



CRC e-Bulletin

Breaking Barriers through Youth Work

Duncan Morrow—CEO Community Relations Council

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.

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 MacDonaldis 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 bebo-ing 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.

June 2010

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Breaking Barriers through Youth Work continued

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.

(The above article is based on the author's closing remarks at the CRC/Youthnet conference on 27 April at the Odyssey, Belfast)

A challenge for education

Professor Tony Gallagher - Queen's University, Belfast



(From left to right) Tony McCusker Chair of CRC, Tony Gallagher and Bob Collins Chair of the Equality Commission

Our society remains deeply divided. More peace barriers exist now than at the height of the conflict and numerous housing estates and schools are still predominantly

A challenge for education continued

predominantly identified with a single community. In a little over a decade we have moved away from violence, created shared political institutions and established guarantees of equality, but if we are to secure the peace we must also address the divisions that continue to poison relationships between people and between communities.

In an important new initiative the Community Relations Council and the Equality Commission, on behalf of the Good relations Forum, have agreed a joint Challenge Paper for government to bring a different approach to the task of improving attainment in schools, within the context of addressing both equality of opportunity and good relations.

At the heart of this challenge lies the goal of encouraging greater sharing and collaboration between communities and schools. This can provide real opportunities to address the persistent inequalities of academic attainment and performance, and can also make a substantial contribution to improved social and community cohesion, both within and between the diverse social mix of our society.

Our young people need to be given the skills and develop the experience to live and work in a diverse society and workforce, at home and abroad. This will require a dual process of raising educational attainment to generate greater competitiveness, as well as actions that welcome and encourage diversity. These actions will act as a deterrent against discrimination and prejudice, whilst providing our young people with the skills to compete at a global level.

Many schools already are showing extraordinary leadership in this area, but the Department of Education could do more to publicise the experience of schools that have been successful in sharing and collaborating, particularly on a cross-community basis. The working practices of schools, particularly in the Integrated sector, should be examined, and good practice models developed to overcome the challenges of bringing children together from different backgrounds. These schools could also act as champions, to outline the practical actions needed to be successful and lessons learnt for future practice.

To support this work, the Department needs to promote more effectively the systematic sharing, collaboration and managing of resources by schools, particularly on a cross-community basis, as the preferred method of delivering and achieving educational targets and objectives. This will be achieved if the promotion of good relations is made compulsory for all schools as part of the Citizenship programme. It will also require that the Department of Education allocates core resources to this work.

At this time in our history, the promotion of good relations within schools cannot be left as an optional extra, but nor can it be left as a free-floating priority, its status unclear. If we are to build on the achievements of the peace we have enjoyed to date, and secure that peace for future generations, we have to recognise the importance of addressing issues of justice, equality and reconciliation as seminal purposes for education.

The Good Relations Challenge Paper is available to download at:

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/crc-good-relations-forum-booklet-final-21-april-2010-pdf.pdf>

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

A Shared City

by Jeanette Warke, Shared City Project, Derry City Council

The shared City Project was established in 1999 to bring people together from all communities in Derry/Londonderry.

The project now in its 11th year has achieved many successes over the years. Community Education programmes in partnership with the North West College have enabled hundreds of participants to gain qualifications, grow their confidence and empower people to make positive changes to their lives.

Shared City Project also supports victims of the troubles. Working with the Omagh and Claudy families three stained glass windows were designed and installed in Buncrana, Omagh and Claudy. The windows are a permanent memorial to the bomb victims and also help in supporting the families to come to terms with their loss dealing with the past. The group are now completing a fourth window which will go to Madrid in memory also of the young Spanish students.

Working in Interface Communities Shared City Project addresses issues of division and diversity by working directly with Catholic and Protestant groups, setting up projects and programmes which bring both communities together in an attempt to demonstrate that cultural differences can exist without being conflictive.

Many projects have been initiated by Shared City Project. The Women into Irish Group was set up in September 2000 to explore the wealth of Irish History in Northern Ireland but especially the City of Londonderry and hinterland. Most importantly the group meet each week to research and delve into the wealth of history on their doorstep, develop new friendships and break down barriers which in the past have prevented the women from fleshing out stories and facts written in history text books in such a way they found difficult to relate to.

Shared City Project has not created any physical shared spaces but what it has done is opened up peoples' minds to what existed already, breaking down barriers to participation in Cross Community projects. I feel as long as Community Relations work continues to promote a shared society then we can continue to make a difference towards a Shared City for all

For more information email shared.city@derrycity.gov.uk

Creating a New Community through Art

By Lisa Conlon—Community and Visual Artist

Art has a way of breaking down barriers, much more than any other medium. When you create, you let the inner child out to play; the journey is just as important as the destination. With art it doesn't matter who you are; the person becomes the creation, not a face, a name or a place. It becomes something from the inside out, personal and emotional, relevant to the human aspect in all of us.



