



CRC e-Bulletin

Conflict in Cities and the Contested State

Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities

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Conflict in Cities and the Contested State is an exciting research project involving three universities Cambridge, Exeter and Queen's Belfast. The project focuses on cities disrupted and shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts and the ways in which these divisions may be resisted, reinforced or accepted. While Belfast and Jerusalem are the main sites of study, cities, such as, Nicosia, Mostar, Berlin, Beirut and Kirkuk are also explored. This range of cities, spanning Western Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East, draws attention to the commonalities of conflict but also of the need to be attentive to the specificities of time, place, history, economics and culture.

The project draws on the experiences and perceptions of each city's inhabitants; politicians, community leaders, police forces, young people, the woman/man on the street and places these within the changing geography, institutions and architecture of the city. This approach aims to shed light on the intricacies of conflict and possibilities for change not only on a grand scale but also, importantly, on what may be deemed the mundane or everyday level.

To date the Belfast team have worked with mothers of pre-school children and young people on their experiences and perceptions of Belfast as a shared city, not only in terms of religion but also in relation to class, ethnicity and gender, the changing city centre, peacewalls and sectarianism. Researchers have also looked at the changing built environment of Belfast and at major physical regeneration projects asking how these changes are impacting on deep-rooted divisions in the city. The team is currently working on the influence of changes in both 'formal' and 'informal' policing over the management of conflict in chosen urban spaces and at the ways in which Belfast continues to be shaped, claimed and fragmented by 'religion'.

An international conference Urban Conflicts: Ethno-National Divisions, States and Cities will take place in Queen's University from 19-21 May 2011. Drawing contributors from around the world the conference aims to enhance dialogue between academics and non-academic urban policy practitioners and community activists working in such contested cities. The conference will include plenary and parallel sessions, round table discussions and a guided tour of Belfast's 'peacewalls' and 'shared spaces', and the opening keynote address will be given by Saskia Sassen.

March 2011

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Conflict in Cities and the Contested State continued

Central to the project is a commitment to share and disseminate the knowledge gathered to as many interested parties as possible within and beyond the academic arena. As such, we would encourage people to visit the project website which is constantly updated with photographs, working papers and links to relevant published research and events.

1 Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: *Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities* is funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Large Grant RES-060-25-0015 [2007-2012]

2 <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/UrbanConflictsConference/>

3 The project website is <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/conflictincities/>

Speak Your Peace

Ray Mullan, Director of Communications, Community Relations Council



From left to right Brenda Hegarty, SEUPB, Denis Leamy, Pobal & Paddy McGinn, Pobal

On 24th February those involved in Theme 1.1 of the EU Peace Programme held a special 'Speak Your Peace' conference in Armagh on the work of the Peace III Partnerships. Hosted by the North-South consortium of the Community Relations Council and POBAL the conference was an opportunity to reflect on the work of Phase I of the programme, 'Building Positive Relationships at local level', as it prepares to move forward to Phase 2.

Attending were those taking part in the various Partnership projects.

Denis Leamy, Chief Executive of POBAL, said, 'Each Partnership area is engaged in significant and important work to address sectarianism and racism. So often, this work goes unnoticed, unrecognised, hidden and not acknowledged. Yet it is the cornerstone and life blood of the peace process, building positive relations at the local level. He added 'The Peace III programme is a cross border programme and the efforts by Partnerships to build cross-border relationships is a testimony to the commitment by all stakeholders to continue to focus on building positive relationships and breaking down any barriers that exist, perceived or real.'

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

Speak Your Peace continued

Duncan Morrow, Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, said, 'There has been a lot of learning from the first phase of the Peace III Programme, and as we move forward to phase two, Partnerships will be encouraged to think and act more strategically. The EU Peace Programme has invested much over many years in the peace process in Northern Ireland and the border counties. Its success will be to have helped establish a firm foundation for building a Shared Society that both respects difference and acknowledges our interdependence.'

The conference held three discussion sessions.

The first explored the current context and policy in both north and south to promote and support peace building initiatives. The second heard feedback from evaluations and measurement of the work of the Peace Partnerships so far. The third highlighted two examples of Peace III Partnerships making a practical difference on sectarianism, racism and cross border work (Donegal Partnership and the North East Partnership).

Participants at the conference also had an opportunity to visit two local projects- PLACE in Portadown and County Monaghan Community Network's Communities Sharing Project' in Monaghan.

Inter-Community Social Housing Initiative Receives \$3.5m of EU Support

Emília Ferreira, SEUPB

A new initiative designed to encourage greater levels of social integration within Northern Ireland's housing sector has just been launched with assistance from the EU's PEACE III Programme.

The project called 'bric – building relationships in communities" has received a total of £3,522,000 worth of assistance under PEACE III and is being delivered through an innovative partnership approach involving the Rural Development Council (RDC), the Housing Executive and the specialised community relations organization TIDES Training.

According to figures from the Housing Executive, approximately 90% of social housing in Northern Ireland is still segregated into single identity communities. This has created further barriers to effective and long-term social integration and has served to further polarize many communities across the region.

