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP
Jurys Inn Belfast is a modern 3 star hotel located in the heart of the city's main commercial district. It is ideally located for delegates attending a large or small conference as it is walking distance from most of the conference venues in the city. All 190 spacious bedrooms have been recently refurbished. Small meeting rooms are also available for up to 30 delegates. Perfect for training, interview or seminars.

Holiday Inn Express ★★★ (3 star)
University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP
The Holiday Inn Express Belfast offers 114 modern en suite bedrooms. We offer conference users preferential accommodation rates inclusive of continental and cooked buffet breakfast and on-site car parking. All bedrooms have been completely refurbished in a contemporary style and are designed to the highest specification, equipped with Workstations and computer points, Flat screen televisions, Direct dial telephone, Tea/Coffee making facilities, Hairdryer.

Ibis City Centre (awaiting classification)
Castle Street, Belfast BT1 1HF
Ibis Belfast City Centre hotel is a budget hotel, located in Belfast city centre. Book the hotel to be close to the shopping and business districts, as well as the Titanic Quarter. The hotel has 124 modern guest rooms, each of which comes with wireless internet access and satellite TV. The restaurant has hot and cold snacks and light meals 24 hours a day, and you can relax with a drink at the friendly bar.
Accommodation

Ibis Queen's Quarter (awaiting classification)
University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL
Ibis Belfast Queens Quarter hotel is a 3-star hotel, just outside Belfast city centre. Your hotel booking outs you in the Queen's Quarter of the city, close to Queen's University. The hotel has 56 modern guest rooms, each of which comes with wireless internet access and satellite TV. The restaurant has hot and cold snacks and light meals 24 hours a day, and you can relax with a drink at the friendly bar.

Park Inn ★★★ (3 star)
Clarence St W Belfast BT2 7GP
The Park Inn by Radisson Belfast Hotel welcomes guests to the heart of Northern Ireland's charming capital city. Boasting 145 spacious, comfortable rooms, this hotel puts Belfast guests just minutes from shopping and tourist attractions. RBG Bar & Grill serves signature dishes and favourite drinks in a cosy dining room or delightful terrace. Business travellers enjoy well-appointed meeting rooms and proximity to local transport and Belfast International Airport. A fully equipped fitness centre, sauna and steam room keep guests in top form as they venture from the hotel for all Belfast has to offer.

Premier Inn City Centre (awaiting classification)
Clarence St. Belfast, BT2 8ED
A great city centre location, 1 mile from Europa bus and train station, 2 miles from the ferry terminal and 4 miles from Belfast city airport. Local attractions include the Grand Opera House and Belfast Zoo. Belfast convention centre is less than a mile away.

Premier Inn Cathedral Quarter (awaiting classification)
Waring Street, Belfast BT1 2DX
Located centrally in the bustling Cathedral Quarter of Belfast. The main shopping precinct, sights and public transport are all within walking distance. Contemporary surroundings and a relaxed atmosphere make for a great stay in Belfast.

Premier Inn Titanic Quarter (awaiting classification)
Queen's Road Belfast BT3 9DT
Ideally situated on the gateway of the titanic quarter of Belfast. Our hotel is also located across from the fantastic Odyssey arena and pavillion. Also within easy access of the George Best City Airport and with Belfast city centre only a stones throw away it is ideal for both business and leisure guests.
Accommodation

**Queen’s University Campus**  
Malone Road Belfast BT9 5BW  
Elms Village is located approximately 1.5 miles (2km) from the Belfast City Centre in a leafy, residential area within walking distance of local shops and restaurants. It is located close to the University main campus, the Queen's University Physical Education Centre, Mary Peters Track, Queen's University Malone Playing Fields/Dub Pavilion, the Waterfront and Belfast City Hall.

