



CRC e-Bulletin

Sectarian Murder

The Community Relations Council condemns the killing of community worker Kevin McDaid in Coleraine on Sunday 24th May and the attack on his wife and neighbours.

Duncan Morrow, CRC Chief Executive, said:

“The killing of Kevin McDaid is a chilling example of the lethal consequences of sectarian hatred and easy excuses for violence and must be utterly condemned. It is another appalling chapter in the history of sectarianism and a reminder of how easily sectarian hostility turns into personal, family and community tragedy. Our thoughts are with the family of the bereaved and injured at this desolate time.

In March, political and community leaders showed impressive solidarity in the face of the murders of security force personnel by dissident republicans. This murder is a further stark reminder that despite recent political progress we still have a long way to go in rooting out the casual sectarianism from which this violence arises. Politicians and communities need to continue to show cross-community solidarity in condemning this reversion to our violent past. It needs to be made clear that only by working together through peaceful means can we create a better future.

Many efforts are being made to build bridges and create a society where sectarianism is an aberration not an excuse. Clearly, the journey towards peace and partnership still has to be completed. Kevin McDaid’s violent death is a terrible wake-up call for all those who think we have put sectarian violence behind us.”

Issue 10

June/August 2009

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Peace and Social Justice—Trademark

Community relations is often criticized for being apolitical and devoid of any critical analysis of why we are where we are. Trademark seeks to maintain a practical focus in locating community relations within the lives of those involved and that community relations takes place within a wider framework of building a cohesive, just and sustainable society. They seek to assist the development of an empowered community which is sustainable and outward looking and owns a commitment to redistributive forms of equality and social justice as core values.

Their work encourages and facilitates contact and dialogue between groups that has as its base an analysis of the historical and political realities that led to the current conflict. They seek to ensure that the roots of sectarianism are acknowledged by looking at the complex historical backdrop to the conflict and the fractious relationship between established history and the power of ethnic and national memory. Their investigations of the past acknowledge both the connections and the discontinuities between accepted histories and communal memory. They try to offer opportunities for groups to listen to realities different from their own and through that process encourage them to move beyond what they believe are narrow identity politics to a politics based on community needs, equality and social justice.

Of related concern to the everyone in this society is the continued march of the free market into every area of our lives and the acceptance of its inevitability. The re-organization of the world economy over the last thirty years and the emergence of a particularly savage form of capitalism poses many challenges to all those actors involved in the pursuit of democratisation and social justice. The emergence of atypical forms of employment, low pay, anti-union policies and 'market flexibility' has offered little protection for workers and communities and has ensured that labour rights and related social and economic benefits remain beyond the majority of people in societies in transition. The continued denial of the material benefits of peace and democracy is one of the great betrayals in the struggle for democracy and peace from South Africa to Northern Ireland.

Whether it is the eventual privatization of water, the continuation of the failed PFI programmes, attacks on some of the lowest paid workers or indeed the attempt to lower corporation tax, for most, including it appears, all of our local politicians, these free market policies are inseparable from the transition to democracy and simply 'make sense', opposition to this particular economic model is therefore assumed to be 'nonsense'. However with the predicted implosion of this deeply flawed economic system, our politicians who invested all our futures on roulette wheel economics, now scramble around looking for answers which have been there all along.

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Peace and Justice (contd)

The economic changes of the last thirty years have also been accompanied by a pernicious form of Victorian morality which both demonises some of the very poorest sections of society and blames the poor for being poor rather than the structural constraints of more than forty years of conflict and thirty years of neo-liberalism. Whether through a broad attack on single parents, the disabled, the attack on so called 'welfare dependency', or the demonisation of young people, the focus on the failed notion of meritocracy allows society to blame social exclusion and poverty not on the mainstream but on those who are excluded, as if they chose to exclude themselves.

As the world economy shrinks and a depression stares us in the face communities are left without the promised peace dividend, which has disappeared along with jobs, pensions and futures for their children

In years to come perhaps these young people will in turn ask why their elders stood by and oversaw the greatest plunder of our 'common-wealth' through the privatization of public services and the ever quickening end of a free and universal welfare state.

Those of us committed to a transition to genuine peace and to the tackling of sectarianism and racism cannot do so in a vacuum. The transition to a peaceful future must not assume that the transition is simply from violence to peace or from a democratic deficit to greater participative democracy; it must also address, at all levels of community relations work, a social and economic transition which ensures a just and sustainable resolution to this conflict.

