I am delighted to have the opportunity to present a donation on behalf of the Church of Ireland College of Education to the *Empowerment of Women Project* in the Diocese of Jerusalem. The vast majority of our students are female and this has been the case for many years. Issues of gender equality and care for the marginalised have been a very important part of our work in the College with our undergraduate and post-graduate students.

CICE was recently incorporated into Dublin City University as the Church of Ireland Centre. Social justice, inclusion and respect for diversity were and are really important values that underpin all that we did in CICE and all that we now do in the Church of Ireland Centre in DCU. The Church of Ireland Centre continues to have a core role in the preparation of teachers to work in primary schools under Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian and Society of Friends patronage throughout the State. Our relationship with these schools is just as important to us as it always was in the College. Our connection with our students and our graduates remains very precious to us. Our history and our values continue to be something in which we have a great sense of pride.

Moving from a stand-alone situation as a small College to being part of a University provides us with a really important opportunity to engage with academic life in a new way. Those of us who are of the reformed Christian tradition are a small minority in the Republic of Ireland but have long been recognised as being important contributors to the civic and cultural life of this State. Working within a University setting the Church of Ireland Centre has a real opportunity to extend its research work, its critical commentary and its civic engagement alongside its ongoing work in initial teacher education.

It is a very exciting prospect to engage Anglican values, argument and theology in the public square of the university. Those of us who are committed Christians should not shy away from public debate and the public square. St. Paul never did! Social justice and respect for everyone, especially those on the margins, are messages at the heart of the Christian Gospel. The University provides an ideal platform to wrestle with these ideas and reach out to those who are without the Word in their lives and to do so in a way that engages with a range of current modes of communication. It is our hope that we will debate and engage robustly with colleagues, students and the public, with a sense of excitement, a thirst for learning and filled with the Spirit.