Lisa (centre) with Richard Dougherty and Mrs Meta Crozier, Mayor of Craigavon

Creating a New Community through Art continued

Community Arts has a way of bringing many personal expressions together in a way that helps people relate to each other in a new way. Community Arts helps us (as communities and people) to express ourselves and our identities yet it also teaches us to respect each other's identities (since we are all unique). It brings our differences together in a way that helps us learn and grow and to create something new, a bigger better community with all those differences used to move forward in a positive way.

My awareness of Cross Community Projects stemmed from my mother, a dedicated youth worker and believer in change. I have been involved in all sorts of Cross Community projects since I was a teenager such as; painting community walls, community murals in youth clubs, art workshops with children using materials in creative ways and hosting art exhibitions.

To celebrate Community Relations Week in Lurgan, the Youth Reach Project based in the Jethro Centre held a Resource Fair (26th April – 2nd May 2010) for young people from three local high schools in Lurgan. The theme for the week was the role of young people in building a shared society, with the strap-line "*Time to Change the Conversation.*"

Richard Dougherty, from the Jethro Centre, asked me to facilitate an art stand at the Resource Fair. The idea was that each person would make a finger print on the canvas in their favourite colour and sign their name beside it, this represented their identity. They were also encouraged to make an additional mark on the canvas which represented their expression. The community aspect developed through all the identities in the one place – on Canvas!

There was no difference made – MLA's, young people and the mayor all made their mark – not one person's mark was more important (although all distinctive in their own way) than anyone else's. It represented the fact that we are all alike in the ways that we have an identity and that we want our space to express that.

My stand was very neutral in comparison to some of the other ones – there was no judgement just expression and acceptance. The young people got involved with energy and extended the fingerprints to handprints. I was open to the idea and it worked well. As a result they have taught us all a valuable lesson; it is good to try new ways of doing things, we can all learn from each other - I have certainly learnt from them.

Community & Visual Artist W: www.born2bbold.com E: Lisa@born2bbold.com

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Beyond the Margins: Building Trust in Policing with Young People

Policing has long been a controversial topic in Northern Ireland, and though policing and justice powers have now been devolved to Stormont, there are many issues that lay unresolved. One of these issues is the relationship between young people and the police.

'Beyond the Margins: Building Trust in Policing with Young People,' is a joint report of Public Achievement and the Institute for Conflict Research. The report is a response to the Policing Board's Thematic Enquiry on Children and Young People, and an update of ICR research done in 2003. It sought to capture the views and experiences of young people from tougher social realities, and examine how the relationship between young people and the police has changed in the last seven years. It involved surveys completed by over 200 young people from all over Northern Ireland, interviews with community workers and key stakeholders doing work in the area, a literature review, and a film made with over 200 young people on their thoughts and experiences of policing.

Overall, the report finds that the relationship between young people and the police has improved since 2003, though there remains much to be done. Young people often feel negatively stereotyped within their communities, and the police will often operate out of these societal perspectives. However, positive contact between young people and police in a neutral setting has contributed to an improvement in relations, and helped to build relationships and foster understanding between the two. It is this type of work that is recommended by the report, as well as recommendations for statutory policing bodies and funders.

Unfortunately, due to the recent drastic cuts in the community relations budget, we now face an even more difficult task in building the positive relationships needed to confront these issues and make a difference in the lives of young people. This type of work is essential in order to improve the relationship between young people and the police.

'Beyond the Margins' is available from the Public Achievement website at <http://www.publicachievement.com/Publications.aspx>. Any questions, please contact Liz at Public Achievement on 028 9044 2813, or liz@publicachievement.com

The Community Bridges Programme

By Dorothy Monaghan—Community Bridges Programme

A significant change in the funding for community relations and peace building work in Ireland will be the withdrawal of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI). The Community Bridges Programme (CBP) will cease to grant aid from the end of 2011. Since 1996 it has awarded **£26 million** and over **210** projects have received funding for a diverse range of projects. A key question for IFI is "What have we learned?" In order to answer this and evaluate the contribution IFI have made to reconciliation through CBP, IFI have funded an Evaluation and Learning post which will review a number of projects to highlight key approaches and best practice.

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.

