



T:BUC Engagement Forum “Collaborating for Outcomes”

Paul Killen, Policy Officer, CRC

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The latest Engagement Forum took place on 22 May 2018 in Girdwood Community Hub. The theme for the Engagement Forum on this occasion was “Collaborating for Outcomes”. The forum explored ways in which collaboration between groups and organisations can be beneficial and have longer term and more effective positive impacts on the delivery of services and subsequent results.

Dr Mark Browne outlined the collaborative process used to deliver T:BUC Urban Villages programme, and also introduced a short video of their recent awards evening celebrating the achievements of local communities in their Good Relations work. Donna Blaney from TEO used the Summer Camps programme to illustrate how collaborative working is required to deliver a successful programme such as the Summer Camps, as well as working partnership with various groups, including the voluntary & community sector, district councils and other government departments.

The Playhouse Theatre in Derry/Londonderry, presented an excerpt from their Theatre of Witness programme, specifically the performance “I once knew a Girl” which looked at the untold stories of women who were affected by the troubles from across the community. Claire Heaney, Community Relations Officer at The Playhouse demonstrated the highly successful collaborative process between the Playhouse, The Junction and Holywell Trust culminating in the production of the Theatre of Witness performances.

Following the performance Gerard Deane, Director of Holywell Trust outlined his experience of collaboration with various partners, including The Playhouse and The Junction. Following the very informative presentation and theatre piece the forum broke into groups to discuss three questions:

- Where is greater collaboration needed most and why?
- What can be done to increase collaboration by Central/Local government?
- What the community/voluntary sector can do to help close the gaps in collaborative working?

Following discussion in the smaller groups the participants raised a number of important points, which were fed back to the organisers and will form part of the report outlining the key findings from the day. Some of feedback included:

Enthusiasm for collaborative work and a real sense of value for this type of approach;

Huge potential to develop shared goals that deliver mutual benefits, and positive outcomes for peace building and reconciliation;

“Collaborating for Outcomes” continued

Collaboration remains a challenge for both government departments and the community and voluntary sector;

Key individuals within government and community and voluntary sector are needed to act as drivers, i.e. championing collaborative processes;

Collaboration should take place at all stages of a project design, delivery and evaluation; and include capacity building and mentoring components to build the skills of collaboration;

Repeated calls for fund to collaborate on a strategic basis to help create a funding environment that supports sustainability, minimises bureaucracy, and acknowledges the work and its impact within and between communities, as well how this work supports government objectives;

Funders should consider standardising processes, an examination of what is being funded, reduce duplication and identification of collaborative opportunities.

The potential opportunities arising from more collaborative work, as well as the challenges to such work, was clear to all and the forum enabled the participants to explore this more fully with other groups and agencies.

The next Engagement Forum will be taking place on September 18th in the Lisburn Island Centre.

Further details of the day, including how to register, will be sent shortly via email; please contact pkillen@nicrc.org.uk for further information.



Core Funded Project An Gaeláras Ltd

Lisa Anderson, Comhordaitheoir Um Chuimsiú Cultúrtha

An Gaeláras is an Irish language, arts and cultural organisation working to promote the Irish language and culture through an extensive annual events programme. Lisa, the Coordinator of Cultural Inclusion, explains that CRC Core funding enables the project to;

- Promote awareness of cultural identity between the Irish-speaking community and those perceived to be non-traditional learners of Irish, particularly those from PUL communities.
- Work collaboratively with groups who identify themselves as single identity particularly PUL communities exploring shared cultural heritage e.g. Language, Music and Heritage.
- Continue Cross Community engagement in the sharing of skills, learning and experience for the building of a shared future inclusive of all communities.

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Language-learning projects can help revise destructive understandings of history

David Mitchell & Megan Miller Irish School of Ecumenics

Trinity study of East Belfast 'Turas' Irish-language project finds language classes help groups in conflict find shared heritage. Turas is Core Funded by the Community Relations Council

Language learning has the potential to build empathy between groups in conflict and help revise destructive understandings of history, according to researchers in Trinity College Dublin, who have conducted a study of the Turas Irish-language centre in East Belfast.

The academic case study of the Turas Irish-language project comes at a time when the Irish language has never been more politically contested in Northern Ireland. Bitter political disagreement over a potential Irish Language Act is a primary cause of the Northern Ireland's political parties' failure to restore power-sharing government in Belfast.

Based in a traditional working-class, unionist area, the Turas project runs Irish language classes and community workshops on the little-known historical links between Protestants and the Irish language, and the Irish 'all around us' in place names, phrases and linguistic structures derived from Irish. Turas also provides Irish language singing classes, set dancing classes, and large-scale cultural events. Some 8,000 people have taken part in Turas events and it has around 200 enrolled learners. The project is run by East Belfast Mission, an outreach of the Methodist Church, and led by Linda Irvine, sister-in-law of the late loyalist leader David Ervine.

Language Learning continued

The study, conducted by researchers at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin at Belfast, sought to explain why the *Turas* project is flourishing and to examine the nature of its contribution to peace and reconciliation in the area. Their findings, based on in-depth, interviews with leaders and participants and observations of *Turas* events, have been published in the journal 'Ethnic and racial Studies'.

The researchers found that the project's success could be attributed to an appetite among many members of the Protestant community to discover an aspect of their heritage that had been denied them by Northern Ireland's polarised society. The relaxed and welcoming ethos of the project and the charismatic and energetic leadership of Linda Ervine, were also major factors in the project's success.

Since the advent of power-sharing in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement, the question of what official status or protection should be accorded the Irish language has become a bitterly contested aspect of Northern Ireland's 'culture war', explains Dr David Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, Trinity.

