



Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking

An International Resource Center in Support of Restorative Justice Dialogue, Research and Training



Bridges Can Be Built

Jo Berry

Fires rage in my heart
the heat heals the pain
bridges can be built

as a human being
I listen to your suffering
you offer me your story
the pain of the war
I learn
bridges can be built

you are my enemy I was told
be a good girl
speak only our words
and then I met you
bridges can be built

truth is more important
I will speak out for the healing of the world
take courage
take spirit
the game of the tribe is not for me
bridges can be built

the clothes of prejudice now stripped away
as I open to you
leaving my bare soul
that can love you all
bridges can be built

with the eyes of knowing
I move from us and them
our differences disappear
the unity of humanity remains
bridges can be built

your son could be mine
and I could be your brother
planting the bomb that killed my little boy
bridges can be built

and now I stand alone with you who killed my Dad
there is a place inside me that knows you acted your
truth
challenging injustice and oppression
my Dad was in the way
bridges can be built

I miss my Dad
and cry for the granddad my girls cannot know
tears of grief for all who suffer
we are one in our loss in our pain
bridges can be built

sometimes I feel that my heart heals as Ireland heals
I am sorry for the suffering imposed by my tribe
I acknowledge your struggle
bridges can be built

my heart burns for peace, justice and equality for all
the passion of knowing that
bridges *can* be built

Jo Berry's father, Sir Anthony Berry, was killed in the infamous Brighton bombing in England in 1984, an act committed by the Irish Republican Army in an effort to bring down the English government. In 2001, Jo began a series of face-to-face dialogues with Patrick Magee, the IRA member convicted of the Brighton bombing and released from prison under the Good Friday Peace Agreement, after serving 15 years in prison. Both Jo and Patrick are promoting peacemaking through restorative justice and victim/offender dialogue.