The Community Bridges Programme continued

While practitioners and communities have been engaged in trying to reduce the legacy of decades of political violence a key challenge is finding the time to reflect, analyse and illustrate how their actions have shaped wider Northern Ireland society. It is hoped the evaluation will highlight collaboration and sharing, and assess and acknowledge the distinctive contribution this investment has made to communities. The evaluation output should help to sustain the legacy of this unique contribution and connect with ongoing beneficiaries who have, and continue to, participate in this work.

For more information please contact Dorothy Monaghan, Community Bridges Evaluation & Learning Officer at dmonaghan@nicrc.org.uk

The Rural Enablers Programme

The Rural Enabler Programme is aimed at assisting rural communities to develop ways to deal with the things that still divide us in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. Each county will have an Enabler who will support groups and individuals to take a step in a new direction in challenging sectarianism and racism and how things have been done in the past. There will also be an Enabler working with the rural institutions across the region.

'Facilitory Development' grants will be available to enable groups to use activities or bring in the experts they need to make a difference in their area.

Themes Identified

- Young people** – give them a safe space to design their future
- Community Development** – embed the practice of excellence
- Interfaces and shared spaces** – access to all services for all
- Housing** – benefits of social and residential integration
- Flags and Emblems** – how to balance the rights with the responsibilities
- Race Relations** – maximising the contribution of all
- Rural Institutions** – how they can assist in developing a shared future

A local launch of the programme will take place in each county to highlight the opportunities for groups and individuals. Groups can nominate themselves to take part in the programme by contacting Rural Community Network with local council and peace plans also being used to identify possible projects. The participant groups will have the support of the Enabler and the opportunity to apply for a small grant to assist their work in peace building initiatives.

For more information contact:

info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org

or phone: 028 8676 6670

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Irish Peace Centres International Launch Conference

By Jane McCarthy IPC

Over 150 participants attended the inaugural Irish Peace Centres International Conference which took place in Belfast earlier this year. The conference marked the launch of Irish Peace Centres (IPC), a consortium of four leading peace-building organisations from across Ireland. IPC seek to cultivate and sustain positive relationships at a local level across the region and across traditional sectarian and new social divides, whilst sharing an exchange of best practice with conflict regions worldwide.

The conference, entitled 'Prejudice & Pride' explored the role of prejudice and its impact for peace-building in Northern Ireland and in other conflict regions. Challenging sectarianism, racism and all forms of prejudice is integral to IPC. The theme was well received as reflected in the large attendance and the quality of the small group feedback. Peter Sheridan, Chairman of IPC, commented:

'Throughout the conference, listening to contributors, it was evident that there were serious challenges. History, attitudes, structures, real and imagined oppression shape our views of the society in which we live and which we strive to understand. The conference very successfully set people thinking, it helped inform and it sought to influence and support debate'.

The theme challenged several of the speakers. Bernadette McAliskey, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme, provided an incisive, honest and personal account on the theme of The Roots of Prejudice.

As part of the Story-telling Session, Teya Sepinuck, Film Director of Theatre of Witness, previewed her recent film, "We Carried Your Secrets". This challenging piece raised questions on the validity of story-telling as a peace-building methodology. The film provoked much discussion.

The international speakers included former combatants Chen Alon from Israel and Nouraddin Shehadah from Palestine who now work together in the Middle East for the peace-building group, Combatants for Peace. Nenad Sebak, working at the Centre for Democracy & Reconciliation in Southeast Europe brought wisdom and insight in summarising the proceedings. The view from the Middle East and the Balkans created a comparative framework to judge the challenges of the local anti-sectarian and anti-racist work.

The Conference Dinner heard special guest speaker, Peter Tatchell, Human Rights activist, as he chronicled the long and painful journey of the gay community from criminal illegality in the sixties to relative equality today.

Paddy Logue, Conference Organiser reflected; *"The conference advanced the aims of IPC in several ways... Firstly, the joint organisation of the conference involving all four partners was a master class in consortium working as was the involvement of the partners in actual delivery. Then, the aim of the EU PEACE III programme and of*

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Irish Peace Centres continued

IPC is to challenge sectarianism, racism and all forms of prejudice and the conference theme addressed those challenges. Also, the quality of the discussions, both on a conceptual and emotional basis, will energise the peace sector to make progress towards a society free of prejudice. And finally, part of the IPC remit is to capture and share the learning from its programme of work regionally and internationally and the inclusion of Middle East and Balkans speakers contributed to that.”

The IPC consortium is made up of Co-operation Ireland, The Donegal Peace Centre at An Teach Ban, the Corrymeela Community and the Glenree Centre.