**Ramada Encore (awaiting classification)**  
St Anne's Square, Belfast, BT1 2LD  
Located in the fashionable Cathedral Quarter area this Belfast hotel is only 5 minutes from the Titanic Quarter and Odyssey Arena as well as Waterfront Hall and Victoria Square Shopping Centre. With 165 ensuite bedrooms including Executive, double, twin and family rooms (subject to availability), Encore Belfast is ideal for both business travel as well as short city breaks.

**Stranmillis University College (awaiting classification)**  
Stranmillis Road Belfast BT9 5DY  
The University College is particularly fortunate in the quality of the accommodation it can offer and is a justly proud of its Halls, located as they are within a campus of quite remarkable beauty and interest. All Halls rooms are double glazed, centrally heated and comprehensively equipped. Due to their layout - the single study bedrooms are grouped in self-contained flats - thus providing the opportunity for both privacy and community contact. The Halls are close enough to the city centre to enable residents to enjoy Belfast's amenities - shops, theatres, cinemas and so on. Room Rates:
Unique places and spaces for your social events
Belfast City Hall

Belfast City Hall is suggested as a venue for either the Council or Association Dinners in the Banqueting Hall. Built in 1906 the interior of this opulent Victorian building is breathtaking and a splendid setting for welcoming conference delegates to the city.

Due to the central location of the City Hall, transport hire is not necessary. The majority of the city centre hotels are within 2-3 minute walking distance from Belfast City Hall. Belfast City Council will host the venue hire and can sponsor the drinks reception, subject to successful application. You can also request the Lord Mayor who will officially welcome ILGA delegates to the city.

Venue Hire: FOC (subject to application)

Free venue hire and up to £500 of hospitality is available towards a drinks reception or gala dinner at Belfast City Hall
Titanic Belfast, an architecturally stunning venue in the heart of Belfast’s Titanic Quarter, is an impressive location for any event.

Offering a uniquely Belfast experience, Titanic Belfast offers visitors panoramic views over the slipways, the exact site where the giant structure of Titanic was built over 100 years ago. On the first four floors, visitors can enjoy Titanic Belfast’s nine interactive galleries using state-of-the-art technology and innovative design to tell Titanic’s story from conception to construction and launch, to its maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

Located on the top floors of the building, and at the exact height of Titanic’s superstructure, the Titanic Suites comprise an unparalleled range of flexible function spaces offering conference, meeting and breakout spaces in elegant but practical surroundings. Complemented by a range of unique exhibition and reception spaces, Titanic Belfast offers delegates a truly memorable conference, banquet or incentive experience.

The Titanic Suites boast the largest banqueting space in Belfast and Northern Ireland. The opulent decor is themed on the interiors of Titanic herself, including a replica of the liners Grand Staircase and is an exclusive and opulent space. Offering exceptional quality of dining and service, our in house catering and AV expertise are tailored to each event ensuring a seamless experience for all guests. Experienced in large association and corporate events to intimate meetings and dinners, our service is unparalleled.
The Crumlin Road Gaol dates back to 1845 and closed its doors as a working prison in 1996. After extensive renovations the gaol has re opened as a visitor attraction and conference centre. Today you can take a guided tour of the prison and hear about the history of the site from when women and children were held within its walls through to the political segregation of republican and loyalist prisoners and learn about why the decision was taken to close the prison.

During the tour of the gaol you will be taken by your tour guide to visit the underground tunnel that used to connect the gaol to the Crumlin Road Courthouse, you will get a chance to sit in the Governor's chair, view all the wings from the circle and of course pay a visit to the condemned mans cell before seeing the execution cell where the majority of the 17 men were hanged. Tours of the gaol can be tailored to suit your event, so that your guests can enjoy even a brief taste of the history and stories of the venue.

The state-of-the-art conferencing and hospitality facilities at the Gaol include the main Lanyon conference suite, which can accommodate up to 175 delegates, with a gallery that accommodates an additional 30 delegates. The Forbes boardroom, Governor's Corridor, Pierrepont Room, Circle and C Wing and the Tunnel are all available, along with the IT Suite, education room and several comfortable breakout rooms and reception areas. The exercise yards can also accommodate several hundred in marquees or open air. Gala dinners can also be hosted in the very unique Circle with entertainment on the galleries above.

