



# CRC e-Bulletin

## Choosing our future: Shared or Scared?

*Duncan Morrow's article was originally printed in the Belfast Telegraph on 25th June*

On 21 June Mary Kelly was targeted with pipe bombs in her home for the third time in five months. Mary's crime? - working for a better future on the interface where she lives. On the same night hooded men attacked houses in the Village, which happened to be houses where Poles and Catholics lived. Not far away, an Indian and a Filipino family were traumatised when their cars were set alight by brave sons of Ulster. Sectarianism, racism and the other sorts of hatred which provide 'reasons' for attacking people in their homes are alive and well in Ulster- as attempted murder, intimidation and attacks on vulnerable people.

I don't know what any of the victims will decide, but who could protest if everyone asked to be relocated - if they haven't been forced to flee already. As usual, the intimidated pay. Separation is enforced by violence. Later we will be told separation is about choice. People want to live apart. Fear is not a factor. Aye, Right!

On whose behalf did this take place? Where are the names and witnesses? Are there community leaders who know what is going on? Is it the case that these things happened with widespread local support - and we have a horrifying problem - or is intimidation so deep that everyone fears for their safety if they say anything? Who locally could afford to testify against people prepared to break your door and traumatise your family? Heads down, eyes shut, move on. Intimidation becomes another PSNI statistic or part of the Housing Executive's accounts.

We are still settling for the shameful idea that if you don't fit, you break barriers at your own risk. We'll spend money to move you back where you should have been all long - with your own - but we don't stand up against the 'norm' that only certain people can live in some places. Worse, we cannot stand up against people who force others out, because it is too hard and too dangerous. Where are human rights and equality when you need them?

This week, the Executive considers a policy to promote 'Cohesion, Sharing and Integration'. It could be a key policy to foster a totally different future. But there is a serious danger that it will be a disastrously missed opportunity, more concerned with dividing out, cutting budgets and getting rid of an independent Community Relations Council than getting serious about tackling the institutional fear and mistrust in the way we live, the things we prioritise and the ways we spend money.

July/August 2010

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## Choosing our future: Shared or Scared? Continued

The policy will be worthless if it does not spell out what we are doing to end intimidation of minorities that prevents normally shared communities and resources or about interfaces, still up after 40 years. What will we do through Education to build tolerance and real solidarity? Tackling threat is also critical to any serious economic policy which wants to attract investment, retain talent and tackle poverty. It is time that the business community said so.

The omens are not good. After years of Executive delay, consultation may be done and dusted by September. But we need a long and detailed public debate. Some seem to content themselves with 'getting a document out' rather than driving a shared and better future. And apparently there are no resources. Yet £9.2m is spent to move people from their homes- compared with the CRC budget of £3.5m; half a million pounds for policing one night in Ardoyne - no money for serious youth work.

Only weeks ago, the Education Minister decided that investing in young people's chance to work together in a segregated society is an optional extra, to be traded against school meals. So the mothers of Ardoyne and the Shankill Road building real relationships through the work of groups like Community Relations in Schools should just stay put? And the kids in Ballymurphy, Mount Vernon, Claudy and Portadown getting chances to imagine and build a real future with Public Achievement should focus on their GCSEs and leave?

Until we get serious about this, all our regret for the experiences of minorities in Belfast, Whiteabbey, Craigavon, Rasharkin, Coleraine or Derry is just hand-wringing. The choice is between a shared future and a scared future. It was visible on Monday night.

## Bringing Down the Walls: Young People's Perspectives on Peace-lines in Belfast.

*By Professor Madeleine Leonard and Dr Martina McKnight*

The above paper was given at a recent conference 'Growing up in Divided Societies' held at Queen's University on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The conference was organised by Professor Madeleine Leonard ([m.leonard@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.leonard@qub.ac.uk)) and Dr Martina McKnight ([martina.mcknight@qub.ac.uk](mailto:martina.mcknight@qub.ac.uk)) as part of Queen's Forum for the Child Annual Conference. The conference brought together over seventy scholars who presented their work on children in contested spaces including Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Palestine. Leonard and McKnight presented their research which is part of an ESRC funded project 'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State' ([www.conflictincities.org](http://www.conflictincities.org)).

