



CRC e-Bulletin

Remembering the Future?

Last month CRC, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, held a conference at Belfast City Hall on the theme of understanding the past, shaping the future. With a decade of important anniversaries ahead of us the conference sought to explore the opportunities and the challenges ahead.

Paul Mullan, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland, and **Duncan Morrow**, Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, set the context.

Political anniversaries are usually associated with moments of contention here. Remembering is something we do apart- a competition for dominance, not a chance to re-examine the evidence. Every event is a matter of a partisan celebration or deliberate avoidance, with the risk that every commemoration is a re-run of the division of the past.

Over the next ten plus years there will be a number of critical and contested anniversaries and commemorations of events that continue to shape our lives, even centuries later. Indeed some are already calling this the 'Decade of Anniversaries'; it will soon be 400 years since the Plantation and 100 years since the Ulster Covenant; Battle of the Somme, the Easter Rising and Partition. By 2018, we will begin the cycle of 50 years since civil rights, the arrival of troops, internment and so on. The question is not whether we remember these events, but how: can we turn pivotal events in the past into opportunities for learning, challenge and engagement for a better future?

How we approach and commemorate these events will say much about our maturity as a society. Many of these events have taken on a resonance and meaning far beyond the complex original facts and evidence. History has become a battlefield in which we bend events to fit a wider political story, choosing our facts to prove a political point rather than learn more complicated truths. Voices of those less directly connected to political leadership- whether women, or small minority communities or international context-disappear from view. In Northern Ireland we have sometimes been better at myth-making than history, to the point that we come to the conclusion that only one view- usually our view- can be tolerated.

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Remembering the Future? contd

Clearly conflict still affects us all. But the wider search for a shared and better future now offers us a possibility to set the megaphone aside and make space for pluralism and the contest of evidence. Public spaces, like museums, town halls and art galleries can become places for exploration, learning and challenge instead of simple propaganda or banal neutrality. Broadcasters, artists, historians and writers should be challenged to expand our horizons in an open public space.

Commemorations offer an opportunity to revisit old certainties, to think again about received ideas and to compare our own assumptions with those of others in the face of evidence.

Just over twenty years ago, to mark the 300 years since the Williamite wars, the Ulster Museum put on an exhibition, 'Kings in Conflict', which tried to put those seminal events in context; reminding us that the wars were part of a bigger European story, one which saw conflict between King William and King James in a very different light to the simple notion of a Protestant King fighting a Catholic King. Instead of simple Catholic-Protestant battle, 1690 became the year in which the Pope in Rome celebrated the Protestant William's victory.

Such a contextualisation and presentation of wider and broader evidence made for a fascinating story, challenging many long-held beliefs and allowing for a richer and surprising exploration of our past. With so many events in the next decade, we have a real opportunity to turn this place into a centre of tolerance, pluralism and robust learning rather than the usual inter-community ding-dong where nobody learns much but we restate our old positions and make some new wounds.

It was with this in mind that the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Community Relations Council are organising a one day conference on 21 March on how we acknowledge the past through the forthcoming anniversaries. The intention is not to dictate what will happen but to kick-start a public debate on the issue. Could we, for example, develop a set of shared principles to ensure an open approach to commemoration over the next ten years, rooted in evidence and recognition of different points of view?

In all of this there is a tremendous opportunity to create a better understanding of our past and to recognise together that the past is a complex inheritance with many interpretations. The challenge for our public institutions and media will be to create the space for a more honest understanding of our past. Some of the early indications are good with the BBC developing a series on the History of Ireland and with more specific programmes planned. It is also to be hoped that our major cultural institutions, such as the museums, will put on challenging exhibitions and events over the period that greatly enlighten people about our difficult and challenging past and help them to question their preconceptions.

A decade of anniversaries is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is our hope that we will end the decade better informed and with a greater understanding of who we are and why our past is important to us. We might even have a new shared culture of learning and robust debate which is enlightening and enriching and neither partisan nor bland.

[This article first appeared in the Belfast Telegraph on 18 March.]

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.

