



Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme

It is anticipated that the CR/CD Grants Scheme for 2018/19 will re-open at the beginning of April 2018. The scheme is aimed at increasing opportunities for people from differing traditions to develop relationships of trust and understanding with each other and the confidence to address issues of difference between them. We anticipate, as in previous years, there will be a broad range of community relations activities supported ranging from training programmes, historical site visits, panel debates, festival events, residential programmes and performing arts projects.

The maximum award remains at £10,000, however, as in previous years the average grant awards will be from £2-£5k.

For further information on this and all of the services available from CRC, please refer to our web site, www.community-relations.org.uk or contact us on Tel: +44 (0) 28 9022 7500 Email: info@nicrc.org.uk

Community Relations Awards 2017-2018

Presented annually since 2006, the Community Relations Council award for exceptional contribution in building a shared and reconciled society, recognises the exceptional achievement of an individual in promoting community relations, intercultural work or peace building in Northern Ireland and is intended to highlight the ongoing, courageous work of this nature.

The Community Relations Council would like to thank everyone who made nominations for this year's award. We look forward to announcing the winner at the end of March.

Discussion on Bonfires



Falls Community Council, a CRC core-funded group, held a lunchtime discussion on bonfires at the Duncairn Centre. There was a presentation of the ARK research on bonfires, flags, identity and cultural traditions followed by responses from community leaders focusing on bonfires and then discussion.

To watch a recap video of the discussion, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcaJFcG9p5l>

T:BUC Funding Forums



Funding Forums hosted by Peace IV & T:BUC Branch were held throughout January and February in each of the eleven local council areas (two in Belfast) to raise awareness of the Executive Office funding available for good relations programme and to promote the value of Good Relations and cross-community work by reaching out to areas that historically have not benefitted from funding.

We also wanted to provide support to smaller and new groups to help them make applications that are targeted at achieving good relations outcomes in their local areas.

Programmes represented included the Central Good Relations Fund, T:BUC Camps Programme, Peace IV, Planned Interventions Fund, District Council Good Relations Programme and the Community Relations Council. All of these schemes fund programmes which seek to make a measurable difference in respect of the four key aims of the Executives Together: Building a United Community Strategy – Children & Young People, Shared Community, Safe Community and Cultural Expression.

Nearly 500 organisations attended the events, and preliminary analysis of feedback from participants has been very positive, with 99% feeling the events were 'very useful'. And a lot of interest and enthusiasm was expressed. There were a few 'unusual' suggestions for projects but also very worthy ideas. Completed comment cards were also extremely complimentary with praise for the helpfulness and knowledge of staff. Staff from the branch worked exceptionally hard to plan, organise and deliver the twelve forums to tight timescales, ensuring that everyone who wanted information, guidance or just a friendly chat about good relations could have their queries answered at the events.

An exhausting and busy time we believe it was worthwhile. We are now preparing for what we hope will be stronger, focussed applications from all council areas that will make a real difference to good relations in our community.

If you have any questions regarding the forums or any aspect of the funding schemes managed by the Branch please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Peace IV&T:BUC Branch team for further information. (Tel: 028 90 523231)

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Tackling Paramilitarism Programme

The Executive action plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime was published on 19 July 2016. The plan is the blueprint for delivery on commitments arising from the political agreement to tackle paramilitarism through Fresh Start, and responds directly to the recommendations made in the Fresh Start Panel report on the disbandment of paramilitary groups.

A programme of measures has been put in place which contains 43 recommendations made by the independent Fresh Start Panel, and the Executive's commitments in response to those, with a ring-fenced budget of £50million for their delivery. Given the scale and complexity of the issues presented by paramilitarism, the programme comprises four approaches with related actions and commitments.

The approaches are:

1. Long-term prevention
2. Building capacity to support transition
3. Increasing confidence in the justice system
4. Strategies and powers to tackle criminal activity

The latest updates from the programme can be found here:

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/Stakeholder%20brief%20Feb%202018.docx>

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/Stakeholder%20brief%20monthly%20programme%20report%20Feb%202018.docx>

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History of Belfast's peace walls told through VR

A new documentary film tracing the history of Belfast's peace walls through virtual reality (VR) has been created by a local filmmaker.

Funded through the Community Relations Council's annual Media Grant Scheme, the film, 'When Will the Walls



Come Down?', directed by Brendan McCourt at New Red TV, opens with an aerial view of the Cupar Way peace wall which construction began on in 1969, almost five decades ago.