Full catering facilities are available onsite. There is also a café and shop and the building is fully accessible with lift access to all floors. There is also ample free secure car parking.
SS Nomadic

Built to serve as a tender ship to the ill-fated Titanic in April 1912 and one of the last surviving white star line vessel in the world, the Nomadic is currently being restored to her former glory and opened as a visitor attraction and education space in 2013.

The unique venue in the heart of Belfast can offer
• Capacity for up to x 500 guests (standing)
• Different levels and areas – perfect for exhibitors.
• A quality & bespoke catering offering
• Adequate power to set up a musician / band.
• State of the art av equipment for presentational purposes
• Tours of the Ship

All aboard the SS Nomadic!

The Nomadic and Hamilton Dock offers a unique heritage venue, the perfect setting for a range of private and corporate events.

SS Nomadic can accommodate most parties, be it an intimate family gathering or a large corporate event.

Our friendly team will guide you through the planning stages of your event. With our eye for detail, nothing will be left to chance.
Ulster Museum

The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum
The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum offers a unique venue for corporate hospitality and social programmes. The open air museum and indoor galleries offer delegates a stroll into the past, exploring how people lived and travelled over the centuries.
Social Options

When the conference day ends, Belfast is famous for the ‘craic’. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of buzzing Cathedral Quarter with a Queer Tour or explore real life Westeros with a Game of Thrones experience.
Enjoy the ‘craic’ in Belfast and beyond

Our social programmes are designed to give your delegates a truly unique and authentic taste of Belfast and Northern Ireland. Using expert local knowledge, we will work with you to design a creative social programme for your event to ensure that delegates remember their trip to Belfast long after the conference has finished. In the meantime, we’ve pulled together some ideas to give you a flavour of what Belfast and Northern Ireland has to offer.

Home of Thrones
Enjoy a unique Game of Thrones inspired event with costumes from the hit TV series, archery and locally pressed cider. Bring along the Dire Wolves for that extra special wow factor!

Whiskey tasting at the oldest working distillery - world famous Bushmills
For those with a taste for the finer things in life - a trip to the oldest working distillery is a must at Bushmills. The distillery’s famous portfolio includes five award-winning whiskies: Bushmills, Black Bush, Bushmills 10 year Malt, 16 year Malt and 21 year Malt. Bushmills is the only distillery in Ireland to make triple-distilled malt whiskey and offers tours and whiskey tasting sessions all year round.
Unique Belfast

Belfast Peace Tours
Northern Ireland’s political history is unique and complex, making the headlines over the last four decades. Delegates can meet locals from across the community to hear their side of the story through a range of guided political and historical tours, including bus, walking and taxi tours.

Discover the unique wall murals on the gable ends of many buildings throughout the city. Many are now community related, celebrating famous sons including CS Lewis and George Best.

Belfast’s LGBT Queer Quarter
Located in the heart of Belfast’s Cathedral Quarter our city boasts a fantastic nightlife including a number of LGBT. The Kremlin nightclub provides a cocktail bar, disco bar and dance floors in stylish Soviet-themed gay club with PAs and theme nights while Boombox offers an alternative dance nightclub with guest stars and local entertainment. If nightclubs aren’t your scene why not check out The Roof – a fantastic open air venue offering a range of snacks, cocktails, beers and spirits in a stylish comfortable space. In addition to the LGBT venues Belfast’s Cathedral Quarter also hosts a number of LGBT friendly venues so no matter what your taste, there is something for every palate.

Gastro Delights
Belfast is famed for its warm welcome, hospitality and of course, its sense of fun. With over 350 restaurants and 1,000 bars there will never be a shortage of things to do in the evening!

Belfast is packed with fantastic architecture, ranging from distinguished banks and public buildings, to cosy pubs and trendy urban warehouses.