In the Wounds of the Father: Transgenerational Trauma, Past, Present and Future

*Last week the annual CRC conference for victims and survivors was held in Ballymena. One of the key-note speakers was **Dr Leon Litvack**, a Member of the Community Relations Council and the child of Holocaust survivors. This is an abbreviated version of his address.*

In the closing months of World War II, the Allies came upon apocalyptic places like Bergen-Belsen, which seemed like another world. The inmates who emerged from this Holocaust would never be the same again. The noted author and Auschwitz prisoner Elie Wiesel wrote 'Had we started to speak, we would have found it impossible to stop. Having shed one tear, we would have drowned the human heart'. These people had suffered trauma (which comes from the Greek for wound), and there was no clear idea about how to help them return to life, reintegrate into society, or heal.

It's understandable that their children were profoundly affected by the parents' experiences. Often they served as impressionable sounding boards for the recounting of terrifying experiences. Many carried the names of dead relatives, and felt guilt and depression. Most downplayed normal teenage challenge or rebellion. By their very existence they felt that they could partially compensate for their parents' losses, and so many became obedient achievers. While these kids never experienced the direct and long-lasting effects of torture, starvation, prolonged confinement, forced labour, and daily fear of extermination, many did -- and do -- suffer from transgenerational trauma.

The children of victims and survivors of the Troubles share some of these feelings, and some of this trauma. There is no doubt that parenting capacity has been adversely affected by the decades of conflict. These children have sometimes identified with, or rebelled against, certain character traits of their parents, some of whom talked about events openly, while others remained silent. Parents often felt terror, fear, and withdrawal, and experienced intrusive flashbacks. They felt guilt at not being able to protect loved ones, and were given to feelings of anger and rage. Many didn't seek help, but instead tried to be brave for the sake of the family.

Their children grew up with heightened anxiety. Some experienced imagined, threatened, or actual attack as a daily reality. Others experienced withdrawal, and developed many of the same feelings and symptoms as their parents. Within families the past was addressed in different ways: some talked openly about it, others fabricated stories, and many others stayed silent. Children naturally want to know about their family's past, because it helps to inform their present. When this opportunity is denied, particularly in the families of victims and survivors, the vacuum may be filled by terrifying (and potentially inaccurate) thoughts, images, and beliefs. The past intrudes powerfully and dangerously into the present, and creates transgenerational trauma.

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

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In the Wounds of the Father: Transgenerational Trauma, Past, Present and Future

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It's estimated that in Northern Ireland more than 41,000 people are directly affected by a Troubles-related family death or injury, and as a result suffer distress or emotional disturbance. There is no clear, organised, or even recommended method for dealing with the trauma experienced by either parents or children. Clinical treatment is appropriate for some, but it's not for everyone. Community networks and groups play a vital role: they can be less stigmatising and more empowering, because they create social bonds, and emphasise that the traumatised individual, who can feel extremely alienated, is not alone.

The past cannot simply be erased. We have a responsibility to encourage healing among victims, survivors, and their children, so that they can reintegrate into society and participate in our shared future. A new and interesting challenge is provided by the work of Centre for Trauma, Resilience and Growth at Nottingham University, which has promoted the concept of 'posttraumatic growth'. This programme, which can be applied to both individuals and groups, is not simply a case of accentuating the positive. Instead it offers a new way of thinking about how to expand human functioning. It requires the therapist or facilitator to 'listen out' for growth'. When individuals spontaneously mention benefits they may be feeling from their treatment, we can reflect this back on them; this may in turn facilitate the search for further benefits. At the very least, this idea demonstrates that victims are welcome to talk about the positive aspects as well as the negative. In our society this has the potential to heal some of the pain of trauma, develop greater resiliency and strength, and renegotiate what victims, survivors, and their children can contribute to our shared future.

[This article was previously published on 1st April in the Belfast Telegraph. A fuller version of Dr Litvack's address will appear shortly on the CRC website]

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.

Forthspring Shared Neighbourhood Report

Forthspring Intercommunity Group straddles the interface at Workman Avenue between the Springfield Road in West Belfast and the Woodvale on the Shankill. Forthspring over the past fourteen years has delivered a wide range of shared programmes, community relations, dialogue and training for all ages.

Forthspring joined the Shared Neighbourhood Programme in 2010. The Shared Neighbourhood Programme is delivered by the Housing Executive, aimed at contributing to a peaceful, inclusive pluralistic society by supporting and encouraging shared neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland.