"The *Turas* initiative is explicitly re-casting Irish as a shared heritage of all the people of Ireland, and indeed Britain and Ireland, given the close links with Scots Gaelic. By challenging the tendency towards cultural polarisation this unlikely grassroots peacebuilding project in East Belfast which uses language learning and cultural encounter as its main focus has made a notable contribution to peace and reconciliation. Our study suggests that language learning initiatives have a unique potential to make valuable contribution to peacebuilding initiatives."

"Unlike other peacebuilding tools such as sport, the arts or inter-church activities, language learning has the advantage of being naturally accompanied by learning of the history of the language. This can open up a space for the discovery of a shared historical experience or the revision of destructive understandings of history."

The *Turas* project has wider lessons regarding the capacity of language learning to build peace between groups in conflict, Dr Mitchell continued: "Language learning also has the potential to develop empathy for the members of another linguistic community. This is not simply because language acquisition creates 'common ground' but also because learning a language opens a window into another linguistic community's inner world revealing nuances of culture and ways of life which would otherwise remain impenetrable. In addition, the close connection of language and place means that language learning may have a unique power to reframe groups' strong, exclusive identification with particular territories."

The study did, however, find that some learners were reluctant to reveal the fact that they were learning Irish to friends and family, and many were concerned that the political battle over Irish was working against the progress being made by *Turas* towards 'detoxifying' Irish among unionists.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01419870.2017.1414278?journalCode=rers20>

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The Story of Yes

Raquel Gomez for Shared Future News

The films have been produced by Below the Radar and funded by the Community Relations Council and Northern Ireland Screen

Three short documentary films about the YES Campaign of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) — The Story of Yes (directed by Grace Sweeney), 54 Towns (by Ryan Ralph), and Hope on the Border (by Mairead Ní Threinir) — were screened in the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

Within the framework of the 20th anniversary of the GFA referendum, these three films show, through key figures, how the campaign was carried out. 'YES' was a positive campaign, full of hope, with a little bit of emotion along with the rational. The films have been produced by Below the Radar and funded by the Community Relations Council and Northern Ireland Screen.

The referendum on the Good Friday Agreement can be considered as the end of a long negotiation on the way forward for Northern Ireland. Twenty years ago, the 'YES' won by the 71.12%. It was a vote of hope for a better future.

The 'YES' campaign wasn't easy; it was a battle to convince sceptical voters. Quintin Oliver, who headed up the campaign, said: "We needed to change things, we couldn't let them continue. This motivated me to create a better society. There was a lot of scepticism; people said politicians were talking and talking and talking and nobody was listening."

The 'YES' campaign was a 'non-party and a cross-party campaign', which was designed in a very visual way, reflecting a complex document in a simple manner. "We had two campaigns: an air campaign through the media and a ground campaign on the streets," explained Oliver.

Celebrities like Bono (from U2) supported 'YES' and big banners hung over iconic buildings. "The moment when we threw the 'YES' banner in the Europa Hotel was fantastic; the weather had been awful in the previous five weeks, but the sun suddenly came up," remembers Oliver. From Belfast, the campaign was spreading across Northern Ireland to local towns and local communities.

One of the three short films, Hope on the Border, showed the hoping for peace and the support for 'YES' from some communities, especially those which were divided physically. The border between Co. Monaghan (Ireland) and Co. Fermanagh (Northern Ireland), where most of the roads were closed for more than twenty years, was an example of crossing the divide. Citizens reopened, on their own, one of the roads across the counties before of the GFA was signed.

Twenty years after the referendum, many things have changed. Oliver highlighted: "We have a Northern Ireland that isn't dug in by the fear of the next bomb or the next shooting. The GFA was, as Bill Clinton said, an act of genius, not just here on this island, but across the world, because people look to us as a symbol of the democratic movement from war to peace. It rests in the history books as an important moment, when the people spoke and when the people said yes to a complex agreement that we are now still trying to operationalise and still trying to implement."

On 22 May 1998, 71.12% of Northern Irish people voted for the end of the conflict and for a new shared beginning.



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The Good Friday Agreement belongs to the people, not the politicians

Peter Shirlow, Director, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, April 6, 2018

Taken from theconversation.com

It would be downright bizarre to claim that the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) solved all of Northern Ireland's problems – although it did shift the gun out of Irish politics. The very existence of Northern Ireland remains the defining fault line between unionists, who wish to remain in the UK, and republicans, who want to unite Ireland.

For republicans, the GFA was a holding operation. And given demographic changes, they feel that Irish unification is now within sight. With the republican community of Northern Ireland growing faster than the unionist, they believe the majority of the population will soon share their perspective. For unionists there is the inherent fear of being outnumbered – although many more Catholics (around one in five) favour remaining in the UK than do Protestants wishing for Irish unification (around one in ten).

But the GFA did create new social spaces. Today, a younger generation in Northern Ireland is slowly escaping the confines of ideological, social and cultural enclosure. Around one in five long-term relationships in Northern Ireland are now across the sectarian divide. Such relationships were once near heresy.

The vast majority of those who grew up over the past two decades have friendships across the divide that were unimaginable to their parents. Northern Ireland election surveys conducted at the University of Liverpool show that nearly half of those aged 18-24 do not choose the labels unionist or republican when asked about their identity.

A people's movement

Unfortunately, the perpetual fascination with the Northern Ireland Assembly's various machinations drowns out this progress. And the anniversary of the agreement is a similar story. Marking 20 years of the GFA will mean being reminded of senator George Mitchell's ability to drag politicians over the line and of prime minister Tony Blair's summation that reaching an agreement meant that "the hand of history is upon us". Although it's right to celebrate such leadership and to discuss the failures of the GFA to sustain devolution, a more precise account should point to how people sustained the GFA and the desire for peaceful coexistence.

The GFA does not and never did belong to the politicians. Its owners are the people who voted for it across the constitutional divide and sent out a resounding message that they were wearied by a conflict that did not correspond with their desire for a society based on parity of esteem. On May 22 1998, they voted overwhelmingly in support of the deal in referendums held both north and south of the border. For every person who voted against, 18 voted for. The people sent a clear message that they were repulsed by violence and supported democratic means alone. They were merely waiting for the politicians to catch up with them. The GFA, and the overwhelming endorsement of it, was a silent revolution.