Sample local produce at the lively St George’s Market offering a wide range of local high quality specialist food and products. Awarded UK’s Best Large Indoor Market 2014 by the National Association of British Market Authorities.
Beyond Belfast - Northern Ireland is just waiting to be discovered
Beyond Belfast

Northern Ireland is a land of immense variety, with wave swept coastal drives, hazy mountains, vast open moorland, loughs and glassy lakes, heavy with fish. Explore our intriguing towns and villages or cosmopolitan cities, each with their own history and culture. Compact and accessible, it’s a region you can tour at your own pace. So take some time out, and go explore.

Antrim
Home to the famous green glens on Antrim, this county is full of unspoilt scenery, secluded bays and countless forms of wildlife along the Lower Bann River. Visitors can take a cruise on Lough Neagh aboard the Maid of Antrim, a purpose built pleasure cruiser recently restored to its former glory. Enjoy the dramatic scenery of the Causeway Coastal Route or explore Glenariff Forest Park to see the spectacular waterfalls along the unique Waterfall Walkway.

Down
County Down is home to the picturesque Mountains of Mourne, with Slieve Donard the highest peak rising to a height of 848 metres.

To the east of the city, the Ards Peninsula forms a barrier between the sea and an almost land locked Strangford Lough. With a history spanning 7000 years, County Down has many important archaeological sites and ancient monuments and is known the world over as the burial place of St Patrick.

But for all its tranquil, outstanding natural beauty, Down is also the destination for lively outdoor activities. Bryansford and Tollymore are centres for outdoor adventure where visitors can find pony-trekking, bouldering, canoeing, abseiling, hill walking and even Ireland’s only mountain boarding facility! Both Tollymore and Castlewellan have outstanding forest parks.
Beyond Belfast

Armagh
It may be the smallest of Northern Ireland’s six counties, but Armagh certainly has no shortage of history, culture and scenic landscapes. Known as the ‘Orchard County’, owing to the rich apple growing country centred around Loughgall in the north, each May the countryside comes alive with the colour of the pink flowers on the apple trees and an annual Apple Blossom Festival celebrates the start of the season.

Armagh’s Navan Fort is thought to have been an ancient pagan ceremonial site and the earliest capital of Ulster. It comprises a large circular earthwork surrounding the summit of a drumlin hill and has been the site of some fascinating archaeological discoveries. The newly refurbished Navan Centre, explores the rich history and legends of the area.

Armagh City, too, is rich in heritage. One of its best known features is its Mall, a fine example of Georgian elegance that was once the City’s racecourse, and is now lined by elegant houses and leafy trees. Armagh City is perhaps best known for its rich Christian heritage, however, and many of its attractions reflect this aspect of its history.

Fermanagh
Fermanagh is county defined by water, so it is no surprise that it is the aquatic entertainment capital of Ireland, where visitors can island-hop via waterbus, hire a boat and fish along the way.
Getting to and around Belfast

Access to Belfast is easy and fast. We have two airports, one right in the heart of the city and another just 25 minutes away. It only takes an hour to fly here from the UK and we fly to 22 UK Airports including London which has over 179 flights a week. Prices are comparable to GB rail prices and start from as little as £42.00 inc taxes and charges. Belfast is also just 90 minutes by car or train from Dublin making it hugely accessible for your delegates.
Access to Belfast - National

With flights from London to Belfast starting at £59, Manchester from £56 and Glasgow from £58 flights are comparable to UK rail prices.

With two airports servicing the city, Belfast has daily flights from 33 UK destinations & 41 International destinations. There are 179 Flights per week or 32 per day from London to Belfast.

By Air
George Best Belfast City Airport
Situated just three miles from Belfast City Centre, Belfast City Airport has 350 weekly return flights, including 79 from London with British Airways and Aer Lingus, taking only an hour.

Belfast International Airport
Belfast International Airport at Aldergrove is 30 minutes drive via the M2 Motorway. The airport has daily flights to 13 UK destinations & 20 European/International.