The purpose of Leonard and McKnight's research was to explore the ways in which young people relate to, occupy and manage space in Belfast and whether they consider Belfast as a divided or shared city. The research is ongoing and is based on questionnaires from 442 young people between the ages of 14-15 drawn from 20 schools in Belfast and focus group discussions using picture prompts with young people who live in interface areas. Part of the research involved finding out young people's attitudes to and experiences of peace-lines in Belfast. Not all the questionnaires or focus group material have been transcribed and analysed so the following is based on preliminary findings and should not be quoted without authors' consent. . Of the responses analysed thus far, 85% of young people had seen a peace line while 34% lived beside a peace line. 29% felt that peace lines were a good idea while 14% thought they were a bad idea. 29% felt that they were still needed at interface areas while 28% felt they were no longer needed with 48% saying that they were unsure.

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## Bringing Down the Walls: Young People's Perspectives on Peace-lines in Belfast continued.

Moreover, 62% indicated that they hadn't thought much about peace lines. On the basis of the picture prompts, five discourses around peace lines were identified: inclusionary walls, exclusionary walls, necessary walls, temporary walls and invisible walls. While collectively these discourses provide some grounds for optimism, for some young people mental barriers remain in addition to physical ones. Some young people, particularly those living in interface areas, continue to talk, feel and act like there are two competing groups in Northern Ireland and continue to use ways of telling to identify who belongs to the group and who doesn't. There was also a sense that sectarian attitudes are still not confronted directly enough by the education system and public policies.

A fuller analysis of the findings will be presented at an international conference on 'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Analysing, Managing and Transforming Ethno-national Divisions' due to be held at Queen's University on 19-21<sup>st</sup> May 2011. This conference will report on the various findings from the overall project, and Leonard and McKnight intend to invite the young people who took part in their research to the conference, report the findings directly to them and present their voices to relevant policy makers during the conference.

### Sustainability

*by Jim Deery from a talk at a CRC Practitioners Forum on 28th June*

Jim Deery works for the Ashton Community Trust in North Belfast on a project called REAL, Respect Engagement and Listening, a good relations intervention working on bringing people together through common issues. He has worked in community sector unpaid and paid for 20 years, Jim is also a member of the Community Relations Council.

This is an edited version of the talk he gave to community relations practitioners in the Hopelink Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> June, outlining his "subjective and personal" views on the sustainability of the sector in the light of diminishing funding streams and the current economic recession.

In his introduction Jim stressed

- The need to spend more time on budgets.
- Match budgets to what you want to do
- The necessity of more working class people on funding boards
- Change of emphasis from funding to investment

On the subject of sustainable strategies he recognised that it is really difficult for groups to achieve sustainability "especially with the current economic forecasts of doom, gloom and cuts." However he suggested some avenues of future investment for the work.

- Still money available from CRC and Pobal.
- Dormant Funds
- The Big Lottery have just launched a new programme.
- Comic Relief – says it does not get enough quality applications
- Still some money in European Programmes – get creative with matching funding.
- Heritage Lottery, Community Pharmacy Partnership, UnLtd - think outside the box,
- Building Change Trust – have a programme to help groups build sustainability plans.
- UK Trusts are still a major source of revenue.

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## Sustainability continued

He went on to give an outline of survival tactics for the sector.

- Mergers, collaborations, co-operations and real partnerships
- The above make applications stronger and bring together a range of expertise.
- Room for social enterprise, not everything can create income but there is still social impact.
- There may also be opportunities for “green” work – get creative
- Earned income - charge for anything you can – room hire, people hire and consultations.

Jim then explained the importance of evaluation and highlighting good practice

- Groups will have to get better at monitoring and evaluation we have to prove our worth.
- Make sure you register what need/s you are actually addressing,
- Show/measure what you have done.
- Be realistic - use SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-based)
- Claim your successes.
- We have to, as a collective, show the value of what we do.
- Never underestimate the value of networking, it is still a valuable tool.
- Start thinking about tenders leading to service level agreements.
- Get better governance, finance systems and quality assurance.
- There is help and advice out there – access it.