When first constructed, the Cupar Way peace wall, and all peace walls throughout Belfast, were temporary structures. Now, almost 50 years on, the walls still exist, separating members of the Protestant and Catholic communities along contentious residential interfaces. In the film, a British Army General can be heard telling journalists the earliest stages of the walls, then barbed wire, were "very, very temporary."

"This documentary, showcased through VR, is one that is a virtual experience for the viewer unless you live within these communities. For those people, the story it tells is a reality," explains Director, Brendan McCourt.

"In the film we wanted to find out what is life like for young people who live in the shadows of the walls and to gauge their views on the future of the walls and whether or not they envisage a day when they'll be dismantled.

"The film is about impact and understanding, immersing the viewer in the worlds of a 24-year-old Protestant mother and a 21-year-old Catholic youth worker, two neighbours separated by the walls."

Peter Osborne, Chair of the Community Relations Council, said: "Peace walls can't become a new normal or segregation is normalised further. The film demonstrates the complexity of trying to remove such interface barriers while many people feel unsafe or when there continues to be uncertainty.

"The Community Relations Council Media Grant Scheme helps support creative media projects, and Brendan's film certainly makes a unique and important contribution. The film shines a light on the negative social and economic overhang of peace walls on local communities either side of them. It challenges us all to do more to remove them."

For more information and to view the film, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbOMZXTta2w>

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Events

Celebrating Women – 100 Years On!

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
International Women's Day 2018

Join Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for breakfast and conversation with author Dr Cathy Higgins and other guests as we celebrate women, and look at significant achievements for women over the last 100 years. On 8 March 1911, women came together to celebrate the first International Women's Day, and one hundred years ago some women voted for the first time in Britain and Ireland. Whilst significant progress has been made, there is still a need to #pressforprogress

Date/Time: Thursday 8 March 2018 at 10am

Venue: Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena

To Register: goodrelations@midandeastantrim.gov.uk / tel: 028 2563 5036

This project is supported by The Executive Office through Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's Good Relations Programme.

Youth Initiatives

'Humankindness'

A Youth Arts Production brought to you by Crosslinks, Youth Initiatives

Stranmillis Theatre, Belfast

Sunday 25th March 2018

2.30pm & 7.30pm.

Participants aged 14-20yrs have spent 5 months exploring the theme 'Homemade'. They have looked at what makes a home a home; the various traditions and cultures of those born and raised in NI and the experiences and barriers of those who have settled in NI, making it their home. This showcase written by the young people exhibits their journey of exploration through drama, dance, art and music and gives a voice to what they have learnt along the way.

NI Civil Rights Movement 50th Anniversary

March 2018

Civil Rights – Missed Opportunity?

Dark Horse (30 Hill St, Belfast BT1 2LB)

7.15pm

Friday, 16 March

As part of Imagine! Politics and Ideas festival there will be 'Civil Rights – Missed Opportunity?' panel discussion with Austin Currie, Erskine Holmes, Nelson McCausland and Linda Walker. The panel discussion will be chaired by Alison Morris, Irish News.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.




MEEKE AND THE MAJOR

Saturday 10th March 7.00pm

Come and hear the story of Private John Meeke MM (36th Ulster Division).
A proud Unionist and Orangeman, Meeke embarked on the heroic battlefield rescue of committed
Irish Nationalist and Westminster MP, Major William Redmond (16th Irish Division).
Learn of the east Belfast connection through a former rector of St Patrick's.

DRAMA – MIRIAM THOMPSON // MUSIC – DAVID KANE

Venue: St Patrick's Church of Ireland, Newtownards Road, Belfast.

ALL WELCOME



imagine! Festival

(12 – 18 March 2018)



Running from 12-18 March, politics and the arts collide to bring a unique way of imaging the future of Belfast with the 4th annual Imagine! Festival of Ideas and Politics. The purpose is to bring reason and imagination together in a fun, exciting festival format in a seven day programme of performance, discussion and debate taking place across Belfast.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

For more information on events, visit www.imaginebelfast.com

This project has been supported by CRC.

Women's Residential Dialogue Invitation

Our future: Power sharing, Brexit and the role of women

Corrymeela Residential Centre, Ballycastle

From 9.30am on Saturday 10th to 12pm on Sunday 11th March 2018

Facilitators: Catherine Quinn, David Holloway and Jim O'Neill

All are welcome but places are limited so please book early. To apply for a place or for further information please email or call 028 90 351 450.

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Since the 1998 Agreement; our political parties have failed to agree effective power sharing relationships. This has contributed to tensions across our society and inhibited meaningful responses to our economic, education, health and other needs. Is there anything civic society, and in particular women, can do to encourage the development of a more prosperous, inclusive and peaceful society?