A critical aspect of the GFA was the significant de-escalation in violence. Between 1968 and 1998, some 3,600 were killed and 30,000 injured or imprisoned. In that period, there was an average of 110 killings per year. Last year, there were just two.

This agreement led to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) accepting the unthinkable in terms of its ideology. It recognised and approved the principle of consent. That principle enshrines the right for constitutional change based upon majority support. The people believed in consent and thus rejected the use of armed violence to achieve political goals. Their endorsement was the death knell of violence.

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The Good Friday Agreement belongs to the people, not the politicians continued

The increasing agnosticism about identity in Northern Ireland is evocative of the GFA's desire to create a new sense of identity. The people now support inter-community marriage and wish for equal treatment for sexual minorities and women. It's they who step across the sectarian divide while politicians fail to do so.

It is the people who have known loss, suffering and harm, who are most sensitive to compassion and a way forward. Former conflict-related prisoners worked to re-image murals to remove the allure of violence. Victims worked with those who caused harm to share ideas on how to sustain peace. Police and community members once hostile to each other constantly reduce sectarian tensions to embed peace. Civic, religious and community leaders challenged sectarian prejudice while the Assembly constantly teetered on the edge, crashed and rose and crashed again.

The silent revolution of the people channelled the GFA – it was not the GFA that guided them.



Arts as the Dialogue Building Bridges Northern Ireland, Philadelphia & Beyond

Darren Ferguson, Beyond Skin

Communicating digitally on WhatsApp plus travelling to deliver collaborative projects, the team represents a shared creative resource of decades of experience in peacebuilding, community development and youth work within very different areas of conflict and post-conflict. The organisations represented in the #ArtsDialogue collective are Beyond Skin (Northern Ireland), [Heartbeat](#) (Israel-Palestine), [The Music Project](#) (Sri Lanka) & [Escuelas de Paz](#) (Colombia), [Afghanistan National Institute of Music](#), [Brehon Advisory](#) (Middle East), [BuildaBridge](#) (USA) and [United Network of Young Peace Builders](#) regarding #Youth4Peace initiative

In addition to innovative work in the represented countries, #ArtsDialogue over the past year have been very active in Northern Ireland collaboratively developing and delivering projects which have included support from Community Relations Council.

In June coinciding with Refugee Week, Music Day and Young Hearts & Minds Conference, Ami Yares & Janelle Junkin from BuildaBridge International Philadelphia will be arriving to our shores to deliver a programme of activities with alongside other members of the #ArtsDialogue Team. BuildaBridge has provided over 18 years of trauma-informed art making all over the world working with refugees who have experienced torture, Latina domestic abuse survivors and youth in and around Philadelphia.

Activities are due to take place in Ards, Bangor, Ballycastle, Belfast & Omagh supported by Community Relations Council

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Arts as the Dialogue continued

“Contrary to what some believe, Northern Ireland is not populated by PeaceBuilding experts, and unfortunately this myth has created a business industry of ‘peace consultants’ making big profits from selling their services abroad. The reality is that there is so much WE can learn from organisations and individuals working at grassroots in different countries across the globe. It is this international collaboration through shared knowledge, resources and implementation through the Arts that will make the real long term difference.” Darren Ferguson – Beyond Skin

For more information about BuildaBridge programme visit www.beyondskin.net

Additional

Ami Yares is a professional musician & the executive director of [BuildaBridge International](http://BuildaBridgeInternational.org) (BaB). BaB is an arts intervention NGO that uses trauma-informed programming to instill hope and healing in vulnerable populations. The team consists of teaching artists and board certified arts and music therapists who work in tandem with another. Based in Philadelphia, Ami Yares has also been involved in Heartbeat – an organisation uniting Palestinian & Israeli Youth through Music.



Dr. Janelle Junkin. Dr. Junkin is a board-certified music therapist and an independent researcher currently conducting a Program Impact Evaluation for the Armed Services Arts Partnership, Washington DC. She has taught at various universities in the Philadelphia region and is currently an adjunct professor at Harrisburg University, Philadelphia campus. Dr. Junkin works with BuildaBridge International as the Director of Community Programming and Research. She is the co-founder of unlock Ngenuity which focuses on consulting, creativity, and community through therapy, coaching and research. She is published in the Journal of Applied Arts & Health and the International Journal of Education & the Arts. Her areas of research include child and youth identity development, the role of the arts in conflict transformation, and understanding the community arts and creative arts therapists as vehicles that provide hope and healing to people and communities in crisis.



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Springboard Opportunities

Angila Chada, Executive Director, Springboard Opportunitites Ltd
Springboard is Core Funded by the Community Relations Council

On 10th May 2018 Springboard Opportunities Limited, as lead partner, with Roe Valley Residents Association and Cavan/Monaghan ETB launched the EU PEACE IV funded programme, Journeys.

This is a project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme – Children and Young People strand, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match-funding for the project has also been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Children and Youth Affairs in Ireland.

The aim of the programme is to enhance the capacity of young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

Journeys is a 4-year project open to 14-24-year olds within Belfast, Limavady and Cavan/Monaghan. It is an innovative cross-community/cross-border initiative of tailored programme interventions; to support distinct groups of disadvantaged and at-risk young people from diverse communities in Greater Belfast/ Limavady & Monaghan/Cavan. Young people will realise their potential and become active contributors in building a shared, united and more cohesive society. Together they will build individual capacity, develop an appreciation of diversity and active citizenship. Over 4 years the initiative will bring about positive change for 1016 young people from across traditions and cultures.