As part of the partnership between Forthspring and the Shared Neighbourhood Programme it was recognized that for Forthspring to further develop some form of base line study would be beneficial and informative. It is from this that after six months of work the attached report evolved.

The survey illustrates the paradox of living on an interface. Whilst residents want more sharing and less division they are also fearful that any movement to reduce division will result in a reduction of their safety. To move beyond this residents will need opportunities to build relationships across the interface, they need evidence of regeneration and they need strong leadership which is committed to moving towards a more shared society.

Being part of the Shared Neighbourhood Programme has and will continue to be an excellent opportunity for Forthspring to consolidate its work and programmes with both communities on a shared site, strengthening the future position of Forthspring as a shared space and building better relations locally.

The full report can be downloaded here:

<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/forthspring.pdf>

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CR Week 2011

Community Relations Week 2011

Community Relations Week 2011 begins on 23 May. It is hoped that as in previous years there will be a large number of events taking place across Northern Ireland organised by voluntary and community organisations and public sector bodies. The aim will be to showcase existing community relations activity and address issues that will help build a more shared society. This can be a festival, an exhibition, a drama event, a discussion, a debate, a workshop, a seminar, a lecture, a book launch, or any number of cultural or training activities.

CRC encourages and invites event organisers to submit **Entry Forms** to enable the production of a printed programme. The entry forms should indicate details of the event and a contact person/number.

The deadline for the receipt of entry forms has been extended to 15 April.

If you wish to receive an entry form please email: info@nicrc.org.uk

Community Relations Award

CRC invites nominations for the annual Community Relations Award for Exceptional Achievement. This is a non-monetary award in the form of a bronze sculpture by the artist Kate Oram. Nominees should be individuals who have made a significant contribution to better community relations over a number of years.

For more information contact Ray Mullan at CRC (90-2275000).
Nominations should be sent to CRC to be received by 9 May 2011.

If you wish to receive a nomination form please email:
info@nicrc.org.uk

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.

Policy Update

Beyond Belfast Report

The Community Relations Council and the Rural Community Network were provided with the opportunity to brief the OFMDFM Committee members prior to the pre-election period on 9th March 2011. The briefing took the form of the researcher for the Beyond Belfast report Neil Jarman (ICR) providing a brief synopsis of the findings and recommendations of the report, and CRC CEO Duncan Morrow and RCN CEO Michael Hughes providing the committee with background information and potential next steps. This was then followed by a Question and Answer session with the committee members.

For further information see <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/centre/2007mandate/minutes/10/110309.htm>

Policy Conference 2011 – Pre-Notification

This year's Policy Conference will be held in the Stormont Hotel Belfast on the 26th May 2011. This year's conference will have a socio-economic theme and will explore what should be considered as part of the next Programme for Government. For further information when available please contact Bebhinn McKinley Policy Officer bmckinley@nicrc.org.uk

NI Assembly Update (March 2011)

Written Questions

See <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/answer.htm>

OFMDFM

Maze/Long Kesh Development Unit

Mr T Elliott asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) for an update on the work of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Unit, including details of the Peace III funding proposal submitted on behalf of their Department; and (ii) why resources are required to build a Conflict Transformation Facility at the site. (AQW 4791/11)

Maze/Long Kesh Site

Mr T Elliott asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for a breakdown of the anticipated spend by their Department on the development of the Maze/Long Kesh site, as detailed in their budget. (AQW 4793/11)

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Policy Update contd:

Draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Mr C Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when their Department's analysis of the consultation responses to the draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration will be published.

(AQW 4983/11)

City of Culture 2013

Mr P Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the meetings his officials have held with the Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 organisation committee.

(AQO 1201/11)

Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Dr S Farry asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the outcome of the consultation on the draft Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.

(AQO 1202/11)

Budget Priorities

Lord Browne asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline their Department's budget priorities for the next four years.

(AQO 1319/11)

Executive: Key Achievements

Mr S Hamilton asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the key achievements of the Executive during this mandate.

(AQO 1320/11)

DCAL

Proposed Ulster-Scots Academy

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the business case for the proposed Ulster-Scots Academy including the terms of reference, the Academy's purpose and any potential locations.