The community gets the blame when things go pear shaped but rarely gets any credit when there is progress. As was said politics helped end war but it is the community who will create the peace. We have to be saying forcefully, “If you want to pass the buck pass the bucks”.

Jim finished his presentation with some words of advice.

- Be persistent - apply again and again.
- Read criteria, terms of reference, get feedback to improve your new approach.

And finally – just ASK!

## Young people launch Away from Violence Heritage exhibition



*Denis Rooney, Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland pictured with young people who participated in the Away from Violence Heritage Project*

Young people from North and West Belfast, Portadown and Claudy, have been working together on a cross-community basis to address the impact of violence on their lives as part of Public Achievement’s Away from Violence Programme.

## Young people launch Away from Violence Heritage exhibition continued

At a public event to celebrate the completion of the Programme's Heritage Project phase at Belfast's Golden Thread Gallery, the young people had the opportunity to showcase a series of visual displays which explore heritage within their local communities. Denis Rooney CBE, Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland commended the participants on the progress they have made in gaining a better understanding of one another's communities.

Public Achievement's three-year Away from Violence Programme helps young people to explore the nature of violence, how it affects them and their communities, and then develop an action project to address a local issue of violence. As part of the Programme a Heritage Project was developed for young people aged 12-18 involving a series of residentials, practical workshops and exhibition visits.

Over the course of the Heritage Project, the young people have applied critical thinking skills to characterising the communities they live in. They have captured this work visually in a series of displays that represent these communities, analyse them, deconstruct them and identify violence within them, both past and present.

The main aims of the Heritage Project have been to help these young people to explore their differences and similarities in a non-hostile environment, ultimately contributing to improved self-esteem and fostering cross-community contact.

The International Fund for Ireland has contributed nearly £280,000 to the Away from Violence initiative under its Community Bridges Programme, which is managed by the Community Relations Council for Northern Ireland. Fund Chairman, Denis Rooney CBE, said: "The insight that these young people have shown through their work on these visual displays is impressive.

"Providing support for initiatives that will have a lasting positive impact on peace building and reconciliation long after the Fund ceases to exist is one of our key priorities. What better way to make a positive impact than to help young people to better understand each other's communities and heritage.

"The young people who have been part of this project have demonstrated dedication, passion and commitment in the work they have produced," explains Deborah Erwin, Youth Work Manager at Public Achievement. "Their acute awareness of the issues facing their communities is evident in their own words and pictures as well as their desire to see change happen. It is our intention that the Away from Violence programme continues to support these young people to be part of making change happen in their communities."

Throughout the month of August, the exhibition will also be on public display at Belfast City Hall.

### Breaking barriers through youth work

*by Duncan Morrow. The article is based on the author's closing remarks at the CRC/Youthnet conference on 27 April at the Odyssey, Belfast*

Paul O'Connor, a man who has made a significant impact on the city of Chicago to enable it to overcome its social and ethnic divisions, said during his recent visit here that it was critical to making our way forward in Northern Ireland that we start to make inroads into what he called our "signature weakness". By this he meant the sectarianism and the segregation.

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## Breaking barriers through youth work continued

Building a shared society here will cost a lot more than the small budget which is currently allocated to community relations. The critical issue for the Community Relations Council has been to say that the shared future project we are engaged on is not just for a few youth workers desperately trying to do something at the interface but involves much, much more. It is about housing, education, policing, culture and how the big budgets of all of these and other areas of government can be mobilised to start to build a shared future. The question of whether we build a shared future should not even be on the table; it's how and what kind of shared future we are going to build.

This is why it is deeply dispiriting that the Department of Education, in the week before Community Relations Week, announced a 70% cut in the youth and schools budget for community relations. Everybody knows that there can be no shared future without an investment in young people. Unless there is youth work and schools work that supports young people to challenge and change the abnormal sectarian cultures that shape our society we will not go forward.