Speaking at the launch, Angila Chada Executive Director of Springboard, said, *'We are delighted to formally launch the Peace IV Journeys programme today. The 'wrap around' programme model offers young people an opportunity to increase personal and social capabilities and wellbeing, value and engage positively with people of diverse backgrounds and circumstances, as well as contribute positively to communities through active citizenship.'*

All programmes will have the overarching theme of being youth led whilst exploring good relations, personal development and citizenship. Working creatively through residentials, workshops, team building activities and social action projects, the young people will develop respect for diversity, become empowered and equipped to find their path in life. At the launch, aligned to building citizenship amongst young people, Springboard also formally announced their #DayOn charity, where all groups will raise awareness of mental health and support the work of Lighthouse charity during 2018.

Speaking at the launch of the EU PEACE IV funded project, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB said: *"This project will make a real and positive difference to the lives of hundreds of young people on a cross-border basis. It will give them opportunities to meet with and learn from other young people from a different community background and culture. By participating in the project they will also be able to build and strengthen their own self-esteem, confidence and resilience. In doing so they will be better prepared to help, not only themselves, but the communities that they live in, creating a more forward-thinking and inclusive society,"* she continued.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Journeys can contact: Julie Burgess at Springboard, by phoning 02890 315111 or emailing julieburgess@springboard-opps.org



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Project and Programme News

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) launched the UK Government's consultation on 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past'

From [Victim Service Website](#)

The consultation closes on 10th September 2018 and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/addressing-the-legacy-of-northern-irelands-past>

The Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) provides support and services to victims and survivors in the areas of health and wellbeing, social support, and advocacy through a network of community based providers.

VSS is committed to supporting victims and survivors who wish to engage with the public consultation. Help to respond to the consultation is available regionally through this network of community based providers. They can be contacted directly. Their contact details can be found here: www.victimsservice.org/find-support-in-your-area. All queries will be treated in confidence. You can also contact the VSS directly at Victims and Survivors Service, 1st Floor, Seatem House, 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EN, enquiries@vssni.org or on 028 90279 100 where our staff will be happy to help and provide assistance to you.

A number of requests have been made for VSS comments. It is not appropriate for the VSS to comment on the content of this public consultation. Any queries in relation to the content of the consultation or any related policies should be addressed to the Commission for Victims and Survivors www.cvsni.org on 028 90311000.

Understanding Legacy

Taken from CVSNI website

When we mention legacy, or legacy of the past, we are referring to the lasting impacts that past events have had in Northern Ireland today. This impact varies amongst the many victims and survivors and as such, putting processes in place to deal with these impacts are complex.

A starting point for understanding how the legacy of the past might be addressed is to look at the needs of victims and survivors broadly.

The Commission issued advice on Dealing with the Past in 2014. This advice identified the following four key areas of need in relation to victims and survivors:

- Truth;
- Justice;
- Acknowledgement;
- Reparations.

These needs were informed by research conducted in 2012 and extensive consultation with victims, survivors and other key stakeholders and culminated in a major conference on Dealing with the Past in 2014.

[Click here to read a synopsis of the Commission's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, published in February 2012.](#)

[Click here to read the Commission's Dealing with the Past Conference Report, published in March 2014.](#)

Later in 2014, The Stormont House Agreement then made proposals for mechanisms to help victims and survivors, and Northern Ireland as a whole, deal with the legacy of the past.

[Please click here](#) to view an infographic summarising these proposed mechanisms and depicting how they link to the needs of victims and survivors.

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Project and Programme News continued

Young Life and Times Survey 2017

ARK. *Young Life and Times Survey, 2017 [computer file]*. ARK www.ark.ac.uk/ylt [distributor], May 2018.

ARK launched the Young Life and Times and Kids Life and Times survey results on 23rd May 2018. The trends regarding attitudes to relationships getting better over 5 years is interesting, as well as John Topping's module on young people and their experiences of Stop & Search.

Clicking on a module title below will bring you to a list of all the questions asked on that topic in 2016. You can link to tables and charts of results for each question.

[Background](#)

[Identity](#)

[Family](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Minority Ethnic Groups](#)

[Cross Community Contact](#)

[Education](#) (including School Bullying, Shared Education and CRED)

[Rights and Perceptions](#) (Police Stop and Search experiences)

[Volunteering](#)

[The 'usual suspects'? Young people's experiences of police stop and search powers in Northern Ireland.](#) Research Update by John Topping and Dirk Schubotz.

A [leaflet](#) providing a summary of results from the 2017 survey is available in [PDF format](#) (2.9MB). Part-funded by The Executive Office (TEO), The Department of Education (DE), The Department of Justice (DoJ), Volunteer Now and Queen's University Belfast.

The Northern Ireland Open Government Network

Open Government Website

The Northern Ireland Open Government Network is an alliance of individual citizens and representatives of voluntary/community organisations with the following vision:

To contribute to delivering more open, transparent and accountable government that empowers citizens to shape decisions that impact on their lives

The purpose of the network is to actively engage a broad and diverse group of citizens and organisations in advocating for more open government in Northern Ireland. In association with the global Open Government Partnership initiative, the Network aims to contribute to broadening participation in government; increasing transparency and the availability of, and access to, data; enhancing accountability; improving policy making; delivering better service provision and increasing confidence in government. The Network aims to work in genuine collaboration with the Northern Ireland Executive and government Departments.

The best way to get involved in the activities of the NIOGN is to sign up to this Northern Ireland forum.

Further details about the NI OGN Programme can be sourced on the Northern Ireland page of the UK Open Government Network website: <http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/about/ni-ogn/>

President Michael D Higgins 'Harri Holkeri Lecture'

President Michael D Higgins visited Belfast on 29th May 2018 to deliver a lecture at Queen's University organised by the Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. The lecture looked at the concepts of 'remembering, forgiving, forgetting and imagining'. To read the lecture [click here](#)

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Project and Programme News continued

Getting Real about Hate Crime

Press Release NIACRO



NIACRO is delighted to launch Get Real – a PEACE IV funded, 3-year project aimed at restoratively challenging hate crime.