The primary objective for the four year project is to help reverse the history of that trend for segregated social housing, by promoting the idea of good relations and greater levels of community cohesion. The project will achieve this by empowering the Housing Executive staff to develop a new approach founded on the principles of integration, tolerance and mutual respect.

RDC Vice- Chair Ruth McAreavey said, "RDC is delighted to be involved in this innovative and ambitious partnership. We hope to build the institutional good relations capacity of the Housing Executive while also enhancing the capacity of communities to be in effective active citizens.

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

Inter-Community Social Housing Initiative Receives £3.5m of EU Support continued

Consequently we are seeking to sustain the good relations work that will be developed as a result of this project by shifting values and practices within Housing Executive and among the participating communities. This project is the first of its kind to pilot a unique service delivery model within a public sector agency and we anticipate mainstreaming good relations within the Housing Executive”.

Speaking on behalf of the Housing Executive, Chief Executive Paddy McIntyre said, "The Housing Executive is delighted to be part of this important new programme which will embed Good Relations into every aspect of the Housing Executive's work".

Mike Mullan Chair of Tides Training commented 'This is a long term initiative involving well established partners that will help build capacity within the Housing Executive and grassroots communities to support improvements to their own areas and create a shared vision for the future”.

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body welcomed the initiative saying: "The creation of a truly shared society, which embraces diversity and opposes sectarianism, is one of the core objectives of the EU's PEACE III Programme. The "bric" project will help to tackle one of the main obstacles to full integration within our society which has resulted from historic residential segregation. In creating new opportunities to support the development of cross-community housing it will address some of the underlying problems of sectarianism, prejudice and intolerance that exist across the region. Its innovative model of delivery that will place a new and distinctive focus on peace and reconciliation through institutional capacity-building, within a key regional public service organisation will greatly contribute to the promotion of a shared society.”

Over a four year period the programme will be delivered through three distinctive and complementary themes. It will deliver a bespoke Good Relations training programme to Housing Executive staff from board level to the housing estate wardens plus 80 residents groups from 80 housing estates across Northern Ireland under the theme 'Changing Minds’.

Under the 'Sharing Visions' theme, it will create opportunities that will provide Housing Executive with the skills to influence the re-imaging of up to two physical interfaces.

Finally, as part of a 'Crossing borders' theme, it will also use a cross-border approach to the analysis of the housing market with a view to facilitate better planning in the border areas. It will explore housing policy on a cross-border housing market delivery model and promote joint government action on cross-border housing issues.

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Towards A Shared Society?

In July 2010, the Northern Ireland Executive released its draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration for public consultation. The consultation period ended at the end of October 2010 by which time over 200 responses, including one from the Community Relations Council (CRC), had been received. To date no analysis of the consultation responses has been made public or a review of the CSI proposals announced.

CRC believes this is a unique opportunity for focussed debate on our vision for the future and has therefore decided to publish its own ideas on a way forward, **'Towards A Shared Society?'**, as part of its public obligation to challenge and stimulate debate on these issues. These are the result of long and thoughtful discussion within the Council and with many people across society, and they are rooted in CRC's participation in peace-building at local level and as participants in the £2bn EU PEACE Programmes and IFI Community Bridges Programme.

Duncan Morrow, CRC's Chief Executive, says: 'Separation or Sharing is a vital area of public policy. Without a serious programme to enact change, broad and vague commitments to 'peace' in the abstract will eventually look naked and unconvincing in practice. CRC hopes and believes that serious debate and action on this issue will go on for many years. It hopes also that CRC's publication of 'Towards A Shared Society?' can make a useful and constructive contribution to coherence and development in policy.'

'CRC hopes that public representatives, members of political parties and the wider civic society will read the publication and use it help shape plans and proposals for a society better able to deliver a peaceful and prosperous future. The Community Relations Council will be happy to engage with them in this.'

Copies of the publication 'Towards A Shared Society?' are available free of charge from the Community Relations Council (tel 9022 7500 or email info@nicrc.org.uk). It can also be downloaded from the CRC website at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/towards-a-shared-society.pdf>

Community Relations Week 2011

For the last nine years the Community Relations Council has co-ordinated Community Relations Week with events of a community relations nature planned by a huge variety of voluntary and community groups, District Councils and other public bodies.

Despite the difficult economic and financial environment the Community Relations Council believes that the need to build a more shared society and to challenge the segregation and division around us is more relevant than ever.

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Community Relations Week 2011 continued

In recent years the annual Community Relations Week has been a great opportunity to showcase some of the current community relations work in the voluntary and community sector and we hope this will continue again this year. This year we would also encourage the public sector to participate by exploring or discussing how to tackle the cost of division by promoting sharing rather than separation over a wide range of public services and provision. Examples of good practice would be suitable for inclusion as well as new initiatives and discussions. In 2010 almost 150 events were staged with extensive media coverage.

