

The UK-German Connection ‘Peacing it Together 2’ Seminar

The UK-German Connection, along with NICILT, brought together over 40 school students from Northern Ireland and Germany, including myself and fellow Methodist student Jasmijn Hofman. This seminar commemorated 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall (right) and was a follow up to a very successful seminar held in Belfast in 2018. We spent three days in Leipzig and Berlin and took part in several workshops in which the role of youth in shaping the future was discussed, along with how historical divides can be breached and how it is possible to create tolerance within communities by sharing stories. It was quite eye-opening to be able to speak to German school students about our shared hopes and ambitions and to be able to build friendships across international borders.

The trip also included guided tours of Leipzig and Berlin (below), with special emphasis on sites relevant to the ‘Friedliche Revolution’, the peaceful revolution that began in Leipzig in 1989, and led to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Of course, the city tours also provided us with a prime opportunity to explore German culture and improve language skills.

The trip was certainly a success and the friendships that were forged suggest a bright future for our international connections.

Hugh McDowell

