



## NEWS RELEASE:

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### **Priesthorpe's 'Broken Identity' film is an award-winner Leeds students win national award for resolving conflict in the community**

A team of six young people from Priesthorpe School are celebrating today after winning the Resolving Conflict in the Community Award at the Peerlink Awards 2010 held at London's BT Centre last night.

The young people won the award for their film 'Broken Identity' which explores the issue of cultural identity and community engagement in the Leeds-Bradford area. The students had to beat off stiff competition and impress a panel of 10 judges including other young people to win the award.

The Priesthorpe Team began their project last September through an active citizenship programme run by youth empowerment charity Envision. The Envision programme supports young people to develop projects that address issues that are important to them.

The students from Priesthorpe identified race, identity and community as an issue that concerned and affected them. They spent the first term exploring the subject of community cohesion and the issues that can lead to racial tension. The students decided to make a documentary about what they had learned in the hope that it would encourage greater cultural understanding and help improve community relations in their area.

**Jinny Lazenby, Head of Sixth Form at Priesthorpe School, said,** "Their project has made a good contribution to resolving conflict in the community because it was entirely led and devised by the students themselves, and therefore has great authenticity and credibility with other students."

They were helped in creating their film by several local businesses: in December 2009 the team won £500 funding at Pitch 4 Change, an event organized by Envision in which

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[www.envision.org.uk](http://www.envision.org.uk)

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teams of young people can pitch to a board of 'dragons' from the business community for the funding to make their ideas a reality.

They also attracted the interest of Harvey Ascott from Leeds Bridge, a documentary production company, who has been supporting the team in the shooting and editing of the documentary.

The film, 'Broken Identity' was premiered on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and brought together young people from the local area, teaching staff and representatives of the organizations that had supported them.

**Team member Bethany, 17, said,** "Through Envision, I've learnt how to be part of a team, that everyone should be treated equally, but aren't a lot of the time and that we can all try and make a difference."

Inspired by their success this year the young people are keen to help mentor next year's students and pass on what they have learned.

You can view Broken Identity at [www.youtube.com/envisionchannel](http://www.youtube.com/envisionchannel).

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to Editor:**

**About Envision**

- Envision was founded by four young people in June 2000 as a response to the environmental and social issues facing British society in the 21st Century.
- Today Envision supports teams of 16-19 year olds from 130 schools and colleges in Birmingham, Leeds and London, helping over 2000 young people every year to design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.

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- Envision trains adult volunteers to deliver its Schools Programme to young people. For more information about volunteering with Envision go to [www.envision.org.uk/volunteers](http://www.envision.org.uk/volunteers)
- 2010 marks Envision's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. For more information about our celebrations and plans for the next ten years go to [www.envision.org.uk/about/envisionat10](http://www.envision.org.uk/about/envisionat10)

### **About Leap Confronting Conflict**

- Leap provides opportunities for young people and adult to explore approaches to conflicts in their lives finding causes and new solutions for themselves.
- Leap's PeerLink programme is a national peer mediation and conflict resolution project, all the members of which are young people trained in peer mediation and conflict resolution who are committed to helping others resolve their conflicts positively. PeerLink is led by young people, with some support from a dedicated staff team at Leap.
- For more information see [www.leapconfrontingconflict.org.uk](http://www.leapconfrontingconflict.org.uk) or contact Natalie Hewison, PeerLink Project Manager,  
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