In 2011 Community Relations Week will be held from Monday 23 May to Saturday 28 May. Those wishing to organise an event that could form part of the programme should complete an entry form http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/Brochure_Form_Community_Relations_Week_20092.doc

This will need to be returned by 4th April.

Voluntary and community groups should note that any additional costs relating to a CR Week event may be eligible for grant aid from the CR/CD small grants scheme. Although the grant scheme is only open for applications from 4 April enquiries about the possibility of grant support for a CR Week event should be made to Paul Jordan or project officers in the Funding and Development team.

Community Relations Award 2011

The Community Relations Council invites nominations for the 2011 Community Relations Award for exceptional contribution. The prestigious award which has been given annually since 2006 will take the form of a bronze trophy. Nominations should give some background information on the nominee and their contribution by reference to the following criteria:

Evidence of the exceptional, sustained and long-term commitment of the nominee/s to community relations work.

Evidence of the commitment of the nominee/s to community relations work beyond single community across Northern Ireland and/or across the Border.

Embodiment of Community Relations Council values.

Influence on thinking on peace-building and community relations issues.

Note that the Award is given to an individual, or exceptionally two individuals, rather than to a group. Nominations of deceased persons will not be accepted. Previous winners have been Eamonn Deane, Derrick Wilson, Anne Carr, Renee Crawford and Jean Brown, David Stevens and Mary Kelly.

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Community Relations Award 2011 continued



Eamonn Dean winner of the Exceptional Achievement Award in 2006

Nominations can be made by completing a nomination form http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/CR_Award_form.rtf and returning to CRC by 4.30 pm on Monday 9 May 2011. No self nominations are permitted and staff and Members of the Community Relations Council, and their family members, are ineligible although they may nominate others.

Jews Schmooze 2011

Jews Schmooze, the culture and arts arm of the Belfast Jewish Community, kicked off its 'Sound Familiar' Programme with a memorable evening of choral and cello music at the Belfast Synagogue on Sunday 27 February at 1900. In partnership with Methodist College Belfast and Neil Martin, the evening featured secular and sacred pieces from many faiths.

Funded by the Peace 111 Programme and administered by Belfast City Council, this was the first of six events to be held between now and April as part of an interfaith programme to encourage dialogue on cross community issues.

Michael Black, Chairman of the Belfast Jewish Community said: "Building on the success of the 2009 and 2010 Jews Schmooze Programme, this year's theme "Sound Familiar" is a great opportunity to not only develop the awareness of the Jewish Community in Northern Ireland but to work with other communities to strengthen inter-faith relationships and promote cultural diversity. The programme of events has been designed to take cultural development to the next level, through a range of art forms to demonstrate the similarities and respect between Faiths."

The Belfast Synagogue will play host to most of the events taking place over the coming months. Forthcoming events include two performances of the specially commissioned "Chronicles Suite" on Thursday 10 March, featuring local Jazz composer and drummer David Lyttle, Israeli pianist Ariel Lanyi, Slovakian gypsy guitarist Andreas Varady and Australian bassist Damian Evans.

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Jews Schmooze 2011 continued

The performances will highlight the themes of right and wrong, justice and reconciliation. There will be a performance for schools at 11am and for the general public at 7pm.

The Ulster Museum, in association with Jews Schmooze, will host a classical recital by thirteen year-old Musical prodigy Ariel Lanyi on Sunday 13 March at the Ulster Museum at 2pm.

Two performances at the Belfast Synagogue, of Arthur Miller's Incident at Vichy on Sunday 13 and Monday 14 March at 7pm by Fringe Benefits will consider the themes of guilt, denial and complicity with state forces of authority. The play is set in France in World War Two at the start of the round up of Jews. Following the play on Sunday 13 March, the audience will be given the opportunity to participate in a panel-led discussion about cultural identity with representatives from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths.

An evening of poetry readings entitled Peace, Place and People by award winning poets Elaine Feinstein and Michael Longley will be joined by new poet Ben Maier, will bring the programme to an end on Sunday 17 April at the Belfast Synagogue. This event is presented in partnership with the John Hewitt Society. The date has been especially chosen as it marks both the eve of Passover and Palm Sunday, to demonstrate the Jewish Community's commitment to partnering with other communities, encouraging mutual respect and cultural diversity. The audience is invited to meet the poets and discuss their work after the readings.

Admission to all events is free of charge.

For further details contact Joanna Black on 07881954679 or e-mail, jewsschmoozebelfast@hotmail.co.uk.

Glentoran FC hosts 'One Club—One Community' Workshop

On 25th February 2011 Glentoran Football Club hosted its inaugural 'One Club...One Community' Workshop at the Oval.

The workshop aimed to introduce the club's new community-orientated project to key stakeholders and establish an advisory panel consisting of representatives with expertise in community relations, sport and the local community sector.

The three year project - funded by the International Fund for Ireland's Community Bridges Programme and Belfast City Council's Peace III Programme - will aim to make a positive cultural, social and educational contribution to the local community through all facets of football.