The current reality for many young people is that their world is constrained by sectarian forces. In Lurgan some say they cannot actually go to MacDonalds at night because only Catholics go there. Others say that they can't use the park because only Protestants go there. In Coleraine young people say they are being to organise riots in the Dunnes car park. In Antrim young people say the defining factor in where they are prepared to go at night is sectarianism. The argument about whether we should be funding community relations youth and schools work should not even need to be made. The only thing we should be talking about is what shape this work should take.

In the current global financial crisis of course the political pressure from London is to reduce the cost of the public sector and develop the business economy. But cutting community relations work is a false economy. Last July the policing cost for one riot in Ardoyne was £590,000. Additional costs would also need to be factored in for the cost of taking a lot of young people into the care of the criminal justice system as a result of what happened in that period, not to mention the lost tourism and investment opportunities that were turned away.

If the real agenda is that people want jobs, businessmen want customers, and politicians want to be seen to be delivering projects, none of this will happen without going through a shared future. We will not sustain jobs if this is a place whose signature story is still violence, instability and threat. We will not attract customers unless everybody, including tourists and visitors, can move about safely. Projects will no longer attract international support unless they are aimed at seriously breaking down the signature weakness of our society.

Shared space is not a vacuous concept; it means a place where everyone can go, live, work, play and do their business. It is not a small question. And young people being on the pitch is actually a critical factor of whether it is working or not.

## MLA praise for BELB newcomer parent support

Staff from schools throughout Belfast have graduated in a unique course which develops skills to support parents from ethnic minority backgrounds.

South Belfast MLA Anna Lo presented certificates in race and ethnicity training to 10 teachers and staff from nursery, primary and post-primary schools. The Belfast Education and Library Board Parent Support Programme identified the need for training in the area of newcomer pupils and delivered the Open College Network-accredited course in partnership with the Ulster People's College.

"I'm delighted to have been invited to present certificates to all the teachers who had shown so much commitment in completing the course," said Ms Lo.

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## MLA praise for BELB newcomer parent support continued

“They completed the course over and above their usual busy workload. Their newly-acquired skills and confidence will no doubt benefit all the pupils and parents they come into contact with.”

Caroline Magowan of the BELB Parent Support Programme, congratulated everyone who completed the course: “All the participants and their Principals demonstrated huge commitment in undertaking this training in a hugely important area. The BELB Parent Support Programme will continue to promote the support of parents of newcomer pupils in the new school year.”



South Belfast MLA Anna Lo, front row centre, is pictured with some of the Race and Ethnicity OCN Level 2 course participants and BELB Senior Education Welfare Officer Caroline Magowan, front row right.

For further information, contact John Martin, BELB Information Officer, 90564333 or 07736659584, email: john.martin@belb.co.uk.

## Policy Update by CRC Policy Officer Gemma Attwood

### Assembly Update

During June Assembly members submitted a number of questions which were of particular relevance to community and good relations. Below is an example of some of the issues raised:

#### Written & Oral Questions

##### OFMDFM

- To outline the total administrative costs associated with the establishment of the new Victims and Survivors Service.
- For their assessment of the economic, historic and reconciliation potential of the Long Kesh Site
- Whether they can provide an assurance that the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment and will reflect the needs of all people in our society—see below.
- For their assessment of how the requirement, in the Draft Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill, for 37 days notice of a proposal to assemble will impact on the right to freedom of association and the right to protest.

##### DCAL

- How the investment at Windsor Park will contribute to his Department’s commitment to a shared future—see below.
- An update on his Department’s discussions with the Gaelic Athletic Association regarding the development of Casement Park.

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## Policy Update Continued

- An update on his Department's proposals for a strategy to enhance and promote the Irish language.
- How will creative industries benefit areas of disadvantage and help the regeneration of communities.
- Community Festivals Fund—Does he agree that district councils administration of funding has gone some way to address the underfunding that the Loyal Orders experienced through the previous system, which was administered by the Events Company? Does he further agree that councils in many unionist communities, that did not previously get funding, are now receiving financial support and that the Loyal Orders are now getting more money than they did under direct rule?