Trademark are:

Joe Law
Stephen Nolan
Fiona Bloomer
Alice McLarnon
Kellie O'Dowd
Mel Corry

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Update on the CRC led Interface Working Group initiative

In recognition of the need to begin the work of reconciling and transforming interfaces, CRC has been working with a number of key partners to develop ways to address the legacy of the conflict with regard to interfaces in Belfast and beyond.

The Interface Working Group (IWG) was initiated in November 2007 in response to the Northern Ireland Office's (NIO) decision to build a fence in the grounds of Hazelwood Integrated Primary School and ongoing community tension and incidents in the area leading to community relations concerns and in some areas leading to the creation of new and/or strengthened interface barriers. .

The IWG includes high level statutory sector representation with an interest in, and responsibility for, interfaces.

The main work of the group was the production of the report ***Towards Sustainable Security - Interfaces Barriers and the Legacy of Segregation.***

The report draws together all of the available material on interfaces and makes suggestions as to how this difficult, but vital issue, could be addressed. It is not a detailed comprehensive review, rather it highlights some key issues that must serve as the focus of any effective long-term strategy for the regeneration of areas that are currently fragmented through community and territorial divisions and physical structures and is based on four key principles:

- 1 In responding to the legacy of physical segregation the perceptions of **safety and security** of the people living near to interfaces and interface barriers must be the priority.
- 2 Notwithstanding this point, we should aspire to the **removal of all interface barriers** over time.
- 3 The process of removing interface barriers should be undertaken on the basis of **sustainable regeneration** as part of a process towards building a shared and better future for all.
- 4 Fourth, **no more security barriers or structures that effectively serve to segregate communities should be built**, rather priority must be given to other forms of investment in people and place that will provide appropriate levels of safety and security.

An integral part of the process was the *Challenge of Change* process which included a series of consultations with community practitioners leading to a major conference at which OFMDFM Junior Ministers pledged support for this work which has identified the following needs: *contd:*

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IWG Update (contd)

- Coordinated engagement through an ‘honest broker’
- Critical importance of interagency approaches
- Requirement for Departmental co-ordination & flexibility
- Engaged support of local elected representatives
- Proactive inclusion of young people
- Vision and long term targeted and resourced strategy

It also identified a need for a dedicated, working group of interface and community practitioners which has led to the establishment of the Interface Working Group Community Partners (IWGCP) which will support the Interface Working Group’s strategic approach to benefit communities through the social, physical and economic regeneration of interface areas.

The development of this coordinated process, to assist in the eventual creation of vibrant and sustainable communities across the region will be influential in supporting peace-building through putting in place a plan of short, medium and long-term actions to address social, community, physical and economic issues in interface areas. The work is based on three key elements:

- 1 it must include and prioritise the needs of residents
- 2 strategies must be developed to meet the specific local context
- 3 it will build upon existing good practice and address any gaps in provision

and have the following objectives:

- build capacity and infrastructure in all interface communities;
- provide practical, support, advice and resources to communities wishing to begin the pursuit of regeneration of their areas;
- share and develop a strong, coherent skills base in the sector;
- act as a conduit between grass roots issues and the IWG and
- report on progress after an agreed period of time; including a review of the area to be included and assist in reporting progress on good relations;

The IWG has begun the process of involvement and engagement with urban interfaces in Belfast and is developing this work beyond Belfast in partnership in with the Rural Community Network (RCN) and other key organisations.

This regional initiative will provide a practical tool to enable real progress in exploring the scope for change, and ultimately the removal of interfaces barriers.

If you would like to find out more about this work then please contact Grace O’Sullivan at Temp3@nicrc.org.uk or telephone 02890227500

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IFI—Community Bridges Programme

On the 1st May, 2009, the International Fund for Ireland launched 5 community projects through the Community Bridges Programme. The Community Bridges Programme is managed by CRC.

Duncan Morrow, Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, attending the showcasing of IFI Community Bridges projects as part of Community Relations Week, said “This is fine example of communities taking the lead in regenerating their neighbourhoods and marks the end of Community Relations Week. In the current economic climate, investors are walking away from areas where there is a history of sectarian violence. It is therefore vital that communities rise to the challenge to implement positive change and promote their communities as attractive areas for new business and regeneration.

Two of those showcased are based in North Belfast. Arts for All (which receives up to £219,000) will use community arts to develop better interface and cross-community relations. The Skegoneill-Glandore Common Purpose project (which receives up to £248,000) is a cross community partnership set up to run a community cohesion and cross interface programme. It will involve working with young people, environment, doing intergeneration work, shared social enterprise and fostering community leadership and community development. Both these projects will make a positive contribution to building a more peaceful and shared future in North Belfast based on co-operation and mutual trust.

