FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2015
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FREDERICK DOUGLASS IRELAND PROJECT ANNOUNCES
DISPLAY OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS IRELAND MONUMENT
AT EVENTS IN BOSTON, MA AND ESTES PARK, CO

Washington, DC: The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project (www.DouglassIreland.org) announces the public display of the Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument (FDIM) at events in Boston, MA and at the Rocky Mountain Irish Festival in Estes Park, CO. The monument was the vision and inspiration of humanitarian, author, and project Co-Founder Don Mullan and developed as part of the Frederick Douglass Ireland Project with renowned Anglo-Irish sculptor Andrew Edwards. It depicts Douglass as a young man of 27 (the age he was when he traveled to Ireland), and is the first monument in Ireland to an African-American and is probably the first monument in Europe to Frederick Douglass. Since its creation in 2011, the FDIM has been displayed at various locations in Dublin, Ireland (more details below).

The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project has partnered with the Irish government to bring the monument to the United States to raise awareness of the “transformative” experience Douglass had on his tours of Ireland in 1845-6 and the lifelong inspiration he drew from the island of Ireland and the Irish people. The monument highlights the story of the relationship between Frederick Douglass, the famed, orator, author, and American statesman, and Ireland and Irish leaders like Daniel O’Connell, who was a dedicated servant to the abolition of slavery and a champion of international human rights. After these dates in June 2015, the monument will travel to additional cities around the U.S., beginning in fall 2015.

The Irish Abroad Unit of Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Irish Minister for the Diaspora Jimmy Deenihan, T.D. generously provided support for the transportation of the monument from Ireland to the United States.

WHO:

Frederick Douglass Ireland Project Co-Founders Don Mullan and Kristin Leary and Directors Nettie Washington Douglass and Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. (Founders, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives), and Dr. Christine Kinealy (Founding Director, Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute, Quinnipiac University).

WHAT:

The Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument is currently in resin form and thus transportable to

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different locations throughout the United States. Unlike most renderings of Douglass found throughout the world, the monument depicts him as a young man of 27, the age he was when he visited Ireland in 1845-6. The figure is nearly nine feet tall and is a striking image of the gifted orator first finding his voice and gaining his confidence, striding forward, while clasping a First Edition of his *Narrative* and speaking forcefully into the roar of the wind and the waves. The figure’s outstretched hand and gesture was modeled on that of U.S. President Barack Obama. Douglass is wearing a long-coat, inspired by that of Abraham Lincoln, and a cape similar to that of ‘The Liberator,’ Daniel O’Connell, billowing in the wind as Douglass confronts the storm of oppression.

WHEN AND WHERE:

- **Boston, MA June 2015 events:**

  **June 12, 2015: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**
  600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA, 8:30 AM
  OPEN PRESS
  Panel presentation including National Center for Race Amity, Wheelock College Founding Executive Director William H. “Smitty” Smith, Ed.D. (“Understanding Race Amity and The Other Tradition”), and humanitarian and author (*Bloody Sunday*) Don Mullan. *Douglass and O’Connell: Two Men Yearn for Freedom*, a segment of the public television documentary *An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition*, will also be shown. The event is free and open to the public. Limited seating.

  **June 13, 2015: African Meeting House/Museum of African American History**
  46 Joy Street, Boston, MA, 6:00–8:30 PM
  OPEN PRESS
  The Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument will be on display at an event organized by the National Center for Race Amity, Wheelock College (www.ncra.wheelock.edu) and the Museum of African American History (www.afroammuseum.org). The event will feature a lecture by humanitarian and author (*Bloody Sunday*) Don Mullan titled “Following the North Star: The Impact of Frederick Douglass and Daniel O’Connell On Liberation.” The event is free and open to the public.

  **June 14, 2015: Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston MA**
  Atlantic Ave (across from the New England Aquarium), Boston, MA, 1:00-5:00 PM
  Metro Boston Race Amity Day Celebration
  OPEN PRESS
  In collaboration with the National Center for Race Amity, Wheelock College (www.ncra.wheelock.edu), the Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument will be on public display at the 5th Annual Metro Boston Race Amity Festival. The event is free and open to the public.