### DE

- To detail the reasons for the reduction in her Department's youth service and community relations budget—see below.
- An update on the review of the viability criteria for integrated schools commissioned in September 2008 to better reflect the diversity in the populations.
- What contribution her Department intends to make to the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy.

### DETI

- For an estimate of how many (i) tourists; and (ii) people in total, attended the annual Belfast Twelfth of July parade last year.

### DOJ

- Does the Minister agree that the dignified response to the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons, coupled with the measured tones of many commentators and sections of the community, might form the basis of some way to deal with the past? Will he seek to build on that opportunity so that we can move the Province forward.
- To detail (i) the religious composition of the Prison Service workforce; and (ii) what steps he is taking to address any religious imbalance in the workforce
- To outline the (i) religious; and (ii) gender composition of Prison Service staff
- To outline the (i) religious; and (ii) gender composition of staff in the Court Service
- Whether the burning of flags, religious symbols, religious effigies or posters of individuals belonging to a particular political party is illegal, or considered a hate crime; and if he has any plans to make this practice a hate crime.
- How many times the PSNI has recovered, from bonfires, posters which have been stolen and are the property of a political party, in each of the last five years.

### DRD

- To detail the cost to his Department of repairing damage caused by the 11 July night bonfires in 2009.

### DSD

- When work will begin on social housing for the Girdwood Park site in north Belfast.
- What proposals he has to assist people living in 'hard to reach' and marginalised communities in housing estates across Northern Ireland.

### Assembly Commission

- To outline the procedures followed in relation to the flying of flags on Parliament Buildings on designated days of the year.

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## Policy Update Continued

### Sample of Q&A

Windsor Park (4 June 2010)

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how the investment at Windsor Park will contribute to his Department's commitment to a shared future. (AQO 1339/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Improving relationships between and within communities in Northern Ireland and building a shared and better future, based on equity, diversity and interdependence remains a high priority for my Department. In this regard sport has been widely acknowledged to play a major role in promoting inclusion, developing communities and enhancing cultural values in society.

I recently launched "Sport Matters": The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019 which includes a series of targets to encourage greater participation and representation and formally commits Government to promote sport in the context of a "shared future". Sport Matters also includes a target of developing, by 2014, major sports stadiums to meet the strategic needs of football, rugby and Gaelic games. We have been working closely with the Governing Bodies of these sports who have indicated that the development of three separate stadiums tailored to their sports' individual requirements as the most practical and effective way forward.

The IFA has stated that, in principle, it is committed to the development of Windsor Park as its preferred option for meeting its long-term strategic needs. It, together with the Governing Bodies of the other sports, already operate well-developed strategies and mechanisms to bring reconciliation and community cohesion benefits to their individual sports. In investing in the future of the sports I will be encouraging them all to further enhance those strategies and mechanisms in order to maximise the opportunities to promote the concept of a "shared future".

### Cohesion Sharing and Integration Strategy (11 June 2010)

Mr P McGlone asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they can provide an assurance that the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment and will reflect the needs of all people in our society. (AQO 1367/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We agreed the core of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010. The Programme sets out a vision for a new era in which we work together to build a shared and better future, a future where fairness, equality, rights, responsibilities and respect are acknowledged and accepted by all. As such, it will aim to produce positive good relations outcomes for everyone in our society.

It is expected that the Programme will go out to public consultation before the summer and the consultation period will run until at least the end of September 2010.

The consultation document will include detail of how the Programme has been screened for equality impacts and the public will have opportunity to comment on this as part of the consultation exercise.

As a Programme that will cut across many areas of responsibility, the departmental policies currently underpinning it, and any new policies or programmes leading from it, will also be subject to Equality Impact Assessment processes where appropriate.