Get Real supports those over 18 who are involved in hate crime, their victims, and those vulnerable of involvement in hate crime, to acknowledge the hurt and damage caused and to move forward with greater understanding and hope.

Hate crime affects many, if not all of our communities. Get Real helps to restore the relationships that have been broken in our communities because of racist, homophobic, religious, transgender, sectarian or disability hate crime.

By holding those responsible to account for their actions and enabling those who have been harmed to express how they have been impacted, Get Real identifies positive ways for those involved to move forward. Restorative practices allow those involved to safely hear of the impact, in a way suitable to them, and explore how the person responsible for the hate crime can make up for the harm caused.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Paul Iganski, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Lancaster University said: **“It is important to have an holistic approach to addressing the harm of hate crime, particularly with regard to the placing the victim's experience at the heart of the restorative process. The Get Real approach recognises the salience of the particular harms inflicted by hate crime. Get Real is providing a space for an alternative approach to hate crime and the challenges that manifest from it.”**

Get Real is a facilitated process using restorative practices where participants have the opportunity to: be heard; ask questions; take responsibility; feel empowered; explore impact; and repair harm. This will be achieved through three strands:

Get Real about Justice: restorative practice interventions with those who have offended and victims

Get Real about Identity: community-based education programmes with those at risk of perpetuating hate crime

Get Real about Society: diversity training delivered to criminal justice agencies across Northern Ireland and Ireland to equip public servants with knowledge and skills to work towards acceptance of diversity

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said: **“This project will challenge prejudice and intolerance by identifying the underlying issues which cause people to become intolerant. In doing so it will help to reduce sectarian and racially motivated crime. It also reflects the core ethos of the ‘Building Positive Relations’ objective of the EU’s PEACE IV Programme, which has been designed to help create greater levels of community cohesion.”**

Get Real works across Northern Ireland and in the border counties in the Republic of Ireland. The Get Real team are already working in Ballymena, Coleraine, Belfast, Dungannon, Portadown and Derry/Londonderry to build positive relations and to increase community cohesion. You can find out more about Get Real at <https://www.niacro.co.uk/news/getting-real-about-hate-crime>

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Resources

The Open University launches free global learning resource on the Good Friday Agreement

Dr Frances Morton, the Open University



L-R John D'Arcy, National Director of The Open University, Quintin Oliver, who wrote a piece to accompany the video on the YES Referendum, Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Sonia Copeland and Dr Frances Morton of The Open University, who curated the project.

The Open University launched a free learning resource called Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement at City Hall on Wednesday 16 May.

The event, which was hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Sonia Copeland, was attended by a range of politicians, members of the community, business and voluntary sectors.

The free learning resource is a documentary-style video and captures the reflections of a range of contributors who were involved in the making of the Good Friday Agreement, and also those who were opposed to it. Some of the contributors were key players in the negotiations, including Senator George J. Mitchell, Bertie Ahern, David Trimble and Jonathan Powell.

Situated on The Open University's free learning platform called OpenLearn, the resource serves as a reference point for all those interested in learning more about the Agreement, and the impact it has had on citizens and society 20 years since it was made.

OpenLearn has attracted over 50 million learners since its launch in 2006 and provides a range of learning materials for people interested in bite-size chunks of learning and taking the first step into the types of learning available at higher education level.

To view the video, and read a range of additional related material, visit <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/openlearn-ireland/the-good-friday-agreement-20-year-anniversary>

A most notorious interface

Promoting Positive Change was launched at the Houben Centre on Thursday (22 March), attended by community workers, residents and politicians. The report is based on interviews with 48 residents of North Belfast, commissioned by TASCIT (Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill Communities in Transition). The report documents the changes in experience and attitudes of people living in what has been called "a most notorious interface" area, recorded through workshops and interviews.

To download report click here [click here \(PDF 1.7 MB\)](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYETVRT7NvE&feature=youtu.be>

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Beyond a Culture of Two Halves

Action on Sectarianism Website

The Beyond a Culture of Two Halves Resource has been updated by YouthLink Scotland as part of the Action on Sectarianism website where it is now available to download for free, but may be of interest to teachers/youth workers in Northern Ireland.

What is the purpose of the resource?

This resource is a bank of materials designed to help stimulate and enable those tackling sectarianism to develop a programme they can deliver in their communities. Whilst primarily designed for youth workers this resource can also be used by other CLD practitioners and others working in the community. It aims to raise awareness of sectarianism and the affects sectarian behaviour has on communities and individuals.

For more information about the resource and to let us know how you are using it and how useful it is for your work contact us on info@actiononsectarianism.info

To download the resource go to <https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/library-main/activities/beyond-a-culture-of-two-halves?platform=hootsuite>

Unheard Voices

Vicky Cosstick for Northern Slant, 8th May 2018

This is a story about survival – about what helped two women, in particular, toward a degree of healing following traumatic bereavements during the Troubles. It is the story of how women bore the brunt of suffering during the conflict, and about the complexity and length of the healing process. And it is the story of how that process has been helped by the Unheard Voices programme based in the Ráth Mór Centre in London/Derry.

To read all of Vicky's article [click here](#) (external link)

Training

Theatre of Witness was produced, created and directed by founder Teya Sepinuck and began in Northern Ireland with the production of six pieces of high quality theatre performed by, and created from the stories of victims and survivors of The Troubles - including ex-paramilitaries, police, security personnel and relatives of those killed or injured.