The Brexit negotiations have placed us in a time of social, economic and political uncertainty. Some look hopefully to a better future while others fear that we are entering a darker era. What are your needs and are they represented in the Brexit negotiations? What can we do to be heard?

Despite significant progress; many women in our society continue to feel marginalized and discriminated against. Do we need a more ambitious, timetabled and resourced action plan to support the critical, equal and full participation of women in our society? What can we do to get it?

In a time of increasing challenges; this residential is an opportunity for you:

1. To deeply explore with others the obstacles you face in your struggle to build that better place.
2. To share learning with fellow travellers.
3. To refresh your vision and recharge your batteries and perhaps.
4. To reach agreement on how to more effectively surmount the challenges we face.

Community Dialogue, Duncairn Complex, Duncairn Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6BP

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New Resources - Decade of Anniversaries

CRC has produced a set of new resources on the Decade of Anniversaries work that we do in partnership with Heritage Lottery Fund. These are available online at:

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/decade-centenaries>.

Conflict, Polarisation and Partition Videos

Access the videos from the conference *Conflict, Polarisation and Partition* held in November 2017 on You Tube. There are seven videos including overview of the conference, introduction and conclusion. Éamon Phoenix and Marie Coleman provide the key inputs on historical context.

There are three sessions. Case studies presented and the ensuing discussion recorded were:

- 1) Robert Heslip delivered the paper *The Power of Objects* with case studies from *Contact, culture and conflict around the Causeway* (Corrymeela) and *Remembering 1916: Your Stories instead of 1916 and You* (Living Legacies).
- 2) Collette Brownlee delivered the paper *Skills Development for Providers and Participants* with case studies on *On the Brink the Politics of Conflict 1914- 1916 Volunteer Strand*, A partnership between the then Causeway Museum Service and Mid Antrim Museums Service, and *The Easter Rising and Us, A Tonagh Ladies' Group Community Engagement Project* with Lisburn Museum – 2016-1017.
- 3) Kris Brown delivered the paper *Dealing with Controversial Issues and Sensitivities of the Decades* with case studies presented on *Teachers Resource on the Decade of Centenaries* (Ulster University), *Meeke and the Major* by Dervock and District Community Association/BCRC, and *Ethical and Shared Remembering - Commemoration in a New Context: Remembering A Decade of Violence and Change 1912-1922* (The Junction).

Electronic Survey

In 2017 CRC commissioned Stratagem to carry out a survey of organisations that have organised decade programmes and projects. The response was encouraging with surveys returned from all sectors. The survey captured the scale and topics respondents covered and their assessment of the impacts for society, their organisation and the public.

The highlights are available at: <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/CRC-Toolkit%20Summary%20%206pp.pdf>.

The printed version and the full report are available from CRC.

2018 Decade of Anniversaries Toolkit

There are 45 new case studies about programmes and projects undertaken from 2014 with a major focus on 2018 related projects from community organisations, educators, museums, universities, faith based, councils and government departments. The publication includes the articles, What is Commemoration? Lesson and Tips for Ethical Commemoration, and planning your own decade of centenaries project. Printed copies available from CRC and Libraries NI will also be distributing them free over the coming months. This is also available as an interactive version at: <http://www.creativecentenaries.org/toolkit>

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Review of the Marking Centenaries period and Future Challenges

Based on three workshops in Lurgan, Belfast and Derry Londonderry in 2017 this report includes keynote speeches by Eamon Phoenix, Johnston McMaster, Elizabeth Crooke and Maureen Hetherington. The potential and role of drama and music, case studies based on grassroots activity, district council programmes, and education and outreach programmes are all featured. The summary of the learning that emerged from the workshops across the three sessions is presented in terms of the main themes, effective practice, participants journey, promotion of learning, methodologies explored, shared history, leadership, measurement of impact and challenges ahead. Finally, in section 5: The Challenges Ahead: Roundtable Discussion the emerging themes and sources of stories as we enter into marking the years ahead are set out.

This document aims to draw together much of the learning from the last number of years, to deepen that understanding, and hopefully point a way forward for the future. The Community Relations Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the many others that have brought their knowledge and creativity to this work are committed to continuing on the journey and as we do so, to co-creating a diverse and inclusive future.

The reports are available at <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/decade-centenaries> and by request from CRC.

Showcase your work with NVTV

Groups working on community relations projects are very welcome to contact Northern Visions (NVTV) to discuss showcasing their work. Northern Visions are especially interested in setting up discussions with groups or individuals around community relations themes.

NVTV is broadcast on Freeview 7 & Virgin 159 and available to download via www.nvtv.co.uk

For more information, email feedback@nvtv.co.uk.

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