### Youth Service and Community Relations Budget (11 June 2010)

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Education to detail the reasons for the reduction in her Department's youth service and community relations budget. (AQW 6643/10)

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## Policy Update Continued

Minister of Education: Tá an cistiú a chuir mé ar fáil do sheirbhísí don ógra a bheag nó a mhór gan athrú agus tá mé fós tiomanta don tseirbhís don ógra agus dá ról mar chuid thábhachtach den chóras oideachais, rud a chuidíonn le gach duine óg, go háirithe dóibh siúd a mhothaíonn go bhfuil siad eisiata go sóisialta, chun a lánchumas a fhorbairt.

The funding which I have made available for youth services is largely unchanged and I remain committed to the youth service and its role as an important part of the education system, one which helps all young people, in particular those who feel socially excluded, to develop their potential to the full.

My decision to set the community relations budget at £1.1m in 2010/11 must be viewed within the context of the wider education budget and my plans to introduce a new Community Relations, Equality and Diversity policy.

In 2010/11 funding for education has been increased to just over £1.9 billion, an increase of only 1.9%, and, faced with meeting efficiencies required by the Executive, it has been a difficult budget involving difficult decisions. In agreeing the 2010/11 education budget, my priority has been to protect frontline services and to ensure the needs of those most disadvantaged continue to be at the forefront.

I have had to balance a range of education priorities against the need to achieve efficiencies but in recognition of the continued need for community relations I have sought to retain a funding stream and have made provision of £1.1m for 2010/11.

I am looking to the Boards to ensure as far as possible that any reductions do not impact on core services for children and youth, particularly marginalised young people living at interface areas.

I am committed to encompassing a wider approach to improving relations between communities by educating children and young people to develop self-respect and respect for others, where equality and inclusion are the cornerstones of an education system which enables every learner to fulfil his or her potential.

I am investing over £200m in other policies which contribute to this wider approach, such as Supporting Newcomer Pupils and SEN and I have also made available an additional £90 per primary pupil which is an increase of 3.1% compared to last year.

### Assembly Updates

#### Private Members' Business—Victims and Survivors (Disqualification) Bill 30 June 2010

Mr Deputy Speaker: The next item of business is the First Stage of the Victims and Survivors (Disqualification) Bill. I call Mr Peter Weir.

Mr Weir: Mr Deputy Speaker, due to technical issues that have been raised with me and that require clarification, it is now my intention to bring the Bill forward in autumn 2010. Consequently, the First Stage of the Bill is not introduced.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order. The First Stage of the Victims and Survivors (Disqualification) Bill has not been introduced.

### OFMDFM Assembly Committee

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the Committee received an update on the draft Cohesion, Sharing and Integration document from departmental officials. It is hoped the document will be brought to the Executive meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and following Executive approval it will be released for public consultation. The consultation is expected to run until mid to late October, and the department will hold a number of public consultation events, as well as specific sectoral/thematic meetings.

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## Consultation Hub

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

### Open Consultations

OFDMFM - Consultation on draft of The Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill (Northern Ireland).

Deadline for responses is 1pm on 14 July 2010.

To download the consultation document go to: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/public-assemblies-parades-and-protests-in-northern-ireland-2.pdf>

DCAL - Consultation on Museum Policy for Northern Ireland

In May 2008 the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly instituted an inquiry into the development of a museum policy for Northern Ireland. This draft policy has been developed in response to the issues raised by the Committee's Inquiry and in consideration of the 28 recommendations. The purpose of the policy is to map out a way forward for the museums sector in Northern Ireland. Your views are being sought on the draft policy at the link below.

Deadline for response - no later than 24 August 2010

<http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/museums-r08-2/museums-r08.htm>

OFMDFM - Consultation on the draft Code of Conduct for The Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill (Northern Ireland)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister are seeking the views of the public on the draft code of conduct proposals contained in this consultation document. You can download the consultation document using the link below.

Deadline for responses - 4 pm on 14 September 2010.

[http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/draft\\_code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/draft_code_of_conduct.pdf)

DE - Consultation on the draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy

The purpose of the new Strategy is to set out a vision and plan for ensuring better outcomes for children by improving the provision and quality of services to the youngest children, their parents and families for the next 5 years.

