

# CRC Core Fund

Enabling Peacebuilding

## Impact Profiles

2024-25



COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
COUNCIL

# INTRODUCTION



*As Chairperson of the Community Relations Council (CRC), I am delighted to introduce this special collection of stories.*

*For over twenty years, the Core Fund has been the stable foundation for peacebuilding across our communities. These pages will bring that work to life.*

The groups you will meet in these profiles embody the vision of a more peaceful, shared, and cohesive society. Their stories are a powerful testimony to the value of long-term investment in community relations.

Thirty organisations were supported with £1.2 million during 2024-25. What makes the Core Fund unique is its commitment to the "unseen."

This isn't project funding. It is the lifeblood of these groups: the salaries for key staff members, the rent for safe spaces, the heat and light for a welcoming hall. With this security in place the groups are enabled to develop and deliver projects using a range of funding sources.

This vital support provides stability. It is this security that enables groups to plan, build deep-rooted trust, and respond to emerging needs, knowing they will be there for their community next month and next year.

Stability is the bedrock from which everything else grows, enabling these groups to deliver vital work in over 480 locations across all 11 District Council areas. From peacebuilding initiatives that tackle division, to programmes using arts, heritage and sport as vehicles for connection, this is where change happens.

Through this work, they have reached a total of over 19,000 direct beneficiaries – people actively involved in these connections – and over 56,000 indirect beneficiaries.

“ Our £1.2 million investment enabled groups to directly leverage an additional £6.9 million from other funders. ”

These organisations act as anchors in their communities, providing the safe spaces for conversation, building the confidence of young people, and empowering voices that might otherwise go unheard.

Herein lies the true value: these groups are trusted anchors, as well as effective partners. This £1.2 million investment enabled them to directly leverage an additional £6.9 million from other funders.

For every £1 we invested, their trust and expertise in the community generated £5.76 more for peacebuilding.

The 29 snapshot stories that follow are the heart of this collection.

While no single page can capture the entirety of their work, these profiles are a window into the vital, human-centric impact integral to peacebuilding. They are stories of creativity, resilience, and connection made possible through Core Funding.

We invite you to read them, to be inspired, and to see the profound difference these groups are making every single day.

On behalf of CRC, I extend my deepest appreciation to the groups featured in this collection and to all who continue to support this vital work.

**Martin McDonald MBE**

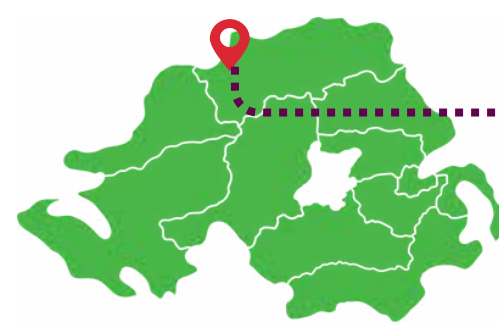
A handwritten signature of Martin McDonald MBE in white ink on a dark blue background.

\* The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northern Ireland were funded January – March 2025. A snapshot profile is not included for this organisation due to the short funding duration.

# An Gaeláras



**Building Bridges Through Language and Culture**



**Working in Derry & Strabane District Council**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

An Gaeláras is dedicated to promoting Irish language and culture through classes, arts, and music events for everyone. At its heart is the Droichead Project, a unique initiative in the Northwest. Droichead is the only project of its kind in the Northwest to offer Irish language and cultural awareness programs to non-traditional learners. It has successfully forged innovative relationships between representatives of the Irish Language, Ulster Scots, and Marching Band communities, fostering mutual understanding and respect.

## Our Overall Impact



**£29,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**28 Community and Strategic Partnerships**

cultivated for cross-community peacebuilding



**£146,000**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Expansion of Community Outreach through Conversation Circles

The Droichead Irish language conversation circle at St Columb's Park House has seen steady growth since December 2023, attracting participants from across the wider city region. This initiative promotes inclusive language learning and community-based dialogue.



### Formal Partnership with Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership (WNP)

After years of relationship building, Droichead was formally integrated into WNP's PEACEPLUS funding tender for 2023-2026. This solidifies Droichead's role as a key service provider for Irish language and cultural initiatives in the Waterside area.



### New Irish Language Classes in Diverse Communities

In response to community demand, Droichead launched two new beginner classes in Clooney Methodist Church, registering a remarkable 35 participants from diverse backgrounds in September 2024. This demonstrates strong interest in accessible language learning.



### Stair na Gaeilge (History of the Irish Language) and Bailte Fearainn Cathair Dhoire (Townlands of Derry)

This project consisted of mobile exhibitions exhibited in public spaces across the city. It offered an accessible way to find a personal connection to the language, learn more about its history and discover the importance of place.



## New language Participants



Irish language classes were delivered for the first time in several new, diverse community locations, reaching 100 participants.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

### Muintearas Project

CRC Core funding  
£29,000



£108,000  
(SEUPB funded  
PEACEPLUS  
Programme)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

There is a widely held belief that people from Unionist and Protestant community backgrounds have no interest in exploring or learning the Irish language.



### Lesson

Conducted research with individuals who have traditionally had limited access to the Irish language, and discovered a variety of attitudes and viewpoints.

## Future Plans

An Gaeláras, through the Droichead Project, will continue to expand its community reach by:

- Delivering inclusive, community-based activities like Irish language taster sessions and cultural workshops in predominantly Unionist and Protestant communities.
- Promoting a shared sense of belonging for new and migrant communities through intercultural solidarity and language.