The intention of the partner organisations is a long-term commitment to support communities and government endeavours to build peace, equality and justice into the future in Ireland and internationally. You can find out more about the programme by visiting www.irishpeacecentres.org.

The Irish Peace Centres is funded by the Peace III Programme, administered and delivered by the Special EU Programmes Body.



RDC Integrating Communities programme

By John Kelly—RDC

The Rural Development Council (RDC) is currently finalising the future arrangements of a follow on to the pilot Integrating Communities programme.

'Integrating Communities' is a programme of support managed by the RDC and funded by the International Fund for Ireland. It is designed to facilitate community organisations that wish to co-operate on a cross community basis to work in partnership on issues of common interest.

The new programme will be open to urban and rural groups operating within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland wishing to work on a cross community partnership basis. Successful applicants will participate in the support phase which involves a focused programme of support, training and mentoring. Small grants of up to a maximum of £5,000 will be available to partnered organisations to implement a small project which will benefit both their communities.

Upon completion of the support phase, partnerships will be eligible to make an application to the project phase which provides project grant and implementation support for partnerships up to a value of approximately £100,000.

Whilst dates have yet to be confirmed RDC hopes to reopen the programme in the summer and would encourage communities interested in making an application to contact programme staff.

For further information, contact: Yvonne Breen or John Kelly, Northern Ireland Rural Development Council, 17 Loy Street, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland BT80 8PZ, Tel: +44 (0)28 8676 6980, Email: info@rdc.org.uk Website: www.rdc.org.uk/integrating

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Policy Update

Assembly Update

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

Below are examples of some of the issues raised:

Written & Oral Q&A

OFMDFM

Draft Parades Legislation

- Will the Deputy First Minister outline what discussions, if any, he, the First Minister or the parades working group has had with the Northern Ireland Court Service or the judiciary, given the ability of not only parade organisers but those who wish to protest to seek judicial review of decisions?
- Will the Minister give a definition of sectarian harassment? Will he explain how the clause will operate in practice?

CSI

- An update on the development of the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration and programme

Community Relations Budget in Department of Education

- What discussions OFMDFM Ministers, or their officials, have had regarding the potential impact of a 70% reduction in the community relations budget within the Department of Education, given their overall responsibility for community relations.

Hard-to-reach Communities

- What plans OFMDFM has to engage with hard-to-reach communities across Northern Ireland
- Whether OFMDFM is examining any new ways or models of engaging with those traditionally hard-to-reach communities?
- How will cuts in the equality unit of OFMDFM impact on engaging hard-to-reach groups via designated staff?
- Does the junior Minister believe that there is a need to develop additional resources and greater cross-departmental working to address the historical and interrelated nature of deprivation, particularly for those who live in deprived areas?

DCAL

- Has the Minister received the report from the Ulster Council GAA on last year's republican demonstration at Galbally GAA Club?

DE

- Outline the exact figures proposed in her funding cuts for (i) schools and youth services community relations programmes; (ii) the 26 community relations organisations; and (iii) for her assessment of the impact of this decrease on the implementation of the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy.
- What formal or informal consultation was undertaken by her Department before the decision was taken to cut the community relations budget.

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Policy Update continued

DEL

- What is DEL doing to encourage more of our students to remain in Northern Ireland to attend university?

DOJ

- Does the Minister have any plans to promote Irish language rights within the courts system?
- Does the Minister have any plans to promote the Irish language within the PSNI?
- Will the Minister develop radical proposals to address the obvious and serious lack of community balance in the make-up of the staff of the Prison Service?
- Prison Officers: Cultural Training
Outline the nature and extent of any cultural diversity training provided for prison officers.
Is there a level of resistance in the Prison Officers' Association to such cultural diversity training?
Does the Minister believe that the training represents value for money, and will he outline how he sees it benefiting society?

DSD

- Will the Minister consider the reorientation of future community funding towards shared future projects as against single identity community funding?
- Will he tell the House whether those new houses, which will hopefully be built, will be allocated to just one section of the community or whether they will be made available to everyone?

NI Assembly Commission

- An update on the establishment of a North/South parliamentary forum?

Assembly debates

The following motion was discussed on 24th May 2010

Ms Lo: I beg to move that this Assembly expresses deep concern at the Minister of Education's decision to introduce significant cuts to her Department's community relations budget for 2010-11; and calls on the Minister to explain how her Department can now make any meaningful contribution to building good relations between young people and to an overarching Executive policy on cohesion, sharing and integration.
Resolved

You can download the debate at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/reports2009/100524.htm#13>

OFMDFM Assembly Committee

According to the '*forward programme of work*' OFMDFM Committee members are due to receive briefings and evidence on Cohesion, Sharing and Integration, as well as the Draft Parades Bill over the coming weeks. Visit http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/centre/2007mandate/centrehome_07.htm for further information.