Deadline for response - 30 November 2010

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/english\\_early\\_years\\_strategy\\_.pdf.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/english_early_years_strategy_.pdf.pdf)

### Consultation Responses

NI Assembly Commission Good Relations Action Plan

To read the response in detail go to

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/about-the-council/background-info/policy-and-development/responses/>

### Other information

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee - Laurence Robertson has been nominated (unopposed) for Chair of the NI Affairs Select Committee.

### Reports launched

Report of the independent commission on the Future For housing in Northern Ireland

[www.cih.org/northernireland/housingcommission](http://www.cih.org/northernireland/housingcommission)

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## CRC Staff News

Frank Murphy took up the post of Director of EU programmes having worked with the Peace Partnerships in Belfast during Peace I and II. Initially trained as an accountant Frank was employed in the private and public sectors including enterprise development and income generation. He has a life time involvement in the community and voluntary sector and before joining the Belfast European Partnership in 1996 was the CEO of a large Social Economy Project in South Armagh.

This is a busy period as Peace III, 2007-2013 enters its second Phase. The Community Relations Council continues to work in a Consortium with its partner, Pobal, on Priority 1 Reconciling Communities throughout Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic. Within the priority Theme 1.1 is delivered by 14 Partnerships, eight in NI and six in the RoI. In Northern Ireland the partnerships are based on eight clusters of the 26 District Council areas and in RoI the six County Councils are the lead partners. The Consortium is working with the Partnerships prepare their Phase 2 plans and finalize their Phase 1 work.

In Theme 1.2 Acknowledging and dealing with the past the Consortium continues to fund a wide range of projects across three distinct themes and appraisal of others is ongoing. A review of this theme is to be finalized shortly with a view to determining funding during the second phase.

As ever it is a challenge for everyone concerned to ensure projects of the highest quality are delivered to the community whilst meeting the ever present spending targets

Deirdre Mac Bride joined the Community Relations Council as Programme Director Cultural Diversity in June 2010. CRC is committed to making a practical contribution to countering racism and sectarianism and building a shared society. Over the next few months she is keen to hear how the Community Relations Council can best utilise our resources to support the excellent work that is already being done.

CRC has a long track record of commitment to cultural diversity issues including black and minority ethnic communities, languages, parades, bonfires, flags and emblems.

As part of Deirdre's introduction to the post we will be engaging with many stakeholders and partners to identify new avenues for this work. With this in mind we hope to meet with representatives of different communities, faith and Black and Minority Ethnic communities, statutory agencies responsible for the equitable delivery of services and the promotion of good relations.

Deirdre Mac Bride can be contacted at [dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk) Tel 02890 227000 or at Programme Director – Cultural Diversity, Community Relations Council, 6 Murray Street, Belfast BT1 6DN. We would like to receive information about your work on these issues.

Deirdre Mac Bride's professional experience includes working with BME communities in the London Borough of Hackney, community development work on regeneration, housing and interfaces issues throughout North Belfast. Recent assignments have included researching the issues, needs and actions that can support the two way process of the integration of people from both new communities and wider society. She served as an independent member of the second Northern Ireland Policing Board and in a similar role with the Belfast District Policing Partnership. She has worked with the European Union Peace Programme partnerships and undertaken a range of strategic planning and consultancy roles.

Emma Jackson is leaving CRC. She began working in the Community Relations Council in 2008 as Administrative Officer with the EU Programme, she was instrumental in setting up and maintaining administrative procedures and systems, whilst maintaining positive working relationships with the many stakeholders involved.

Emma joined the Community Bridges team as Project Support Officer in December 2009, where her role, has been to tighten systems within the programme. She has also had principal responsibility for providing guidance and advice to funded projects throughout Ireland.

Emma has put her marketing and event management skills to good use in both funding

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](mailto:poneill@nicrc.org.uk) or Ellana at [info@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:info@nicrc.org.uk).