(AQW 5004/11)

DE

Provisions for Opting Out of Religious Education

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Education to detail the Department's (i) policy; and (ii) processes that are in place which enable a child, of sufficient maturity, to opt out of religious education and other faith based activities, in accordance with a student's right under the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

(AQW 5240/11)

Policy Update contd:

DSD

Shared Housing

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to outline what 'Shared Housing' means; and (ii) how he will tackle the growing housing waiting list for North Belfast, a list which, by 2012 it is estimated, will be made up of 95% of people from a Catholic background.

(AQW 5073/11)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS - Budget Bill: Final Stage. REFERENCES TO THE COST OF DIVISION AND INTERFACES. <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/reports2010/110301.htm#g>

Consultations responded to by CRC:

DCAL - Cultural Awareness Strategy

The Cultural Awareness Strategy is a revision of the Department's Cultural Diversity Strategy.

DOE – Local Government Reform

proposals aimed at modernising and strengthening local democracy. The consultation paper set out a wide range of measures on the future shape of local government, including reforms of the planning system.

DOE PPS 16 – Tourism

For further information or to view CRC's responses to consultations please see our website -

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

CRC responding to:

DRD - Regional Development Strategy

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/currentconsultations/consultation_on_a_new_community_safety_strategy_for_ni.htm

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Good Relations News from the District Councils

Coleraine Borough Council

Best of the Borough - Volunteers and Community Organisations Recognised at Community Endeavour Awards

The Community Development Team at Coleraine Borough Council welcomed over seventy guests to the first inaugural Community Endeavour Awards held at a reception in 'Cloonavin'. The Awards ceremony was organised by Council to give special recognition to the many people who selflessly give up their free time and energy for the betterment of their local community.

The Good Relations Groups and Organisations Category is given in recognition of groups and organisations that have made a significant contribution to good relations within the Borough of Coleraine, through the development of positive relationships between people of different backgrounds.

The winning group is a nurturing and development family centre, providing local people with childcare, nurturing programmes, domestic abuse programmes, skills courses, complementary therapies with a strong emphasis on developing relationships within a Good Relations context. Their programme entitled "Understanding Our Space – Celebrating Cultural Diversity" teamed up with Creevagh Womens Group in Londonderry/Derry to participate in a 2 year project of shared activities.

The winning group was *Focus on Family, Ballysally*

The Good Relations Individual Category is given in recognition of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to good relations within the Borough of Coleraine, through the development of positive relationships between people of different backgrounds.

The winning individual has given outstanding service to their group over the last 43 years to help those in need in their local community. They received a distinguished service medal from Northern Region of the Society in 2009. This person has volunteered on average 4-5 hours per week over the 43 years. Their compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others is deserving of recognition. This person has worked for Good Relations – organising joint Christmas appeals with the Salvation Army - and has raised money for many causes in addition to personally helping many families of all backgrounds.

The Winner was *Office Bearer of St Malachy's Conference of St Vincent de Paul, Tommy O'Kane*

Good Relations news from the District Councils

Belfast City Council

Good Relations Unit meets Royal Couple

On Tuesday the 8th March, staff from Belfast City's Good Relations Unit met the Royal couple, HRH Prince William and Ms. Kate Middleton who were paying a courtesy call to the Lord Mayor of Belfast during their visit to the City. The Royal couple had requested to meet Council staff that are involved in community relations work in the City. They were interested in some of the work being done by ex-prisoners within interface communities as well as Council initiatives in relation to the integration of new communities. They also met one of the Council's funded groups – Peace Players NI. PPNI deliver community relations work through the medium of basketball and have been working in Belfast for a number of years, as well as other places such as the Middle East and South Africa. PPNI have also been chosen as one of the Royal couple's 26 nominated charities who will benefit from their wedding. The Royal couple spent about 10 minutes with staff from the Good Relations Unit and were extremely interested in the Council's current initiatives.



Good Relations Unit scoops NILGA award

In March, Belfast City Council received an award from NILGA for its Good Relations Awareness Training. A joint initiative within Council between Good Relations and Human Resources, the training provides Good Relations Awareness to all staff within the Council and is delivered twice monthly. The training looks at the organisations obligations as a public body under Section 75, and within that it explores the Council's expectations on staff in the promotion of Good Relations in the work place and in the delivery of its services. A recent participant on the training said: "The training really helped me to understand that everything that we do as a service provider has the potential to build better community relations within the City".