- **Estes Park, Colorado, June 19-21, 2015:**

  **Rocky Mountain Irish Festival**
  Stanley Park Fairgrounds, 1209 Manford Avenue, Estes Park, CO, 10:00 AM-9:30 PM daily
  OPEN PRESS
  (Members of the press seeking credentials please show ID at main ticket booth or contact John

  www.DouglassIreland.org
Schreck, Chelsea Weise, or Ian Fox.)
The Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument will be on display to ticket holders for the 2015 Rocky Mountain Irish Festival. Frederick Douglass Ireland Project Co-Founders Don Mullan and Kristin Leary and Director Nettie Washington Douglass (great-great granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington) will give talks about the Frederick Douglass Ireland Project at several times during the festival. Irish Minister for the Diaspora Jimmy Deenihan, T.D, will appear with Denver Mayor Bill Pinkham on the Festival’s Main Stage at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 21. Minister Deenihan and the Irish Abroad Unit of Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade generously provided support for the transportation of the FDIM from Ireland to the United States.

Ticket and other information is at www.rockymountainirishfestival.com.

Members of the media wishing to schedule an interview, please contact
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BACKGROUND:

Frederick Douglass and Ireland

Ireland and the Irish people played an important and inspirational role in Frederick Douglass’s life. In 1845, as Ireland was descending into the despair of the great famine, Frederick Douglass arrived for a four-month lecture tour of the island. He returned on a number of occasions in 1846. Douglass had escaped slavery in Maryland seven years earlier and had recently published his autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself.

He was shocked and appalled by the living conditions of the Irish peasantry and likened them to conditions endured by slaves on American plantations. Douglass was greeted in cities and towns including Dublin, Belfast, and Cork by swells of enthusiastic crowds. He formed many friendships on his trip, most significantly with Daniel O’Connell, who is still revered in Ireland today for his role in Catholic emancipation and his fierce opposition to slavery. Although Douglass continued his speaking tour in Scotland and England, it was his experience in Ireland that he described as “transformative. ” Douglass often recalled that his time in “Dear Old Ireland” - the first country outside of the U.S. to publish his autobiography - had given him “a new life.”

The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project

Founded in 2001 as the Frederick Douglass/Daniel O’Connell Project, the Frederick Douglass Ireland Project launched in 2013 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, the town where Douglass first lived in freedom. The project has established an Honorary Advisory Committee of distinguished academics, decision makers, and thought leaders, partnered with direct descendants of Douglass and the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and generated support and interest from officials in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and the United States, as well as key supporters in the Irish-American and African-American communities.

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Future project plans include:
• Academic, cultural, and other programming around additional dates of the U.S. tour of the Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument;
• Continuation of the Frederick Douglass/Daniel O'Connell Address on human and civil rights, to be hosted in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States (the inaugural Address was delivered in Dublin in 2014 by U.S. Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis);
• The publication of a collection of speeches and letters by Douglass while in Ireland; and
• The establishment of a Frederick Douglass Cultural Trail throughout the island of Ireland to highlight the places, people, and events that inspired Douglass during his time in Ireland.

Frederick Douglass Ireland Monument - Ireland Events 2011-2015

• U.S. President Barack Obama: The FDIM was sited at Farmleigh, the official state guest house of the Republic of Ireland, for official meetings between U.S. President Barack Obama and An Taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland Enda Kenny, on May 23, 2011. The two leaders viewed the monument, and talked about Douglass's time in Ireland, together that day. President Obama highlighted the relationship between Douglass, Ireland, and O'Connell in his address at College Green in Dublin later that afternoon. (See https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/23/remarks-president-irish-celebration-dublin-ireland)

• Educational institutions: Since 2011, the FDIM has been sited at two university campuses in Dublin- Dublin City University and All Hallows College, in areas where hundreds of students were able to see and draw inspiration from the monument every day.

• U.S. Congressman John Lewis: Lewis, an icon of the U.S. civil rights movement, delivered the Frederick Douglass Ireland Project (then the “Frederick Douglass/Daniel O’Connell Project”)’s inaugural Frederick Douglass/Daniel O’Connell Address as part of the Irish government’s “Iveagh House Lectures” on April 23, 2014, in Dublin. The FDIM was on site and featured at the speech at Iveagh House, the Department of Foreign Affairs, in Dublin. The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project partnered with the Irish government and the Washington, D.C.-based Faith & Politics Institute on the event. Together with descendants of Daniel O’Connell and Frederick Douglass, Lewis unveiled a small bronze replica of the FDIM that evening. (See https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/our-work/casestudiesarchive/2014/april/john-lewis-iveagh-house-lecture/)

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www.DouglassIreland.org