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Glentoran FC hosts ‘One Club—One Community’ Workshop continued

Glentoran will work in partnership with supporters and the local community to deliver a wide range of initiatives that will help address issues such as intercommunity prejudice, social inclusion, education and training, health and crime prevention.

Speaking at the workshop, Aubry Ralph, Vice-Chairman of Glentoran Football Club, said: “Glentoran Football Club recognises the importance of taking an active role in its local community.

“This project will work towards enhancing the club’s relationships with existing fans and the local community, cultivating loyal future fans, and creating an inclusive and family orientated atmosphere at Glentoran that promotes good relations in East Belfast.



Aubry Ralph, Vice Chairman of Glentoran (left) and Russell Lever, Community Relations Officer at Glentoran (centre) welcome guest speaker Matt Parish, Community Director at Charlton Athletic (right) to the Oval as Glentoran Football Club today hosted its inaugural ‘One Club....One Community’ Workshop.

Policy Update

compiled by Gemma Attwood, Policy Officer, CRC

Assembly Update

During February Assembly members submitted a number of questions which were of particular relevance to community and good relations.

Some of the issues raised included:

Written & Oral Q&A

OFMdFM

Whether any savings have been identified that could be made by transferring the work of quangos or arms-length bodies to (i) Departments; or (ii) the private sector.

Why their Department sought European funds to build a Conflict Transformation Centre at the former Maze Prison site.

When their Department will publish its response to the consultation on the Draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

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Policy Update continued

Does the deputy First Minister not agree that there is an urgency to publish the strategy to deal with sectarianism and other forms of hate crime? When exactly might we see the launch of the final given the amount of adverse comment that there was on it?

Does the deputy First Minister agree that all parties, including the SDLP and the Alliance Party, should start to act constructively in the process, including by bringing forward their proposals for the Departments over which they have responsibility?

Can the deputy first Minister give an assurance that the programme will actually be published before the end of this Assembly?

When they will bring forward proposals relating to the Social Investment Fund and the Social Protection Fund to the Executive.

To detail (i) the outcome of the recent Cohesion, Sharing and Integration consultation; (ii) when the responses to the consultation will be published; (iii) when the independent analysis will be published.

Why there was a delay in the establishment of the Victims and Survivors Service; and for a revised timetable for its establishment.

To outline the plans and time frame for the construction of the conflict resolution centre at the Maze/Long Kesh site.

Whether any rights-based analysis has been carried out in relations to their Department's spending and saving plans for 2011-2015.

DCAL

For his assessment of the displays at the Ulster Museum relating to the IRA Hunger Strikes.

What plans he has to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

Whether his Department will provide Irish Language classes to staff and officials who wish to avail of such provision.

When the Ulster-Scots dictionary will be published; and how much has been spent on it to date.

DE

What alternatives are provided for pupils who opt out of religious educations in schools?

What action her Department is taking to ensure that religious education in schools takes into account religions other than Christian-based faiths?

How her Department intends to ensure that (i) decision making on the proposed rationalisation of the school system, contained in her budget options for sharing on a cross-sectoral basis and integration, have been fully considered; and (ii) parents and local communities are kept fully informed of the possibilities and options for cross-community sharing and integration when local schools are being considered for closure.

How her Department intends to ensure that the proposed rationalisation of the school system and the options for sharing on a cross-sectoral basis and integration will be considered fully before any decisions are made.

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Policy Update continued

Whether her Department intends to provide financial support to schools wishing to collaborate and explore mergers, amalgamations and integration across different sectors.

How her Department intends to ensure that parents and local communities are kept fully informed of the possibilities and options for cross-community sharing and integration when local schools are being considered for closure.

DETI

What steps her Department is taking to maximise the cultural investment and tourism potential of the Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013.

DRD

If he has any plans to provide alternative road and directional signs in Irish, and if so, to detail the estimated cost.

DOJ

Does the Minister agree that effective localised community policing is the best way of ensuring a shared and confident future?

If he can confirm the date when the 50/50 recruitment to the PSNI will end.

How many claims for criminal damage to (i) Orange Halls; and (ii) Community Halls are under consideration by the Compensation Agency; and how many of these claims are pending for more than (a) two years; (b) three years; (c) four years; and (d) five years.

What discussions he has had with the newly appointed Parades Commission regarding the (i) policing; and (ii) criminal justice implications of violence in the aftermath of the enforcement of Parades Commission determinations.

DSD

How many instances of sectarian violence and harassment in Housing Executive properties have been reported in each of the last two years, broken down by district office; and how often the Housing Executive publishes data on sectarian violence and harassment.

To outline his Department's involvement in the proposed social investment fund and how this fund will relate to the Executive's neighbourhood renewal programme for tackling disadvantage.

Does the Minister have any sense of whether the £80m for the social investment fund will complement that work? Have there been discussions at all about the findings of that review?

Will he share with the House his fears about how OFMdFM might administer the social investment fund.