## CRC Staff News continued

programmes, whilst managing and co-ordinating a number of events and meetings. Most recently, Emma organised a highly successful workshop for a cluster of groups from the North West, who are in receipt of funding, during Community Relations Week.

Emma is taking up her new post as Business Adviser with the Ards Business Centre, an enterprise agency for the Ards Borough Council area, which has a well-established history of over 20 years. We thank Emma for her contribution to the Community Relations Council and wish her well in her future career.

Dr Paul Nolan has recently joined the Council to take up the position of Research Director on the 'Building a Shared Peace' project. This project will closely monitor political, cultural and social developments in Northern Ireland in order to arrive at a comprehensive overview each year of the journey out of conflict. There will be a particular focus on whether the society is moving towards sharing or whether the peace is maintained through increased separation. 'The project is being funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation' says Paul 'The intention is to produce a definitive state-of-the-nation report each year that will be very important in monitoring the practical outworkings of policies that have been created at both national and local level'.

Paul began his career with the WEA, working originally as a Tutor-Organiser in what were then called the Belfast Areas of Need. In this role he regularly criss-crossed the peace line, working to create educational opportunities for disadvantaged communities. In 1984 he became Director of the WEA in Northern Ireland, and in this role was involved in a wide range of initiatives with trade unions, community associations, and women's groups. In 2001 Paul left the WEA to take up the post as Director of the Institute of Lifelong Learning at Queen's. He did not leave behind his interest in community relations, and his doctoral research was focused on the issue of whether single identity work is replacing the old 'unity' approach in community relations practice. 'It was very close to the central concern of the new research project, which is to deal with the tension between sharing and separation, and so I leapt at the chance to head up this exciting new project'.

## New course in Equality, Diversity and Conflict Management

Free 6 day course to start Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010

The Project: The Belfast Divercity Project is offering a new 6 day course exploring the issues of equality, diversity and conflict management. The course is being offered as part a wider project looking at the theme of shared organisational space. By shared organisational space we mean the development of collaborative working relationships across organisational boundaries and cultural differences.

The project is being organised by a consortium of four organisations: Belfast Interface Project (BIP), Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC), Mediation Northern Ireland (MNI) and is being led by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). All four organisations have a long history of involvement in good relations and organisational development work

The next run of the course will take place over 6 days (9.30 – 4.30) in Groundwork NI, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

If you would like to enroll on the course please fill in the attached booking form and send it back by post or email to Maura Kavanagh at the WEA, 90329718, [maura.kavanagh@wea-ni.com](mailto:maura.kavanagh@wea-ni.com). You can also contact Maura if you want to ask any further questions.

**The views expressed in this magazine by contributors are their own and may not necessarily be attributed to the CRC.**

**Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso**



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## International Social Survey Programme

As part of the [International Social Survey Programme \(ISSP\)](#), a module of questions is asked in over 40 countries worldwide, with a different theme each year. Where possible, NILT takes part in the ISSP, which allows us to explore how the people of Northern Ireland think compared with many other countries around the world. Selected ISSP data from the Republic of Ireland and Britain are now available on the [Surveys Online](#) section of ARK.

### *Life and Times*

The results of the 2009 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey are now available. Visit the site at [www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2009](http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2009) to find tables of results for every question, the questionnaires and the dataset. The 2009 survey included questions on [Community relations](#); [Migrant workers and minority ethnic people](#); [Disability](#); [Leisure time and sport](#); and [Politics](#)

### *Young Life and Times*

Results from the [2009 YLT](#) are also available, and include questions on [Community Relations](#); [Minority Ethnic Groups](#); [Family](#); [Identity](#); [Mental Health and Self-harm](#); [Rights](#); [Social Capital](#); and [Volunteering](#)

## New Publications

Ballymena Borough Council have launched their *Good Relation Strategy for 2010 –10* to access the Strategy visit <http://www.ballymena.gov.uk/pdf/GOOD%20RELATIONS%20Single%20Pages.pdf>

*Dealing with the Past*, Commission for Victims and Survivors advice to Government. To download the report follow the link below.

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/dealing-with-the-past-2.pdf>