In addition, other districts have been awarded grants. An Teach Ban, a peace-building centre, (based in Downings, Co. Donegal) was awarded up to €379,133 to carry out a community reconciliation legacy project entitled ‘Pass it On’ to be targeted in 15 communities in the North West region. 240 skilled community leaders will develop their resources and actively engage in their own communities over the life of the project. Ballynafeigh Community Development Association, based on the Ormeau Road has been awarded up to £254,415 to develop an interdependence programme for 14 targetted groups. The essence of this programme will be to establish capacity and confidence in civic partnership linking and to identify leaders for training and development support. The Link Family and Community Centre, Newtownards, has been awarded up to £291,435 in funding to a community relations strategy in the Ards and North Down area and to establish links with projects in the South of Ireland. This will include community leadership and mentoring and will work extensively with women, churches and older people.

All projects will commence over the summer months. For more information please contact the Development Officers with Community Bridges, Dorothy Monaghan at dmonaghan@nicrc.org.uk or Emer Lyttle at elyttle@nicrc.org.uk, or phone CRC at 90227500.

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Policy Update

Assembly Update

During May MLA's put forward various issues for discussion which were of particular interest to CRC. They covered a number of policy issues such as:

Written Q&A

OFMDFM

- Victims and Survivors Strategy – when will the outcome of the strategy be published?
- Race Relations – what action is being taken to promote race relations?
- CSI - Factors delaying the release of a draft CSI
- Flags & Emblems - progress made to date on developing a new flags and emblems protocol between OFMDFM and other statutory agencies? Regeneration of the Maze/Long Kesh – when it will bring forward proposals for regeneration.
- Establishment of V&S forum
- Audit of unused land
- Funding BME groups & selection process
- Role in the Conflict Transformation Initiative
- Equality legislation

DARD

- Orange Halls – what actions, work and meetings have taken place to get Orange Halls to apply for funding from DARD

DCAL

- Regional Minority Languages - update on the 3rd Periodical Report on the European Charter for Regional Minority Languages; and when the report will be submitted.
- Shared Sport - plans for the integration of people through sport
- Promotion of Ulster-Scots Culture and Heritage by department & arms length bodies
- Development of a strategy for indigenous languages
- Update on his Department's strategy to promote and enhance the Irish Language

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Policy Update (*contd*)

DRD

- Memorials and Symbols – an estimate of the number of symbols displayed or memorials erected, on Departmental land or property, which glorify criminal behavior.

DSD

- Bonfire Policy - what bonfire programmes which are being funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in 2009?

Oral Q&A

Two oral Q&A's of particular interest relate to:

- 1 DE Community Relations: Funding from the Department of Education
- 2 Assembly Commission: Parliament Buildings: Emblems

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister of Education what interim arrangements are being proposed by her Department to sustain funding beyond 2009 for the community groups funded by her Department's community relations core funding scheme. (AQO 2772/09)

The Minister of Education: Chreid mé le fada go raibh an beartas um chaidreamh pobail ró-chúng, agus tá mé iontach sásta go bhfuiltear anois ag dul i ngleic leis an ngné seo tríd an athbhreithniú.

I have long held the view that the community relations policy has been too narrowly defined, and I welcome the fact that that dimension has been explored through the review. Work on the revised community relations policy is well advanced and will be brought forward in due course. I will consider any funding issues within the context of the revised policy. The scope of the review of policy includes enshrining equality and good relations as core principles, and addressing section 75, which places a statutory duty on public bodies in carrying out their various functions to have due regard to promoting equality.

The scope of the review also includes taking into account the views of persons from each of the nine groups listed in section 75 and focusing on the wider concepts of diversity and issues affecting the two main traditions. Under section 75, public authorities are also required to: "have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group."

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Policy Update (contd)

Mrs M Bradley: Is the Minister aware that staff are now being put on notice and that schools are being informed that their respective education and library boards have no money for the schools' community relations programme? Will she tell the House why there has been a deafening silence from her Department?

The Minister of Education: The current method of funding community relations programmes was to end on 31 March 2009. However, as community relations continue to be addressed by schools and youth groups throughout the summer months, funding was extended until August 2009. All organisations currently in receipt of community relations funding, including the 26 core-funded groups, have been advised of the extension and that the outcome of the review may impact on the level of funding available. It is essential that our community relations policy reflects our section 75 duties and the diversity of groups across the range of section 75 groups. I hope that the Member is not suggesting that we leave out any group included in section 75.