Events

Platform for Change Election Hustings, 6th - 18th April

Platform for Change is holding a series of hustings to facilitate dialogue between candidates and the wider public in the run-up to the Assembly elections. A panel of speakers from the various political parties will be invited to debate questions and comments from the floor at each of the events.

We believe that the pre-election campaign should be focused on substantive policy issues in areas such as social inclusion, sustainable development, and a shared future. Our hustings are open to everyone – there is no need to register for any of the events. We also invite you to submit comments and questions in advance to contact@platformforchange.net

The following dates and venues for hustings are already confirmed:

Special hustings on gender equality, in conjunction with the Belfast Feminist Network:
Wednesday 6 April at the Space, Queen's University Belfast

Hustings for Foyle/East Londonderry:
Monday 11 April at the Junction, Bishop Street, Derry/Londonderry

Hustings for North, South, East and West Belfast:
Thursday 14 April at the Crescent Arts Centre (The Cube), University Road, Belfast

Hustings for Newry and Armagh/Upper Bann:
Monday 18 April at the Market Place Theatre, Market Street, Armagh

Doors for all events open at **7pm**.

To find out more about the hustings, including the line-up of confirmed speakers, please visit www.platformforchange.net or follow us on [facebook](#) or [twitter](#)

2010 YLT Preview of Results Seminar

Every year, ARK offers policy makers, researchers and anyone concerned with young people's issues the opportunity to get an overview of the key results of the most recent YLT survey of 16-year olds, before the full survey results are being released to the general public. The 2010 YLT survey Preview of Results Seminar will be held in the offices of NCB Northern Ireland, on 13th April 2011, 12.00-14.30. The NCB NI offices are only a 2-minute walk away from the Europa Bus station, 2nd Floor Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AF. The 2010 YLT survey included questions on community relations, young carers, attitudes to, and perceptions of, young people, sexual risks and play and leisure. Key findings of the 2010 YLT survey will be co-presented by Jacqueline O'Loughlin (CEO, Playboard) and Dr Helen Beckett (Researcher with Barnardos' Safe Choices project).

To register for the event and for more information visit: www.ark.ac.uk/ylt, email: d.schubotz@qub.ac.uk or ring 028 9097 3947.

Events (contd)

Equality and Good Relations training

15 April 2011

Derry City Council's Community Relations Officers have teamed up with the Equality Commission to offer the following free course:

- Name: Equality and Good Relations Refresher (Half-day non-accredited)
- Date: Friday 15th April 2011
- Time: 9.15am – 1.30pm (Includes light lunch)
- Venue: St.Columb's Park House, Limavady Road, Derry/Londonderry
- Cost: Free (funded by District Council's CR Programme – OFMDFM)
- Register: In advance by registration form – contact Sue Divin

This course is designed to help you consider equality and good relations: how it relates to your work, to your services, and to your family and friends. It is designed specifically for staff, volunteers and committee members in the community and voluntary sector. Content includes:

- Introduction to Good Relations in the local context.
- Reflective/interactive activity reflecting on prejudice awareness.
- Equality law "made easy" - looking at equality rights for everyone
- Equality and service providers – looking at the protections, responsibilities and maximising your equality efforts in funding applications.
- Sharing equality with your customers

Places are offered on a 'first come, first served basis' by registration. Names, contact details and any special requirements must be provided to confirm a booking. Places are prioritised to those living or working in the Derry City Council area (4 places per group). All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Registrations are open now and the deadline for registrations is Monday 11th April 2011. For further information please contact Sue Divin tel: 71345160 sue.divin@derrycity.gov.uk

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Events

Public Achievement

On Saturday 16th April at 2pm in the Ulster Hall's Group Space, young people from North Belfast involved in a Public Achievement cross-community youth programme will launch a series of short films they have made to highlight the lived experiences of young people in interface communities. We would like to extend a warm invitation to you to come along and support the young people as they celebrate their work.

Since the autumn of 2010, Public Achievement has been working with six groups of young people from three interface areas of North Belfast. These groups have been paired up across their local interface to design and produce three short films in order to bring the views and experiences of young people from these areas to a wider audience. Through this project we have supported the young people to explore the divisions in their communities and build bridges with neighbouring communities and the young people who live there.