By Sea
The ideal access route for exhibitors, Belfast is easily accessed by sea with crossings from both Scotland and England. Travel by state of the art superfast ferries with journey times from just 2 hours 15 minutes.

By Rail
Enterprise Service
The Enterprise service runs 8 times daily (5 times on Sundays) from Dublin to Belfast. The journey time is approximately 2 hours.

By Bus
Dublin Airport Express Coach Service
Dublin Airport Express Coach Service operates from Dublin Airport 24 hours a day, with a journey time of approximately 2 hours.

The following airlines fly directly into Belfast and would be possible airlines partners for the event:
- FlyBe
- EasyJet
- British Airways
- Aer Lingus
- Jet2
- KLM
- Ryanair
- Wizz
- Virgin Atlantic
- United
- Linksair

With flights from London to Belfast starting at £59, Manchester from £56 and Glasgow from £58 flights are comparable to UK rail prices.
Access to Belfast – International Delegates

With 158 European and International destinations servicing both Belfast and Dublin and 33 direct UK flights into Belfast, the city is easily accessible for International delegates.

Dublin
Dublin Airport is located 90 minutes away from with excellent rail and road access to Belfast.

Dublin Airport is one of Europe’s busiest airports, with more than 55 airlines flying to over 117 destinations worldwide including two Middle Eastern and 11 North American routes.

Belfast
Belfast is serviced by two airports – Belfast International and George Best Belfast City Airport.

You can fly direct to Belfast from 41 European and International airports, with a daily direct link to the US via Newark in just 6 hours. Once you have arrived in Belfast, the city centre is easy to get to. George Best Belfast City Airport is only a 10 minute drive into the centre with a taxi costing approximately £8; whilst International Airport is a 25 minute drive costing around £25 by taxi.

Both airports are serviced by excellent bus services directly into the city centre.
A Walkable City
Experience & Testimonials
Past & Future Conferences

The following is a small selection of major International, European and National conferences and meetings that have been successfully hosted in Belfast in recent years or are committed to Belfast in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past &amp; Future Conferences</th>
<th>Delegate Nos</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2010</td>
<td>British Psychological Society Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>European Young Bar Association Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>International Conference on Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
<td>Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons, Scientific Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2011</td>
<td>American Bar Association International Legal Exchange Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2012</td>
<td>UK Inbound Annual Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>Political Studies Association Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>International Conference on Tourism and Events</td>
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<td>June 2012</td>
<td>European Community Foundation Annual Conference</td>
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<td>June 2012</td>
<td>International Seed Federation World Seed Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>Soroptimists of GB &amp; Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2013</td>
<td>RCN Research Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Global India Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2013</td>
<td>International Mammalogical Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2013</td>
<td>International Conference on Neonatal Nursing (COINN)</td>
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<td>Feb 2014</td>
<td>European Cities Marketing Spring Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2014</td>
<td>Renewable UK Wave &amp; Tidal 2014 Annual Conference &amp; Exhibition</td>
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<td>Apr-2015</td>
<td>Rotary GB &amp; Ireland Conference</td>
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<td>July 2016</td>
<td>World Council of Credit Unions</td>
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<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>British Orthopeadic Association Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>European Association of Zoos and Aquaria Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Association of Surgeons of GB &amp; I Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>International Measurement Confederation World Congress (IMEKO)</td>
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Key events

G8 Summit 2013
The 39th G8 summit was held on 17–18 June 2013 at the Lough Erne Resort, a five-star hotel and golf resort on the shore of Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. The G8 summits during the twenty-first century have inspired widespread debates, protests and demonstrations; and the two- or three-day event becomes more than the sum of its parts, elevating the participants, the issues and the venue as focal points for activist pressure. US President Barack Obama delivered a public address at the Belfast Waterfront ahead of the start of the G8 meeting of world leaders.