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Policy Update continued

Hansard

Hansard Report 7th February 2011 - <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/reports2010/110207.htm#a3> North/South Ministerial Council: Special EU Programmes

At its meeting in December last year, the Committee was told that out of 61 applications to the INTERREG Iva programme, only 18 had been approved, which is a success rate of just under one third, although eight projects were still under assessment at that stage. Will the Minister advise the Assembly on what grounds the remaining 35 projects were rejected or withdrawn and what work is being done to improve the approval rate?

The Minister said that the Council noted that Peace III programme was continuing to address the needs of the victims and survivors of the Troubles. Is he confident that that funding will be shared throughout the community in a fair way to ensure that the victims and survivors in most need can avail themselves of it? We know from other funding programmes that there are people who have not been able to avail themselves of the money. Is the Minister confident that this money will reach the most needy?

The Irish central border area network (CBAN) had three times the project approval rate of the councils of the metropolitan area (COMET). Can the Minister explain that discrepancy and outline the support that can still be made available to groups for applications?

The theme of the Peace III programme is acknowledging and dealing with the past. Since we are drawing down a substantial sum of EU money under that heading, does the Minister agree that that puts a further onus on us to ensure that our policies on and resources for acknowledging and dealing with the past fully consonant with that objective e: Furthermore, does he agree that there is, perhaps, a lack on what we are doing in that regard?

Whether the Minister had discussions about under-represented groups and whether those groups had been identified. What communities are being under-represented when it comes to funding? What measures are being taken by DEUPB to address the lack of successful applications from certain areas? David McNarry said that COMET projects did not have the same success as those in other areas. It is my belief that projects in the unionist community are not submitting proper applications.

Can the minister provide the House with an update on investigations into alleged irregularities in the use of moneys by Families Acting for Innocent Relatives (FAIR) and South/North Armagh Victims Encouraging Recognition (SAVER/NAVER)?

A Peace III project in my area, which is worth several million pounds, has been through assessment, through independent assessment, sent to the Department, assessed by the Department and has now been sent back to the SEUPB for further assessment. We certainly need governance of our money; I am not arguing that we do not. However, is there a danger that we are putting together a system that ensures that money does not get to the front line where it is needed?

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Policy Update continued

Hansard Report Evidence from Victims tims Commissioners – 16th February 2011
http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/committees2010/OFMDFM/110216_CommissionersVictims.htm

Consultation Hub

Welcome to CRC's Consultation Finder. This will help you find and participate in consultations that have community/good relations implications.

Current Consultations

DOE – Local Government Reform

The Department of the Environment is seeking your views on proposals aimed at modernising and strengthening local democracy. A consultation paper sets out a wide range of measures on the future shape of local government, including reforms of the planning system. You can review the paper and find out how to respond on the Planning Service website. Deadline for response is Friday 11th March 2011.

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_consultation/common_policy_lg_consultation.htm

DRD - Regional Development Strategy

The Department for Regional Development (DRD) has launched a consultation on the review of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS). The revised RDS addresses key challenges on climate change, rebuilding and rebalancing the economy, population growth, the location of jobs and houses, infrastructure provision and the protection of our natural and built environment. You can find out more and how to respond on the DRD website. Deadline for response - 31 March 2011. <http://www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture/>

DOJ - Community Safety Strategy

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched a consultation aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities', sets out proposals for a new Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland. It takes a fresh look at community safety by going beyond preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in the short term, to tackling the root causes that can lead to offending. You can find out more and how to respond on the DOJ website. Deadline for response - 15 April 2011 http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/public-consultations/current-consultations/consultation_on_a_new_community_safety_strategy_for_ni.htm

Long-term policing objectives

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched a consultation on new long-term policing objectives. The proposed objectives centre round the key themes of:

- human rights
- accountability
- policing with the community and policing in a peaceful society

You can find out more and how to respond on the DOJ website. Deadline for response - 13 April 2011 http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/public-consultations/currentconsultations/consultation_on_long-term_policing_objectives.htm

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Policy Update continued

DCAL - Cultural Awareness Strategy

The Cultural Awareness Strategy is a revision of the Department's Cultural Diversity Strategy. The consultation document provides consultees with background information on the current Cultural Diversity Strategy, the rationale for the revision and proposals for the future administration of the Strategy. Completed questionnaires can be e mailed or posted to the Response Co-ordinator below no later than **4.00pm on Friday 18th March 2011.**

<http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/quick-links/consultation.htm>

Recent Consultation Responses

CRC recently responded to

DFF

Draft Budget. The full response can be downloaded at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/Draft%20Budget%20Consultation-FINAL%20Response%2016022011.doc>

OFMDFM

Child Poverty Strategy. The response can be downloaded at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/FINAL%20CRC%20response%20to%20OFMDFM-Child%20Poverty%20Strategy-09022011.doc>

Play & Leisure Implementation Plan. The response can be downloaded at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/Play&Leisure.doc>

Consultation on Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity. The response can be downloaded at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/NI%20Economic%20Strategy%20-%20FINAL%20response%2024022011.doc>

News and Events

Call for applications for a study visit entitled Economic Regeneration in Urban Centres May 24th – June 3rd, 2011. The deadline for application is 11th March.