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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

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission – Consultation on Good Relations Action Plan. Deadline for responses is Friday 4th June 2010. To download the consultation document go to: www.niassembly.gov.uk/goodrelations.htm

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>

Consultation Responses

CRC responded to DETI's consultation on its Draft Tourism Strategy 2020. The strategy itself failed to acknowledge how the conflict had directly impacted on tourism and its development, we therefore focused on how tourism can contribute to economic development in a post-conflict society as well as an actor that affects social change.

There is an unequal distribution of tourism, with many larger scale investments being targeted in safe city centre locations; the consultation therefore provides an opportunity to create and develop demand in areas that have not yet benefited from the peace dividend via tourism products. We recommended planning tourism in new geographic locations in order to bring economic benefits to parts of NI that are not currently benefiting e.g. community-based tourism initiatives should be supported, developed and coordinated to enable communities to input into the development of initiatives that can improve their opportunities for increased tourism revenue.

There was also a lack of reference to cultural tourism and the absence of any actions to drive it forward as a unique tourism product. We recommended DETI to support the develop of cultural tourism and its infrastructure under this current strategy, given that it reaches as far at 2020.

To read the response in detail, go to: <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/about-the-council/background-info/policy-and-development/responses/>

Obituary Notice

Many readers of E-NEWS will have already learnt of the death on 23 May of Dr David Stevens, the Leader of the Corrymeela Community. David had been a volunteer with Corrymeela since his student days and became its Spiritual Leader and Chief Executive in 2004. He had also been a founder Member of the Community Relations Council in 1990 and retained his involvement with the Council into recent times. As recently as March of this year he was a speaker at CRC's Live Issues Conference for community relations practitioners. Last month at the start of the CRC/Youthnet Conference he was one of two recipients of the annual Community Relations Council Award for Exceptional Achievement.

David Stevens had a rare ability to understand the central importance of reconciliation for everyone here while refusing to be either sentimental or superficial. He will be sorely missed. The Community Relations Council offers its condolences and great regret to his family and to the Corrymeela Community for their loss.

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CRC Council Member Profile - Jacqueline Witherow

Jacqueline is a Policy Development Officer at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. She was formerly an independent community development consultant and has recently attained her PhD in Ethnomusicology, Queen's University Belfast, based on the Protestant flute band tradition in Northern Ireland.

Events

Jewish and Muslim Culture Discussion Event

14th June, Londonderry Arms Hotel, Carnlough, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Speakers Katie Radford and Hassan Sami Mansour

This event is FREE of charge.
To register contact Áine on 028 9023 2587 or e-mail
aine.maguire@communitychange-ni.org
For directions to the hotel visit www.glensofantrim.com

Towards Understanding & Healing 5 day OCN level 2 accredited programme in Storytelling & Dialogue

The aim of this five day accredited programme is to enable participants to further develop their skills in facilitating storytelling and dialogue within the evolving context of peace-building.

Programme Units:

- 1 Rationale for storytelling
- 2 Methodology of storytelling
- 3 Ethics of storytelling
- 4 Dialogue and the cost of the Troubles
- 5 The politics of victimhood
- 6 Truth and truth recovery
- 7 Remembrance and commemoration
- 8 Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Dates: June 15th, 22nd & 29th. July 6th & 13th
Day long sessions: 10.00 am 4.00 pm

Cost: **Free** as programme is funded by PEACE 3

Tutors: Eamonn Baker and Jim Arbuckle
Venue: The Junction 10 Bishop Street (Opposite Poundstretchers)
For more information and/ or to confirm attendance please contact: Ruth Chibber @ 028 7126 7519 or email: tuh@thejunction-ni.org

Eclipse – the 'other side' of peace. The 2010 Suitcase Theatre Roadshow.

The Performance: May 2010, after a riot breaks out in an interface area, we discover how deep the scars of the troubles affect the young people of Northern Ireland today. Through theatre, dance, music and film, this unique documentary style production dares to look beneath the surface of peace. The play reflects the true impact of the past on the youth of today, how it affects their everyday life and how it could affect the potential for a different and peaceful future as we explore the other side of peace.

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Events continued

The Post – show workshop: A specially designed interactive workshop will challenge the audience to review their own beliefs, while empowering audience members to see the impact of the troubles within their own lives, and consider possibilities of a peaceful future.

YouthAction Northern Ireland would like to invite all young people, youth workers and youth groups aged 13+ to come and experience The Suitcase Roadshow.