The individuals involved in Theatre of Witness have been working together over the past ten years using their produced theatre pieces as an educational resource in workshops, providing participants from both sides of the divide with real life stories documenting the history of the Troubles. These Theatre of Witness workshops are interactive, discursive, and informative explorations of the past, of heartbreak, but also the path to healing and peace out of conflict and tragedy. The workshops do show, on film, scenes for the Theatre of Witness documentary resources concerning the coming together of those experiencing the darkest days of The Troubles from all sides - and the process of putting their collective stories on a theatrical stage. The individuals sharing their stories and starring in the films and theatre are there to engage with those in attendance- offering vital insights into the power of storytelling as a healing, empowering and transformative tool. After the filmed documentary sections Theatre of Witness presenters offer more concerning their own stories and those in attendance can ask questions or discuss the journey the presenters have been on in terms of the artistic presentation of their truth. Those engaging with participants come from all across the history of The Troubles, and key tragic events – and once would perhaps not have been able to sit in a room together. As well as their individual stories, they discuss and reveal their own gathering friendships and the sense of healing that comes with being heard, of speaking out, of seeking and presenting truth – not a sanitised truth, but the real truth no matter how dark. These are revealing sessions that look behind the headlines into the human stories of the past.

"These are the moving stories history books miss..."

"It was a privilege to hear and engage with real inspiring peacemakers..."

A limited number of Theatre of Witness Workshops are free until March 2019 for groups within Northern Ireland tailored to suit participant needs and refreshments will be provided. For more information or to book a workshop contact Claire on claire@derryplayhouse.co.uk or call 028 71268027.

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.

Events

“Taste of Culture” on Saturday 9 June 2018 at the Ulster American Folk Park

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in partnership with a number of organisations has organised a multi-cultural event to celebrate a “Taste of Culture” on Saturday 9 June 2018 at the Ulster American Folk Park.

The event, which has as its theme “Threads of Our Lives” is a family friendly event celebrating the rich variety of languages, cultures and traditions which now exist within the Fermanagh and Omagh district.

Speaking at the launch of the event, the Chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Council, Councillor Stephen McCann said “the Taste of Culture event is an affirmation of our rich cultural diversity and gives an indication of the many people from all over the world who have made the Fermanagh and Omagh district their home. There is something for all ages and I would encourage everyone to come along and sample the sights, sounds and tastes of what has become our new cultural heritage.”

This is the third year of this highly successful event and this is the most exciting to date. Visitors will once again be accorded the opportunity to enjoy international cuisine while at the same time enjoying the rhythm, time and crafts of the participating cultures.

This year’s theme, “Threads of our Lives” focusses on national dress and visitors to the event will be able to ask questions with regard to the traditional clothes on display from all over the world. Visitors will also be able to try their hands at some of the crafts such as candle making, cooking, making Thai fans and Hungarian headdress to name but a few and these will be suitable for adults and children alike.

The project is being delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in partnership with National Museums NI, the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Libraries NI, Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group, and Goodwill Gifts Support Group. The event has received funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council’s Good Relations Programme through the Executive Office.

The “Taste of Culture” event, runs from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm and promises to be a fun filled day for all the family. Normal admission rates to the Ulster American Folk Park apply.

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/news/a-taste-of-culture-at-the-ulster-american-folk-park/>

Voices of 68: Contested pasts, museums and the Northern Ireland peace process

Following an ongoing research project between Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and Ulster Museum, this seminar and accompanying exhibition focuses on significant political and social occurrences in Northern Ireland between 1965 and 1972, and how these events have been portrayed 50 years on.

- **From:** Friday 15 June 2018, 10 am
- **To:** Friday 15 June 2018, 3 pm
- **Location:** Newton Building, Nottingham Trent University, City campus, Burton Street, Nottingham,

Booking deadline: Thursday 14 June 2018, 10.00 am

<https://www.ntu.ac.uk/about-us/events/event-booking?id=528431>



Global Peace Index 2018 and a Positive Peace Framework for Northern Ireland

Join The William J. Clinton Leadership Institute and the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast in partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace and Belfast City Council for the FREE launch of the Global Peace Index 2018 and a conversation about a positive peace framework for Northern Ireland.

Steve Killelea the Founder and Executive Chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace will be the keynote speaker. Steve will be flying in from Sydney to launch this year's Global Peace Index in Belfast following similar launches at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and The Hague. Steve is an accomplished entrepreneur in high technology business development and an international leader at the forefront of philanthropic activities focused on sustainable development and peace.

The Global Peace Index is published each year by the Institute for Economics and Peace, which is now the world's leading think tank dedicated to developing metrics to analyse peace and to quantify its economic value. As well as the Global Peace Index launch Steve will also be talking about the Institutes Positive Peace Report and how it is relevant to Northern Ireland 20 years after the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement.

Agenda:

- 6:00pm – Reception
- 6:30pm – Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 6:45pm – Talk from Steve Killelea
- 7:30pm – Q&A with Steve Killelea
- 7:50pm – Closing Remarks
- 8:00pm – Finish

Places will be limited on the night so booking through Eventbrite is essential. We are expecting a high demand for this event so please RSVP early to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/global-peace-index-launch-2018-tickets-43970042581?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse>

We are able to make this event free thanks to the support of Belfast City Council.

For additional information contact Enda Young. Email: enda.young@qub.ac.uk, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 4338

Good governance and charity reporting seminars – NICVA

Date & Time: 20 June, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue: Killymaddy Centre, Dungannon

The Developing Governance Group in association with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and local support networks would like to invite you to a free seminar focusing on the annual reporting requirements. The sessions will also look at the Charity Commission's new guidance on fundraising and data protection.

[Find out more](#)

The Reivers Festival

The Schomberg Society's Reivers Festival is now one of the largest and most successful Ulster-Scots Festivals in Northern Ireland. The Festival will be commencing this year on 28th June and culminates on the 11th July with an Afternoon Concert at 1pm in Kilkeel town centre followed by a traditional Cultural Pageant and Open Air Concert in the Demonstration Fields, Kilkeel, all kicking off at 7pm.

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.