Boston, Massachusetts and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Up to fourteen individuals, including business leaders, business strategists, government policymakers, entrepreneurs, and academics from Ireland and from Northern Ireland will be selected to engage with their American counterparts on relevant topics. Seminars and visits will examine the role that small business development, corporate incentive schemes, inward investment, workforce education/re-education, and improved infrastructure can play in promoting economic regeneration and vibrancy in urban centres.

News and Events continued

The programme is sponsored by the Irish Institute at the Centre for Irish Programmes, Boston College, and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Programme-related costs including travel, accommodation, tuition, and the majority of meals are provided.

The programme is not open to U.S. citizens, Green Card holders, or past participants of U.S. Government-funded Irish Institute programmes. *Short-listed applicants must be available for interview either 22nd March in Belfast or 23rd March in Dublin.* Please note that the programme is by necessity highly selective, and that consequently, not all applicants will be interviewed and not all interviewees will be invited to participate.

To apply: Visit our website at www.bc.edu/irishinstitute for an application. The completed form, in addition to a letter of interest, must be returned by email to Ms. Thea Gilien at gilien@bc.edu before 5 p.m. GMT on Friday, **11th March**. The mandatory letter of interest should include: reason for application, your ability to contribute to the programme, and potential for sharing your experience upon your return home. For further information, please visit our website or telephone (353) 1 614 7450.

Motion Project 5 year Anniversary

On the 5th February The Motion Project CD 'music from a diverse city' was launched. A community relations project gathering musicians from different cultures living in Belfast; the project was recorded over six months at the McPeakes Belfast Central studios involving 46 musicians.

At the time Motion was a CD project but the impact of the CD release and the networks formed, resulted in a touring programme of workshops, interactive music experiences, performances and cultural education programmes involving to date over 80 musicians from 38 nationalities.

It is estimated that over 15,000 since 2006 have had direct participation in a Motion Project activity.

Today the Motion Project collective is still going from strength to strength using music as a tool for cultural learning and developing the Northern Ireland world music sector.

Special broadcasts are on Homely Planet radio from 25th February as part of the YOUnite radio series with downloads available at the Motion Project website and the Unite Against Hate & Community Realties Council website shortly after.

The original Motion Project concept/CD project (2005/06) was funded through Belfast City Council (good relations), Community Realties Council, Fujitsu (Arts & Business), Whitenoise Studios and the Enkalon Foundation

For more information & for future downloads: www.themotionproject.net

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

News and Events continued

Community Change is running the following events funded by Belfast City Council Good Relations Grant.

"From Tragedy to Triumph"

Guest Speaker: Richard Moore, Founder of Children in the Crossfire and author of "Can I give him my eyes?"

On 9th March, in Farset International, Springfield Road, Belfast from 7.30-9pm.

Richard is an inspirational speaker who will talk about how he coped with being blinded by a rubber bullet when he was 11 and how he has used this experience in a positive manner throughout his life.

Jewish and Muslim Culture Discussion Event

This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Jewish and Muslim cultures and ask questions related to this and the chance to participate in a meaningful discussion.

On 14th March at the Hopelink Centre, Belfast from 7-9.30pm. Speakers are Dr Katie Radford and Hassan Sami Mansour.

Flags & Emblems: How Symbols Mark our Identities

An opportunity to find out more about the meanings behind flags and emblems and the chance to participate in discussion.

On 21st March at Community Change, Unit 8a, Weavers Court Business Park, Linfield Road, Belfast from 7-9pm. The speaker is Dr Dominic Bryan (QUB).

The three events above are free of charge. If you would like to register please contact Aine on 9023 2587 or email aine.maguire@communitychange-ni.org

Cross-Community Networking Event in the Anglers Rest, Katesbridge, at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2011.

The purpose of the event is:

To meet volunteer committee members involved in similar activities in different parishes

To understand the challenges/issues other groups are experiencing and share your own experiences

To find out what other groups are doing that works – and what doesn't!

To start building cross-community links that will facilitate us all to be more supportive of each other's events/activities

Committee members involved in groups in Annaclone, Drumballyroney, Katesbridge, Loughbrickland, Ballela, Moneyslane, Rathfriland and surrounding areas are being invited. ***Please circulate this invitation among all your various groups and committee members*** – we probably do not know who we should be inviting (which is part of our challenge in getting to know each other) and multiple members of the same committee are welcome.

News and Events continued

The evening will start at 6.30 with hot food being served. Julianna Sloan, who specialises in advising organisations how to network, will facilitate the evening and run a number of networking games. The evening is supposed to be fun, interactive and relaxing and should finish by 9pm (although you are welcome to linger for a drink!).