Belfast show was in May.

Newry Roadshow, 9th June 2010
Sean Hollywood Centre, Newry

Armagh Roadshow, 16th June 2010
Market Place Theatre, Armagh

Derry Roadshow, 23rd June 2010
Eberington Theatre, Derry

Tickets cost £3.00 (Free to all YouthAction Members)

All road shows start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.30pm. For all bookings contact Roisin on 02890240551 or email roisin@youthaction.org

Ballymoney Multi Cultural Showcase

The Showcase will be held in Ballymoney Town Hall on Saturday 12th June between 12 noon and 3pm. It will include Irish, Scottish, Indian, Indonesian and Chinese Lion dancers, as well as traditional music and an exhibition of photographs by a Polish photographer and an Indonesian craft stall.

This event is for everyone and has been made possible through funding from Ballymoney Borough Council's Good Relations Programme and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Introduction to Mediation

This workshop is designed to help build an initial understanding of the role of Mediation in conflict resolution. It will provide clear working definitions of Mediation, the processes involved and the skills needed in Mediation. The workshop will give the participants clear strategies into how and why Mediation should be used in various situations such as the workplace, in the Community and in legal disputes. This is an ideal workshop for those wishing to learn about the principles and practice of Mediation and also those thinking of becoming Mediators themselves.

Facilitators

Michael Doherty: Peace and Reconciliation Group (PRG) Derry
Michael is recognised as one of the lead Mediator / Trainers in Northern Ireland. He is a Director of PRG and has been a full time professional in developing Community Relations work in Northern Ireland since 1987. He has successfully mediated a number of high profile matters both north and south of the border and conducts mediation training both in Ireland and overseas.

Tony Kearney: Director Team Solutions
Trained as a solicitor, Tony has vast experience of litigation and dispute resolution with nearly 25 years experience in the UK in commercial, construction, employment and human rights law. Now resident in Ireland, he has in depth experience of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques including mediation and is a qualified mediator as well as acting as a trainer, facilitator and consultant.

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.

Events continued

Who is the workshop for?

All sections of the Public and Voluntary Sector, Private Sector Companies, Community Workers, Teachers, Youth Workers, Solicitors, Human Resource Officers, those considering becoming Mediators.

Tuesday 22nd June 2010 from 09.00 am – 5.00 pm

Belfast Central Mission Conference Centre, Grosvenor Hall, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD

£125 / 150 euros per participant. Costs include course materials, lunch and refreshments. Concessionary fees of £75 / 90 euros are available for voluntary & community organisations. Enquiries should be directed to Team Solutions. Numbers are strictly limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tony Kearney
Team Solutions
Tel. 353 (0)74 93 70692 ROI
E-mail: tony.kearney6@gmail.com
Web: www.tsolutions.eu

Applications and payment must be received by 14th June.

Mediation Masters Degree launched in Northern Ireland

An innovative Masters in Mediation Studies has been launched in Belfast Northern Ireland. The course is open to experienced mediators wishing to develop their critical reflective practice and to enhance individual, organisational and institutional capacity in the area of mediation, community cohesion and peace building.

This course has been developed and will be taught by experienced practitioners from Mediation Northern Ireland working with Work-Based Learning specialists from Queen's University Belfast.

This joint practitioner-academic partnership is designed to maximise the potential sharing of practical experience combined with academic learning especially from the Northern Ireland context.

Mediation Northern Ireland was established in 1991 and is based in Belfast. The organisation works throughout Ireland and beyond in support of the development of best Mediation practice, particularly in the context of conflict, and in support of reconciliation and community cohesion.

For course information & entry criteria contact:

Máire Patton, Mediation Northern Ireland Tel: +44(0)28 90 438614

Email: master@mediationnorthernireland.org
www.mediationnorthernireland.org

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Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso

Events continued

Fundraising through New Media Lunchtime Bites

In Association with txt2give.co.uk

The Institute of Fundraising new Spring Series of 'Lunchtime Bites' seminars focus on 'Fundraising through New Media'. Organised in association with Txt2Give the series' aims to give the fundraising community in Northern Ireland a local platform for information exchange, skills development and networking for both professional and voluntary fundraisers.

June Bites - Txt2Give A Revolution in Charity Fundraising

Hosted by Michael Carlin, Director - Txt2Give

Wednesday 9th June, NICVA 1.30 – 3.00pm

Txt2Give are passionate about the opportunities changes to the charity mobile market have created for fundraisers here in Northern Ireland. In this session learn how the immediacy of text giving can benefit your organisation. With no need to write a cheque, fill out a form or call someone - text fundraising targets a new base of micro donors who can give without using cash or credit card.