The Schomberg Society's 11th Night Celebrations is now recognised as a template of good practice for improving community relations and mainstreaming Ulster-Scots culture. The Festival aims to promote all facets of Ulster-Scots music, dance, language, culture and heritage to folk from all backgrounds and walks of life and promote a shared culture that everyone is proud to be part of.

The 11th Night Celebrations now attracts thousands of spectators and visitors from right across the province, the Republic of Ireland and across the water and gives them an opportunity to experience and get involved in Ulster-Scots culture. The Schomberg Society would welcome all visiting groups and individuals to come along and join in with the celebrations. This year, the 11th Night Celebrations will feature a Highland Games Demonstration, Living History Re-Enactment, Horses, Cannons, Vintage Vehicles, Willie Drennan and his Big Band, Archery, Children's Entertainment, a Fireworks Extravaganza and much much more!

This Festival is funded by the Dept for Foreign Affairs, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and funding decisions are pending from the Community Relations Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency. For more information about the Reivers Festival, please contact the Schomberg Society on 028 4176 9678 / 0775 3222 553 or email schombergsociety@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook: Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots.

The Lost Moment



The Lost Moment looks anew at the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland fifty years on from the marches and peaceful protests that immediately preceded the Troubles. Curated by Sean O'Hagan, writer on photography, art and culture for The Guardian and The Observer, the show places the Northern Irish civil rights struggle in the context of the many international street protests that made 1968 such a tumultuous year. From Paris to Prague, Chicago to London, mass protests reverberated across the world via the TV news.

<http://visualartists.ie/events/the-lost-moment-group-exhibition-at-nerve-visual-derry/>

Nerve Visual
80-81 Ebrington St
Londonderry
BT47 6FA
Ireland

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.

Trench Art Exhibition at the Siege Museum

<http://www.thesiegemuseum.org/news/trench-art-exhibition-siege-museum>

The Siege Museum are delighted to have on display an exhibition of trench art made during World War I. The temporary exhibition is housed on the ground floor of the museum and will be with us from 1st July - 18th November, commemorating the date of the Battle of the Somme.

Trench art is any decorative item made by soldiers, prisoners of war or civilians where the manufacture is directly linked to armed conflict or its consequences. It offers an insight not only to their feelings and emotions about the war, but also their surroundings and the materials they had available to them.

Common articles that this includes are decorated shell and bullet casings and items carved from wood and bone.

Not limited to the World Wars, the history of trench art spans conflicts from the Napoleonic Wars to the present day. Although the practice flourished during World War I.

Siege Museum
13 Society Street
Londonderry
BT48 6PJ

Abandoned; Not Forgotten? – 28 June to 28 July



Stripping away the political agenda, the remit for all four artists for this installation was to promote and embrace both factions of our society, culturally and equally, to create an original body of work, which they best felt answered the question: The culture, heritage and language of our joint Irish and Ulster Scots history – is it abandoned; forgotten?

The reply by all four was a resounding no.

Dates: Thursday 28th June to Saturday 28th July 2018

Venue: Flax Gallery, Museum at The Mill ([view map](#))

Admission: Free

2018 Armagh Peace Building Summer School

July 8th - 17th based at Charlemount Arms Hotel

The program for the 2018 Peace Building Summer School is being finalised. The School will examine

- Tough Issues in the conflict how they have been resolved or not resolved
- Parades from Loyal Order, marching band and residents' perspectives, accommodations and current position in Armagh

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.

- Visit to Derry/Londonderry Museum of free Derry, Parades and how they have been managed in the City
- Life in Northern Ireland from the perspectives of: LGBT, Asylum Seekers, Ethnic communities
- Tour of Peace Walls in Belfast

Participation by people from Ireland and those from abroad through UMASS Boston giving opportunity for learning and interaction of local and international perspectives

Those from UMASS can undertake accredited learning as part of UMASS teaching. Those from Ireland can undertake accredited learning through Open College Network course on Peace Building specifically designed for the school.

For further information go to <http://www.peacebuilding-summerschool-armagh.org/>
The Summer School is being led by Diversity Challenges <http://www.diversity-challenges.com> and University of Massachusetts Boston Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance https://www.umb.edu/academics/mgs/crhsgg/grad/conflict_resolution

and a partnership of:

REACT <http://www.reactni.org>

West Armagh Consortium <http://www.westarmaghconsortium.org>

Rural Community Network <http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org>

Dealing with Difficult Conversations

NI OCN Accredited One day Workshop

Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/ Londonderry, BT48 7ER
Thursday 2 August 2018, 9.30am – 4.30pm
£100.00 (includes sandwich lunch and NI OCN registration fee)

Who For?

This workshop is for Solicitors, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Managers, Team Leaders, Youth and Community Workers and Community Relations Project workers.

Course Content

This one day NI OCN accredited workshop is designed to help participants explore some of the skills and knowledge needed to deal with difficult conversations.

Part of the day will explore why there is a need to do a lot of self-preparation work before a difficult conversation is about to take place.

The workshop will also consider through case studies the legal aspect of creating a safe and harmonious working environment.

Participants will also take part in an experiential learning process that will allow them to look at their own strengths and weaknesses when working with difficult people.

****You may claim 5 CDP's for attending this course***

Places on this workshop are limited to 10 so early booking is advisable

Payment to:

Mediate NI, Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry BT48 7ER

Tel: 02871 365636 ex 229 , Mob: 07714494258, Email:michael.doherty@mediateni.com

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.

Accredited Conflict Management and Mediation Skills Workshop for Managers

(Northern Ireland Open College Network (Level 1 – 1 Credit))

Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT48 7ER

27 June 2018, 9.30am – 4.30pm

£100.00 (includes Sandwich Lunch, NIOCN registration fee and course workbook)

Who for?

This course is designed for Work-place Managers, Solicitors, Police Officers, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Human Resource Personnel School Teachers, Good Relations Officers, Project Officers, Health Officers, Care Workers and Facilitators.

Workshop Aims

To introduce participants to the principles of Conflict Management and the use of Mediation as tool for resolving conflict.

