**Faculty Call for Research Assistant Application**

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| **Part I – Outline of research project** |

**Academic field:** Social Science, Political Science, Gender Studies

**Research topic:** Feminist Transformative Justice Initiatives and peace building in Northern Ireland

**Brief description of project and research assistant duties:**

Moving a society from conflict to one based on key transformative justice principles has been on the Northern Irish agenda since the end of the Troubles marked by the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. This project examines two efforts at peace building: one, top-down effort introduced by Westminster called the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation Act) of 2023 and the other, a Northern Irish government initiative called the Violence Against Women and Girls framework. While these two initiatives seek to end violence in what appears to be different sectors of Northern Irish society, this project looks at them together in order to understand if tranformative justice principles are being applied to a more comprehensive idea of peace building in Northern Ireland.

We will evaluate some grassroots approaches embodied by the framework asking how communities can adopt more transformative practices to include all ends of the spectrum of violence from the political to the criminal, seeing it as a symptom of broader structural problems that predate the foundation of the state and continue to inform communities today. We will also consider case-study strategies that connect both types of violence in other “post-conflict” situations.

**Sponsoring professor:** Tara Keenan

**Professor’s e-mail address:** tkeenan@johncabot.edu

**Semester of assistantship**: Fall 2025

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| **Part II – Mentoring plan** |

**Full description of research assistant’s regular duties:**

Conduct literature reviews

Facilitate the scheduling of interviews with community workers and researchers in Northern Ireland and South Africa

Attend library workshops on reference management and AI research tools with a view to use them to check references and fill out the project's background literature.

**Description of the work to be completed by the end of the research assistant’s 45 hours of work:**

This work will complement fieldwork completed in Summer 2025 and will contribute to a scholarly article that will be submitted for publication.

**Statement addressing how the faculty research will help the student research assistant develop their research skills:**

Student will learn social science methodology, AI-assisted research skills and ethics, fact-checking, reference management, fieldwork skills, and writing for publication.