Some types of groups already committed to this event include Parent & Toddler, Youth, Young At Heart, Historical, Sports, Social, Bowling and Rural Regeneration. The event is being organised by Annaclone Community Engagement Group and funded by The Place Initiative. If you are able to attend please let me know on Geraldine.fusciardi@btopenworld.com by March 15th with your contact details and committee role. Geraldine Fusciardi, Chair – Annaclone Community Engagement Group

Dealing with the Past - The Holocaust Survivors Stories

Newry and Mourne District Council has been working with The Holocaust Educational Trust UK and are pleased to announce that Holocaust Survivors, Joanna Millan and Eva Clarke will visit Newry in March 2011 to give their testimonies.

Joanna Millan, Tuesday 8th March 2011
Carroll Gallery, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Bank Parade, Newry
7.30pm – 9pm

Eva Clarke, Wednesday 23rd March 2011
Auditorium, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Bank Parade, Newry
7.30pm- 9pm. Admission free, to book a place, contact Newry and Mourne District Council's Good Relations Section; Telephone 028 3031 3065 /028 3031 3174

Shared Housing Seminar

Wednesday 9 March 2011 from 9.30am – 12.30pm (followed by lunch) at Farset International, 466 Springfield Rd, Belfast

The Community Relations Council is hosting this event which is targeted at those with a responsibility for or interest in shared housing in Northern Ireland.

The seminar will explore a number of key issues:

What is the current policy and practice in shared housing?

What needs to be taken to next stage and what are the gaps?

Where do we want to get to?

What significant intervention is needed to change the pattern of housing choice?

The agenda will include presentations by organisations and individuals involved in shared housing policy and practice followed by workshops to discuss the above questions. The conference will be joined by a senior Government representative.

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News and Events continued

Irish School of Ecumenics

Open House: Trinity College Dublin at Belfast
The Irish School of Ecumenics, 683 Antrim Road
Saturday 12 March 2011

2 pm Tour of the facility and Question and Answer session with Dr Gladys Ganiel about the Master's in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, <http://www.conflicttransformation.ie/>

2.15 pm Screening of the film, *The Colour Purple*, followed by a discussion led by Dr David Tombs

(These events are part of the Journey Towards Healing conference on Trauma and Spirituality, <http://www.journeytowardshealing.org/conference.html>)

Introduction to the UN International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) – workshop

21 March, 12-3.30pm, Bank House Hotel, Dungannon

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) is a human rights instrument of which the UK is a signatory. The Convention commits its members to the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of understanding among all races.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is the UN body which monitors compliance by UN countries to the Convention. All countries have to regularly report on the ways in which they meet the requirements of this Convention, and the UK is due to be examined by the Committee in August 2011. This new half-day workshop aims to:

Explain ICERD and the work of the Committee

Examine the UK State report and explore how organisations can engage with the Committee, and build the capacity of organisations and individuals working against racial discrimination to contribute to this examination.

To book a place, please contact Charlene Craig, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, email: events@nihrc.org or tel: (028) 9024 3987 before Monday 14 March.

Let us know if you have any access or dietary needs. We will give priority to organisations working against racial discrimination who would like to send their own response to the Committee.

News and Events continued

Meet the Commissioners – public meeting

21 March, 4.00pm-6pm, Bank House Hotel, Dungannon

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission would like to invite representatives from local community, voluntary and business organisations to attend our public meeting in Dungannon. This is an opportunity to find out about our work and talk to us about local human rights issues.

To book a place, please contact Charlene Craig, email: events@nihrc.org or tel: (028) 9024 3987 before Monday 14 March.

Building Positive Relations Awards 2011

Ballymoney Councils 'Building Positive Relations Awards 2011' Ceremony is on the 23rd March. This is to recognize the excellent community relations work that takes place within the Borough, Ballymoney Borough Council is on the search for community/voluntary groups and individuals who work tirelessly for their local community.

For further information contact Michael McCafferty, Good Relations Officer, Ballymoney Borough Council, or phone 028 2766 0233

Loughview Community Action Project and Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership, North Belfast

REAL Good Relations Project - Night of Celebration to highlight the contribution that local volunteers have made to the promotion of Good Relations and Community Development in Inner North Belfast. This event will be held in the Dundary Hotel - Glam Rock Appearing as Guest Artist – on 24th March 2011.

For more information please contact Jim Deery, jim@ashtoncentre.com or phone 9075 1973.

Do you work with children and young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds? Would you like to learn more about Cultural Competence?

Diversity in Action Northern Ireland (DIANI) would like to invite you to attend a practice sharing seminar on Cultural Competence. Cultural Competence refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. We will also cover tips on how to support parents and children from ethnically diverse backgrounds in managing the transition to life in Northern Ireland. This session will be delivered using interactive and reflective techniques.

Cultural Competence – What is it and how do we achieve it?
Thursday 31st March 2011, 10am – 1pm
NCB NI, Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AF

Do you work with children and young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds? Would you like to dispel some of the myths about asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants?

DIANI would like to invite you to a practice sharing seminar on Myth Busting. In this session we will look at the myths and the realities for asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants in relation to entitlements to work, benefits and schooling. We will be particularly focusing on how this impacts on the children from these families and what support services are available for children and their families. This session will be delivered using an interactive technique.