Mobile phones aren't just for calls anymore. Removal of VAT on text donations, creation of separate charity short codes and reduction in mobile operators charges have created the potential of a mobile fundraising revolution. Text messaging and web-enabled phones have made it possible for individuals to donate via their mobile phone and charities to interact directly with their donors.

In this presentation we'll explore the recent regulatory changes, how mobile fundraising works in UK from both a user and an implementation perspective and how mobile fundraising can be integrated into your charities fundraising strategies.

The venue for each event is NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB.

The cost for Institute of Fundraising

Members £7.50, Non Members £10.00, this includes lunch.

If you would like to attend, please contact **Arlene Creighton** by phone 028 90758131

or email arlene.creighton@princes-trust.org.uk to book a place.

Embrace

World Café

On Saturday, June 12th from 10am till 12.30pm in Willowfield Parish Church, My Lady's Road, Belfast.

More than a tea break or a coffee morning, this event is an opportunity to initiate and develop meaningful conversations informally on topics relating to migration and integration. No specialist knowledge is needed, just an interest in people and a willingness to listen and share. There is no fee, all are welcome including children who will have their own mini cafe. Refreshments, music and 'tablecloths' you can write on will be supplied.

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.

Events continued

Voices Together

On Saturday, 19th June, from 7.30pm till 9.30pm at City Church, 12 - 24 University Avenue, Belfast

Voices Together is a choir from the Belfast area, who will present an evening of music from different parts of the world. Audience participation is welcomed. The event is free and will include refreshments.

Skilled Listening Programme

Towards Understanding and Healing In partnership with CDLI and RELATE is offering A Skilled Listening Programme. A Two-Day Facilitated Workshop for community development workers and those working alongside victims and survivors of the Troubles.

The Skilled Listening Programme is a 12 hour introduction to a user-friendly structure for Listening and Basic Counselling. It is delivered by Relate NI trained counsellors and will allow participants to develop skills and confidence that will be very useful in any formal or semi-formal listening situation.

Content: Ethical Listening, Understanding & Dealing with Stress, Self care & The use of Supervision in listening.

DAY 1: Monday 14th June 2010 / DAY 2: Monday 21st June 2010

The Junction, 8 Bishop Street, Derry/Londonderry between 9.30am – 4.00pm

Free Places, Facilitator: Margaret Chapman, Relate NI

For any further information please contact Ruth Chibber, 8 Bishop Street, L'Derry on tel: 028 7126 7519 or e-mail: tuh@thejunction-ni.org

Belfast City Council

The Community Festivals Fund is now open to groups in Belfast. We welcome applications from organisations that are planning community festivals taking place between 1 October and 31 December 2010 covering activities such as exhibitions, family days, historical talks and concerts. Grants range from a minimum of £2,500 to a maximum amount of £10,000. **Deadline 12 noon Friday 2 July 2010.**

Organisations must be formally constituted to apply to the Community Festivals Fund. Application forms and guidance notes are available to download from www.belfastcity.gov.uk/funding

Please call us on 028 9091 8734 if you have any queries, or if you would like an application pack sent to you.

North Belfast Youth Arts Festival

August 2010 will witness the exciting Celebrate North Belfast Youth Arts Festival led by New Lodge Arts. Children and young people from across North Belfast are welcome to participate in the week long programme of arts-based activities. They can develop skills in a variety of art forms from dance, drama, music and visual arts, event management and technical production. Families and the wider community are invited to support the young participants at showcases celebrating the outcomes of the activities. Last summer 158 young people were involved in the Youth Arts Festival and over 600 audience members attended the showcase events.

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Events Continued

If you would like more information about becoming a participant, volunteer or audience member please contact New Lodge Arts. We are a community arts organisation based in the Greater New Lodge area of North Belfast. You can also add us on Facebook!

Our volunteer development programme is open to anyone over 16 years and relevant training and workshops are available. We welcome your skills and experience.

For further details contact Helen Coburn

Tel: 02890742255

Fax: 02890351326

Email: helen@newlodgeararts.com

Website: www.newlodgeararts.com

7th Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress (ISEC)

The 7th Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress (ISEC) will be held at Queen's University Belfast, on August 2-5, 2010. The Congress is for academics, practitioners and policy-makers from all five continents of the globe, who have an interest in promoting inclusive education.