Mr Shannon: My concern, and that of many other Members, is for the continuity of funding for community relations groups. Lack of continuity has an adverse effect on staff and on the impact of the programmes that they carry out. Will the Minister confirm that, as her ministerial responsibility and her promise to people involved in those groups implies, she will ensure continuity of funding so that the good programme of work that they do will continue?

The Minister of Education: I have already answered that question. The Department informed all organisations of the review well in advance, and it informed them of the review's implications. It has given an extension to the community relations programme. That was meant to end in April but, because of summer activities, we have extended it to August 2009.

Mr McCartney asked the Assembly Commission what steps it is taking to ensure that emblems and symbols, inside and outside Parliament Buildings, reflect the culture and ethos of both traditions. [\(AQO 2649/09\)](#)

Rev Dr Robert Coulter: The Assembly Commission recognises the importance of providing an environment in and around Parliament Buildings that is welcoming, harmonious and enjoyed by all sections of the community. The Assembly Commission is responsible for Parliament Buildings and its immediate curtilage. The Assembly Commission is working on the development of a good relations policy and strategy. Indeed, at a meeting of the Commission on 2 April 2009, members agreed that an internal working group will be established to take forward and make recommendations on an appropriate strategy for the Assembly Commission.

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Policy Update (contd)

To inform that work, the Assembly Commission has also agreed to arrange a consultation event that includes key stakeholders. It is hoped that that first event will inform the Commission of the main issues surrounding the development of a good relations strategy. Emblems and symbols will be one of the issues that the group will consider. It is hoped that Members and parties will engage fully in those deliberations. We recognise that that will be a significant undertaking for the Commission. I assure the Member that we have given and will continue to give our full commitment to addressing the issue over the coming months.

Mr McCartney: Gabhaim buíochas leis an Chomhalta as an fhreagra sin. I thank the Member for his answer, and I welcome the establishment of a working group. Does the Commission know when that group will complete its work? In the interim, does the Member have any examples of where in the Building steps have been taken to reflect the many other cultures?

Rev Dr Robert Coulter: At present, there is no indication of when the work will be completed. The Commission is due to go on two awaydays, during which those issues and their cost, among others, will be considered. The Commission will provide an answer to the Member's question at an appropriate time.

One Small Step

Since February 2009 the *Belfast Telegraph* has been publishing weekly stories (every Monday) under the banner of the **One Small Step Campaign** in association with the Community Relations Council. These are personal stories of individuals who have taken steps to challenge sectarianism and segregation and are helping to bring about change towards reconciliation and a more shared society. The focus is on how individuals have responded to the challenge. The Community Relations Council is co-ordinating the gathering of these stories.

If you have a story to tell contact the Community Relations Council. Articles (and photos) should be sent to rmullan@nicrc.org.uk or tel Ray Mullan at 90-227500.

Articles should be about **600 words**, written in the first person and include some personal background as context. A photo should be supplied if possible.



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Events

The **UNESCO Centre** and **Youth and Community Work** staff of the **University of Ulster** with the **Corrymeela Community**

warmly invite you to attend workshops on the themes of:

Challenging violent cultures in gangs and communities
Promoting the critical engagement of young people

Work with young people that make these themes more explicit across all ages and social conditions is important if we are to embed the conditions for a mutually respectful, cohesive and shared society.

4 June—**Challenging violent cultures in gangs and communities** and
Promoting the critical engagement of young people

9th June - Extended workshops on **Challenging violent cultures in gangs and Communities** and **Promoting the critical engagement of young people**

For more information please contact: Loretto Blackwood—
l.blackwood@ulster.ac.uk

Derry City Council—Anti-Racism Training Day

Derry City Council, through the Community Support Plan, and the Audit of Community & Voluntary Sector Training Needs within the Derry City Council Area, is offering a series of training courses free of charge across the Community and Voluntary sector in the Council Area.

One of these courses, an anti-racism training day, is taking place on the 11th June 2009 in St Columbs Park House, L'Derry. This free training day will focus on racism in Northern Ireland and will also feature the experiences of migrant workers living and working in Northern Ireland.

Should you wish to find out more information about this course or book a place, please contact our office on 7134 5160.

Events (contd)

Omagh District Council and Strule Arts Centre

King Billy: The Icon of Liberty
Wed 24 June 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tickets: Free.
Max participants: 30

Prince William of Orange spent little more than a fortnight in Ireland over 300 years ago, yet today his name and image are seen across Northern Ireland and revered by many Ulster Protestants. This workshop will explore the iconography of King Billy in murals, banners, songs and folklore to give an insight into exactly why he has become such a figurehead and whether the modern myth matches the reality. Working in partnership with Omagh District Council Good Relations Department and Strule Arts Centre.