Explain to participants that Mediation is a process, which helps people in dispute to have a difficult conversation with each other that enables them to work through their issues and hopefully reach an agreeable outcome.

To give participants an overview of the Learning Outcomes for the course and explain the Northern Ireland Open College Network Accreditation procedure.

Objectives

At the end of the Workshop the participants will be able to: -

- Identify different ways people deal with conflict

- Be aware of the skills of a mediator

- Have an understanding of three forms of mediation – Facilitative, Evaluative and Shuttle

- How mediation works in practice

- Help disputing parties create their own agreements

- Understand the legal framework of mediation

THIS COURSE MAY QUALIFY FOR 5 CDP POINTS UNDER SELF-NOTIFICATION

Mediate NI, Clarendon Street Chambers, 67 Clarendon Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT48 7ER

Tel: 02871 365636 ex 229, Mob: 07714494258

Email: michael.doherty@mediateni.com

Perspectives on the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement: Fifty years on

by The Ulster History Project

This event will focus on the NI Civil Rights Movement fifty years on, especially the involvement and reactions of Unionism.

This will be a one day conference open to the public, with speakers from academia and civil society, including those who were involved in the campaign.

For more information please email: info@ulsterhistoryproject.org.uk

To book your place go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/perspectives-on-the-northern-ireland-civil-rights-movement-fifty-years-on-tickets-44347476496>

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.

2nd Soma Sheehy Skeffington Summer School

Exploring the Interconnections of Arts, Creativity and Peacebuilding

9th July, 9.30- 4.00

Down Arts Centre.

Voice, Identity and Power.-Reflections on Finding Voice, Constructing identity and Finding ways to use Power Constructively and Creatively.

This 2018 summer school celebrates the memory and the achievements in advancing the agenda of feminism and social justice of Frank and Hannah Sheehy Skeffington.

Through the prism of these dramatic monologues of these two activists, written by Dr. Catherine Kelly, we will explore issues of power, inequality and violence and consider ways of understanding and engaging with these issues creatively.

This day invites you to engage in reflective and generative exploration of personal and social change processes through drama, creative workshops and conversations

Kabosh Theatre present Hannah and Francis Sheehy Skeffington dialogues performed by Michael Condrón and Maggie Cronin

Creative workshops on Voice ,Creative Writing, and Art

Key note Address by Padraig O Tuama, Poet, Theologian and leader of Corrymeela Community.

£10 including lunch.Places limited and booking via Down Arts Centre. This event is in collaboration with Down Arts Centre

The Good Friday Agreement , 20 years on– A Lasting Settlement?



10th July 7.30-9.30.

The Kings Inn, Castlewellen.

This event centres on talks by Dr. Paul Nolan, academic and researcher and Dr. Ruth Feeney, UN Ceasefire Monitor. Paul will reflect on his experience on assessing the Good Friday agreement and considers the future of the settlement. Ruth will bring a global perspective, reflecting on the influence of her doctoral research on the Good Friday Agreement and on her current work in monitoring ceasefires in South Sudan with 25+ different military groups. There will be time for questions and discussion.

This event is a free event, organised in collaboration with Castlewellen Interchurch Forum.

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.



Local Voices Global Echoes

15th July, 8.00 pm

Brunel Room Slieve Donard Hotel.

After a launch of this project on 24th January 2018, some 104 years after the meeting between E.D. Morel and Roger Casement in this very venue that led to the founding of Congo Reform Association, we are pleased to have Kabosh back again with renewed and rehearsed readings of both dramas by actors Michael Condron and Maggie Cronin and Vincent Higgins. These dramas are written by Philip Orr and Catherine Kelly.

One hundred years after women won the right to vote, it is fitting to bring to life the voices of these feminists and social activists with local connections and global influence.

What relevance do these historic events and people have for today?

Join in the table conversations about the issues arising with the playwrights, Kabosh director Paula McFetridge and other invited guests.

£5 .00 Admission on door

As part of our DiverseCity programme and to celebrate Refugee Week, you are invited to a Small Worlds event to meet and hear the experience of Refugees currently living in Belfast.

Date: Monday 18 June

Time: 6.20pm - 8.30pm

Venue: Belfast City Hall

What are 'Small Worlds' workshops?

'Small Worlds' are cafe-style events in which people circulate around tables hosted by volunteers from different nationalities. The workshops introduce a taste of the diversity that exists in NI and provide safe spaces in which participants can meaningfully begin to engage with those from different backgrounds and other parts of the world. For many participants, these are experiences that open up a fresh perspective. The conversations take place in a safe and semi-structured setting that is carefully managed by a facilitator.

To register you must reserve your place in advance by emailing goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or call us on 028 9027 0663.

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.

As part of our DiverseCity Programme,

Belfast City Council is hosting a Living Library Event.

Date: Monday 17 September 2018

Time: 10am - 2pm

Venue: Details of the city centre venue will be provided following registration.

What is the Living Library?

The Living Library is similar to a normal library, except the books are people and you can borrow a book for a 20 minute conversation. All of the living books are from a wide range of backgrounds with different life experiences.

The Living Library is a fun event which allows you to have a conversation with someone you might never have had the opportunity to speak to.

The idea is that you pick a book or person and borrow them for a one to one conversation.

We have 13 Living Books available to borrow.

How do I get involved?

Check out www.belfastcity.gov.uk/diversecity for a full list and description of all the books available

Check out www.belfastcity.gov.uk/diversecity for a full list and description of all the books available

- Select the human book or books you are interested in borrowing
- Contact our good relations unit who will offer you a time slot for borrowing the book and give you further details about the event. Call us on 028 9027 0663 or email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk
- Select the human book or books you are interested in borrowing
- Contact our good relations unit who will offer you a time slot for borrowing the book and give you further details about the event. Call us on 028 9027 0663 or email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

Booking is essential.



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.