Prime Minister David Cameron stated that "Northern Ireland put on its best face and the whole world could see what a great place it is. Not only was it a very successful conference and very well managed and run, it was also one of the most peaceful G8s.”

World Police & Fire Games 2013
The World Police & Fire Games is a biennial event for serving and retired police, fire, prison and border security officers. WPFG is the third largest international multi-sport event in the world and will be the largest ever sporting event to take place in Northern Ireland. In 2013 there will be 56 sports held at 41 venues across Northern Ireland. We expect over 7,000 competitors from over 60 countries to take part.

MTV Music Awards 2011
The 2011 MTV EMAs, alongside Belfast Music Week, was a landmark event for Belfast - placing the city firmly on the world musical stage. The EMAs brought the biggest international acts to Belfast. The ‘who’s who’ of the pop world, including Coldplay, Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars, Queen, Jessie J and Justin Bieber all appeared at the city's Odyssey Arena.

Giro D'Italia 2014
The start of the 104-year-old Giro is normally hosted in Italy but in recent times has been awarded to an outside country every two years, most recently in Denmark last year. In 2014 more than 200 of the top professional cyclists from across the globe were in Northern Ireland to take part and there will be a supporting programme of events and activities.

Belfast Pride| Diverse – Equal – Proud
The Belfast Pride Festival 2016 was held from 29th July – 7th August 2016 culminating in the annual march. Belfast Pride is Ireland’s biggest LGBT festival with audiences of up to 50,000 people each summer. During the 10 day festival over 100 events were organised celebrating LGB&T history, culture and activism. The 2016 parade was led by the first LGBT Deputy Lord Mayor of the city Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell. Following the parade attendees celebrated the end of Pride week with an open air concert in Belfast’s Custom House Square and additional smoke and alcohol free family friendly activities were organised for families and children.

“I am convinced that this little island, its best days are yet ahead” - Barack Obama
Testimonials

Belfast, one of the top ten World Class conference locations.
The Financial Times

Best UK Conference and Incentive city destination. 2013 winner.
C&IT

Happiest city in the UK.
Instagram

Top 10 European destinations on the rise. UK’s best value city.
TripAdvisor
Client Testimonials

This was our first time in Belfast. We were delighted with how close everything is which made the event run so smoothly. Our contact at Visit Belfast understood exactly what we needed and accommodated our needs all the way and provided a professional, friendly and caring service. We were thrilled all round with our time in Belfast.

Yolanda Alonso, Director
Cartoon Finance

Visit Belfast were instrumental in helping us plan our conference. They pulled together a comprehensive proposal document with all the costing options from a range of venues, they went out to their member hotels to secure preferential hotel rates and they arranged our site inspection itinerary. This allowed me to make more informed decisions and get on with other important aspects of arranging our conference. We would not hesitate to recommend the fantastic work that the Bureau do.

Irish Planning Institute

On behalf of the National Executive Committee of the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your support of our Congress held at the magnificent Queen’s University. We are very appreciative of the support of Visit Belfast in bringing the Congress to Northern Ireland. In the end we had over 700 delegates, with the majority attending from outside Northern Ireland. Throughout Congress many delegates commented positively on the friendliness of the people of Belfast and the vibrancy of the city. I am sure that many will return to explore Belfast and the rest of Northern Ireland given the hospitality shown.

Dr Catherine Powell, Chair
British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN)

I would like to say a personal thank you to you and team; we would not have had such a successful conference without your help and support.

Shevon Houston, Event Manager
National Council for the Training of Journalists

We held a very successful conference in Belfast; it was the first time in over 30 years that the annual conference of the Society College, of National and University Libraries (SCONUL) held its conference here in Belfast. Since the conference we have received many favourable comments about the events and comments along the lines of how much they enjoyed the whole conference. The assistance of Visit Belfast was invaluable in putting together a successful programme and the literature provided was extremely helpful and informative.

Gail A Downe, Assistant Secretary
Society of College, National & University Libraries (SCONUL)
We look forward to welcoming you soon!