To book please contact the Strule Arts Centre Box Office: 028 8224 7831

Healing Through Remembering

DAY OF PRIVATE REFLECTION – SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2009

Healing Through Remembering (HTR) is again promoting a Day of Private Reflection on Sunday 21st June 2009 following similar initiatives in 2007 and 2008.

The Day of Reflection is a day for personal and private reflection on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland; a day to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict, to reflect on our own attitudes, on what more we might have done or might still do, and to make a personal commitment that such loss should never be allowed to happen again. It provides a voluntary opportunity for everyone in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain and further afield to reflect upon the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and the future that is before us.

HTR values the contribution of groups, organisations and individuals throughout these islands and beyond in making the Day of Private Reflection happen – and we hope that once again, this year, we can work together to create a time and space to reflect, on Sunday 21st June 2009.

For further information and to request materials please contact Claire Smith, via telephone on 028 9023 8844 or email info@dayofreflection.com.

Events (contd)

Corrymeela Community—Summer Programme

The last few remaining slots in Corrymeela's annual summer programme are available for groups of between 20-40 people. In particular a couple of spaces exist mid-July. To find out exact details please contact Matt on the details below. We are also running a families residential called 'IF?', in partnership with Pat Meenan of Lifeways, between July 11th -16th; if your organisation knows of low support families who would benefit from the opportunity of engaging in a Summer Programme week at Corrymeela Ballycastle please contact Matt to discuss this. Cost is based on a sliding scale. please contact mattscrimgeour@corrymeela.org or 02820761726 or 07968362152.

2008 YLT survey results published

The Results of the 2008 Young Life and Times survey are now available. The survey included questions on community relations as well as an extended module on attitudes towards and experiences of contact with people from minority ethnic backgrounds. The survey questionnaire, results tables, technical information on the survey as well as the survey dataset itself can be accessed at www.ark.ac.uk/ylt. For more information about the survey contact d.schubotz@qub.ac.uk.

Co-operation Ireland

Co-operation Ireland is a charitable organization working to promote peace and reconciliation across the island of Ireland. We work with groups from all religious and cultural communities to build vibrant societies based on the principles of respect for diversity and peace and reconciliation. Our vision is to have an island of communities and individuals that are at peace with themselves.

2009 is a special year for Co-operation Ireland as we are celebrating our 30th anniversary. We want you to help us celebrate. We are inviting entries for a photographic competition based on the work of Co-operation Ireland. For over 30 years Co-operation Ireland has been bringing people together on a cross-border and cross community basis building relationships and networks and promoting peace and reconciliation. We work with people of all ages and from all sectors within the community.

To carry out this work we use a range of mediums such as sport, art, drama, dialogue and music. These enable people to learn about each other's heritage and culture.

Your photograph should reflect this work.

For further information and an entry form please e-mail photos@cooperationireland.org or phone Michelle McCluskey on 028 9089 1007

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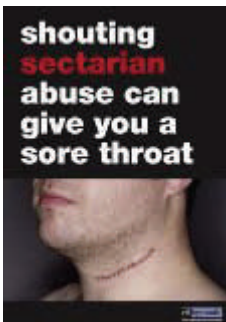
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Promoting a peaceful and fair society based on reconciliation and mutual trust

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

Events (contd)

Unite the Union—Short term funding seminar

Peace and reconciliation groups all know the problems of short term funding; Unite the Union invites its members and non members to a seminar entitled **Short Term Contracts –Long term Solutions** to look at funding and employment issues in the equality, community relations and community and voluntary sector.

If you are concerned about the short termism of the sector, job insecurity, come along to the seminars in the Unite office at 34-36 Antrim Road, Belfast on either Tuesday 22nd September, 7 – 10pm or Wednesday 23rd September, 10am – 1pm.

To register your interest contact Taryn.Trainor@unitetheunion.com

New Report

The Girdwood Residents' Jury has released a report entitled **The Girdwood Gamble**. It criticizes the Department for Social Development's current approach to the Girdwood regeneration as a 'gamble' with public money and residents' future.

The report publishes the results of the Jury's monitoring of their indicators launched in October 2008 and puts forward constructive proposals on how to turn the £231m regeneration process into a social and economic stimulus for the communities surrounding the site.

The report is available on at <http://www.pprproject.org/>