The final product is a series of short films reflecting the young people's hopes, fears and frustrations about life in their local communities with humour, honesty and a keen insight about how things are and how things could be. They have gained a fresh outlook from working collaboratively and are now ready to present their films and perspectives to an audience of friends, family and invited guests.

This project has been supported by Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP) through the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

Please RSVP by Monday 11th April by emailing Nora on nora@publicachievement.com or phone 028 9044 2813.

Free Training Opportunities

Are you interested in fostering good relations between long-term residents and new arrivals? Maybe you're keen to find the best way to tackle racist comments or behaviour or perhaps you want to know more about migrant workers and their rights.

The Good Relations Unit of Belfast City Council and South Belfast Roundtable run regular free training events for community workers and organisations. Places are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or, to book a place, contact the good relations unit on the following email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

Training timetable

Monday 18 April 2011 (9.30am to 1.30pm)

Migrant Awareness Training is a half-day workshop designed by South Belfast Roundtable and the Good Relations Unit of Belfast City Council. It is an interactive session which explores inward and outward migration and the rights of migrant workers in Northern Ireland. It aims to dispel myths and provide practical information on issues relating to migration.

Wednesday 20th April 2011 (9.30am to 1.30pm)

Ending Hate in our Communities is a half-day workshop. It aims to give participants an understanding of the extent of bias, harassment and hate crimes in their community and the impact of bias and harassment on those targeted, as well as practical skills to help them respond to and prevent hate crime.

This project is part of the Belfast Peace Plan funded under Priority 1.1 of the Peace III programme for Northern Ireland and the Border Region.

Events (contd)

The Politics of the Past, Present, and Future—political discussion

with **Tommy McKearney**

author of a new book, **The Provisional IRA: From Insurrection to Parliament, on Wednesday 20 April at 7 p.m in the** Ramada Hotel (off Donegall Street).

The debate on a new future continues. This book is part of the debate, and the CPI welcomes the opportunity to engage in a political discussion that can lead to greater unity and a better understanding of the political situation in Ireland.

Further information: 077 51951781

Visit www.comunistpartyofireland.ie

2nd Annual International conference on Qualitative Research for Policy Making

will be held on the **26 & 27 May 2011** in Belfast. This highly interactive, cross-disciplinary conference will bring together top academics, practitioners and policy planners to discuss successful strategies of delivering qualitative research for policy making in times of austerity.

The conference format will consist of submitted presentations, invited keynotes, brainstorming workshops as well as interactive discussion sessions. As with all our past events, this conference will provide excellent opportunities for participants to network with peers.

Take advantage of this unique chance to discuss best practice with experts and peers in a friendly, fun and productive networking environment. This two-day international conference includes refreshments and lunches on both days. Please note that this is a highly sought-after event, seats may be limited. Please register early to avoid disappointment.

To register now, please visit: <http://www.eventbee.com/view/qrpm2011>

For more information about the agenda, conference venue and hotel recommendations, please visit our event website:

<http://www.merlien.org/upcoming-events/qrpm2011.html>

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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



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Events (contd)

The Peace & Reconciliation Group are pleased to announce details of their Spring 2011- Summer 2011 training programme funded under the SEUPB Peace III Programme 2.1 "Dealing With The Past Shaping The Future"

The main focus of the project is to engage with relevant cross-border statutory and voluntary organisations to develop programmes that will deal with the past and help pave the way for our divided community to be reconciled.

The courses on offer are:

Advanced Conflict Resolution & Mediation Skills (10 Days)

OCN Accredited Level 3 Credits 9

Tutor: Michael Barr
Dates: 11, 18, 25, May
1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June
6, 20, July

Location: PRG training room 16 Bishop Street, L'Derry

Developing Facilitation Skills (Dealing With the Past Shaping The Future) (6 Days)

OCN Accredited Level 3 Credits 9

Dates: 9, 16, 23, 30 May
6, 13 June
Time: 10.30am-5pm
Location: PRG training room 16 Bishop Street
Tutor: Michael Doherty and Michael Barr

The above programmes are free of charge to those working or intending to work in the community and voluntary sector and it is expected that places will fill up quickly so early expression of interest and registration is essential.

For further information Contact Michael Barr on 02871369206

or email michaelbarr@peaceprg.co.uk

or info@peaceprg.co.uk