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News and Events continued

Myth Busting

Thursday 14th April 2011, 10am – 1pm

NCB NI, Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AF

If you would like to attend any of the DIANI seminars or to hear more about the project or if you would like us to run the seminars in your area please contact Fiona Milligan at fmilligan@ncb.org.uk . We will provide sandwiches and tea/coffee, so if you have any particular dietary requirements, do let us know.

Courses at INCORE

1. Researching Peace and Conflict in Divided Societies – Short Course

We are offering a 12-week distance learning 'short course' on Doing Research in Divided Societies because we understand that you have to fit your study around your life and not vice versa. This masters level course will provide an introduction to the key concepts, ideas and debates in the field of peace and conflict research; the theoretical understandings of the course, dynamics and resolution of societal conflict; and the key methodological and ethical issues involved in carrying out research in divided societies. Registration now open for next intake January 2012.

For more information visit: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/courses/shortcourses/>

2. INCORE International Summer School 13-17 June 2011

The INCORE Summer School provides a structured learning opportunity to analyse the dynamic and constantly changing field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Focusing on the latest research and concepts in peace and conflict studies and practice; participants are invited to compare, contrast and learn from different perspectives. The 2011 International Summer School offers three courses: (1) Evaluation in Conflict Prone Settings; (2) Interpersonal Reconciliation after Violent Political Conflict; and (3) Peacemaking and Peacebuilding: Exploring Lessons from Northern Ireland. Registration now open. Bursaries may be available for NI based participants.

For more information visit: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/courses/ss/>

3. Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies

This Masters programme offers in-depth knowledge and understanding of the origins, dynamics and resolution of destructive conflicts, with special reference to divided societies. It involves an advanced critical understanding of approaches and concepts in the field of peace and conflict studies and enables you to develop research and transferable skills of value to employers in relevant areas. This programme is delivered collaboratively between the School of English, History and Politics and INCORE. Based on the Magee campus the programme attracts students from a number of countries and a wide variety of academic backgrounds. Apply now for course beginning September 2011.

For more information visit: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/courses/MA.html>

News and Events continued

4. Masters of Science in Human Rights and Peacebuilding

The MSc in Human Rights and Peacebuilding, launched in 2010, is a unique multidisciplinary course being offered by the following institutions: the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) in conjunction with the School of Law, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), and the School of English, History and Politics. Those taking the course will gain an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical and practical application of peacebuilding and related areas of human rights and humanitarian law, as well as transitional justice. Apply now for course beginning September 2011.

For more information visit: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/pdfs/MscHRPB.pdf>

Culture after Conflict: Between Remembrance and Reconciliation

Wednesday, 23 March 2011

Ulster Museum, Belfast

Organised by the Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS), UCD in association with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Ulster Museum (in co-operation with the British Council)

Pre-registration Required – No Attendance Fee

RSVP: ibis@ucd.ie; Tel: +353 (0)1 716 8670

Publications

In July 2010, the Northern Ireland Executive released its draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration for public consultation. In October 2010 the Community Relations Council responded. Given this opportunity for real debate CRC decided to publish ***Towards a Shared Society?*** This publication is available from CRC, phone 9022 7500 or email poneill@nicrc.org.uk. It is also available to download from <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/towards-a-shared-society.pdf>

Republicanism in Transition (1) The need for debate. (2011) ed. Hall, M. Island Publications. In mid 2010 a number of concerned community activists who felt that the current absence of debate within republicanism was only exacerbating an already worrying situation at a grassroots level. They felt that the process of engagement and dialogue which I had been promoting for many years could help facilitate such a debate. *Republicanism in Transition* is the start of that debate.

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***Promoting a
peaceful and fair
society based on
reconciliation and
mutual trust***

WWW.NICRC.ORG.UK



Posters available from
CRC phone 90227500
and ask for Patricia
O'Neill or Ellana
Tomasso or email
info@nicrc.org.uk

Indian Heritage in Northern Ireland

The Indian Heritage in Northern Ireland exhibition is produced by the Indian Community Centre in Belfast and supported and funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Indian Heritage in NI is an oral history project that aims to explore and preserve the stories of the first generation of Indian immigrants who came to Northern Ireland. The first generation immigrated to NI as early as the 1920s. Many of them have passed away which highlighted the need for this oral history project to record and preserve their untold stories.

To find out more or to find out about hosting this exhibition contact Alice Iskander at the Indian Community Centre (Belfast) Ltd. Phone 9024 9746 or email heritage@iccbelfast.com

Employee of the Year Award

And finally, congratulations to Sean Henry, Magherafelt District Council's Good Relations Officer who received Employee of Year Award at The Local Government 2010 Awards Ceremony, which were held on 10th February 2011 at The La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castlereagh

The Local Government Awards Northern Ireland showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and personal commitment from Councillors and officers. The awards show public recognition while awarding excellence in front line local government public services.