The Congress will be comprised of symposiums, individual papers, workshops and poster presentations, under the following themes:

- Diversity
 - Inclusive practice
 - Debates in evidence-informed policy and effective evaluation
 - Children's rights, voice and participation in education
- Collaboration, sharing and capacity-building to promote inclusion

For further information and registration, please visit www.isec2010.org.

Please note that Early Bird Registration will close on 31st May 2010

For information on exhibiting and sponsorship, please contact the organisers, at eventus@qub.ac.uk

Follow us on:

twitter: www.twitter.com/ISEC2010

facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=118515114852244&ref=mf>

Northern Visions

The August Documentary Week at Northern Visions will take place from Monday August 16th - Friday August 20th, 10.00 am - 5.00pm.

Age Range is 18 - 25 years.

To apply and for further information, please follow the link

<http://www.northernvisions.org/index/nowandthenapplicform.html>

The Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health (NIAMH)

NIAMH in association with the Victim & Survivors Matters Programme of the Western Health & Social Care Trust presents a Residential Opportunity for Victims & Survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles, their families and/or carers, and those who work with them entitled "Wellbeing Matters"

Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 September 2010 - Lusty Beg Island, Boa Island, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh BT93 8AD

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Events continued

This residential is designed for those who determine themselves to be victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles, their families and/or carers, as well as those who work with them in the voluntary/community or statutory sector.

The course is designed to explore a holistic understanding of trauma and its impact on wellbeing in a safe and supportive context.

For further information, please contact

Victim & Survivor Matters Programme
Tel: 028 6634 4104 or e-mail: sean.coll@westerntrust.hscni.net



The ABCs rewards local projects run by community and voluntary organisations that build bridges between communities and cultures. It also rewards public and private sector bodies which support projects that promote intercultural dialogue by helping to initiate projects or provide ongoing financial or other support.

Groups applying for the awards receive an invitation to a one day conference at a prestigious London venue to promote their work and build links with other groups. Winners of the awards for projects run by voluntary and community sector organisations receive a trophy and cash prize.

Projects run by voluntary and community sector organisations with annual income over £100,000.

Projects run by voluntary or community sector organisations with annual income under £100 000.

Public and private sector organisations supporting intercultural dialogue projects.

All entries have to demonstrate the impact that projects have had in promoting intercultural dialogue between different communities.

The deadline for applications is 13th September 2010. If you would like more information please contact Jennifer Tankard at jennifer.tankard@bridgingcultures.org.uk, visit www.bridgingcultures.org.uk or call 024 7679 5768.

Reports/Publications

NCB NI/ARK have recently published the report *Attitudes to Difference: young people's attitudes to, and experiences of, contact with people from different minority ethnic and migrant groups in Northern Ireland*.

The report is the first of its kind and considers how young people from different ethnic communities view each other in Northern Ireland

The report can be accessed on-line at http://www.ncb.org.uk/pdf/ATTD_web_final.pdf

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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

Reports/Publications

Making good society – Final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland is now available. The objectives of the enquire were

- Explore the possible threats to and opportunities for civil society, looking out to 2025
- Identify how policy and practice can be enhanced to help strengthen civil society
- Enhance the ability of civil society associations to shape the future

The report was published on behalf of the Commission by the Carnegie UK Trust.

The full report and other related publications are available to download from the inquiry website www.futuresforcivilsociety.org

A Difficult Difference- Race, Religion and the New Northern Ireland by Peter Geoghegan, with a foreword by Henry McDonald.

Newly published by Irish Academic Press with support from the Community Relations Council's Publications Grant Scheme

What happens when a society divided along sectarian lines starts to become multicultural? Does diversity inflame old tensions or can it offer a blueprint for a bright new future?

This is the story of how multicultural agendas have emerged in Northern Ireland and how sectarianism continues to frustrate new visions for a post-conflict society. Drawing on everything from analysis of anti-racist murals and posters to interviews with politicians, policy makers and minority ethnic representatives, this book shows how, and where, Northern Ireland is moving forward, and where patterns of behaviour and social organisation rooted in tribal behaviour are holding it back.

Available from bookshops (ISBN 978 0 7165 3092 3)

And finally—Community Relations Groups

We would like to update the list of CR groups on our website. If you are already listed could you check that your details are OK? If you are not on the list and would like to be contact poneill@nicrc.org.uk or phone Patricia O'Neill at 028 9022 7500. Thank you.

You can find groups listed at <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/services/community-relations-groups/>

Open Space

Visitors to CRC will have noticed that the Community Relations Council has reorganised its office space. This has left an informal area in Reception where people can chat before going into meetings. If you have an exhibition/ photographs/or information about your group/work you would like to display here please contact Ray Mullan at rmullan@nicrc.org.uk