## Learn More



[www.culturlann.org](http://www.culturlann.org)



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[culturlannendoire](https://www.facebook.com/culturlannendoire)



# Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge



Archiving the Past, Inspiring the Future



Working in Belfast and regionally



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

The Linen Hall is Belfast's oldest library, functioning as a vital shared space that hosts archives, exhibitions, and cultural programmes. Since the late 1960s, it has amassed over 350,000 items relating to the Troubles, providing an inclusive, cross-community platform for respectful and objective exploration of our contested past. It remains committed to holding a place for every voice.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### We Are the Future: Youth Activism

This project engaged 46 young people from five groups (aged 16-28) in workshops. Participants created 43 artefacts for the 'Changemakers' exhibition, promoting dialogue on human rights and civic leadership.



### Leaders of the Future: Civil Rights

Interactive workshops with 8 community groups and 73 participants explored the history and legacy of civil rights in NI. The insights informed the co-designed 'At the Crossroads' exhibition, with 406 attendees at public exhibition events.



### Communities of Peace & Reconciliation

Engaging communities with peacebuilding archives, including the Corrymeela Community. The project delivered two archive sessions in Ballycastle, reaching 120 people, and captured 12 new oral histories.



### A Shared Space for Dialogue

The library provided a neutral, inclusive venue for 17 public and community events around civil rights and activism. These events facilitated balanced inter-generational and cross-community dialogue, reaching a total of 397 attendees.

## Our Overall Impact



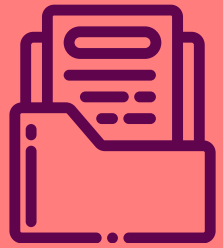
**£49,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**765 People Engaged**

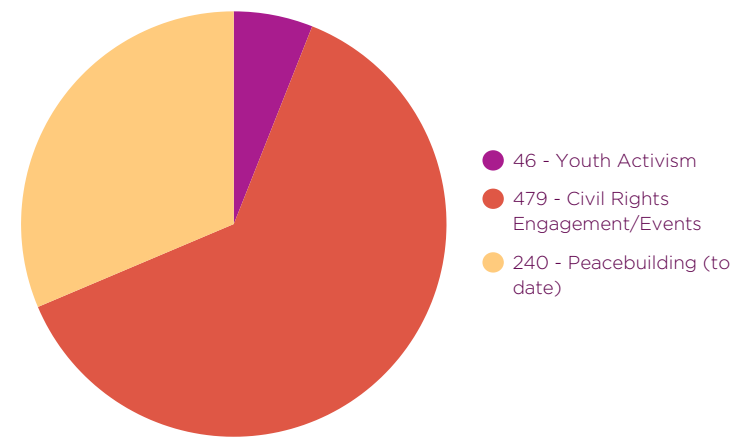
in Workshops, Tours, and Public Events



**350,000+**

Items preserved in the Political Collection

## Reaching Hearts and Minds



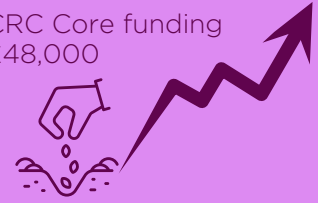
From empowering young activists to fostering intergenerational dialogue on Civil Rights, these engagements are laying the foundation for a more peaceful future.

“The experience was incredibly meaningful, and it's difficult to overstate how much it deepened our group's understanding of Northern Ireland's political history and the lasting impact of the civil rights movement. For our Men's and Women's Groups, the workshop provided a vital space for dialogue, and engaging with such important archival material firsthand was truly invaluable.”

Participant, Men's and Women's Cross-Community Groups

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding £48,000



- ★ Co-designed exhibitions "Changemakers" and "At the Crossroads"
- ★ A safe, shared space for the community
- ★ Turning archival preservation into active peacebuilding

## Lessons Learned



**Challenge**  
Ensuring the archives, which cover complex and contested narratives of the Troubles, were presented in an objective and inclusive manner.



**Lesson**  
Dedicated CRC core funding enabled essential staff time for deep archival research, planning, and coordination.

## Future Plans

- The Linen Hall Library aims to:
- Capture and amplify marginalised voices within their contemporary collections, reflecting 21st-century issues.
  - Foster more intergenerational dialogue by connecting past activism with current civic and community leadership to build confidence and skills for positive change.

## Learn More

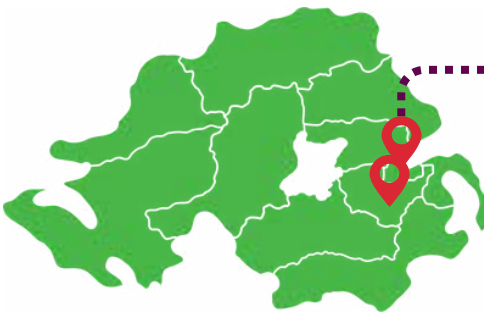
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- ☎ +44 (0)28 9032 1707
- ✉ [info@linenhall.com](mailto:info@linenhall.com)
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- ✂ @thelinenhall



# Belfast YMCA



**Empowering Young People to Build a Shared and Inclusive City**



**Working in: Belfast; and Lisburn & Castlereagh council area**



**Core Funded by CRC**

### Who we are

Belfast YMCA has served its community since 1850, working toward a vision where life is better for children, young people, and their communities. For over 40 years, peacebuilding has been core to their mission. They deliver a wide range of in-school and community-based good relations projects, most notably the Ubuntu programme, to foster understanding, engagement, and positive change across the Greater Belfast area.

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Ubuntu: Community Dialogue in Schools

Delivered a progression of workshops on identity, conflict, and sectarianism in six post-primary schools, engaging 934 young people. This culminated in cross-school collaboration events to foster direct, positive peer-to-peer relationships.



#### Youth in Government

Empowered 30 young people (aged 16-18) through a 5-month political education programme. The group hosted debates at Parliament Buildings and met high-level diplomats and political leaders, building skills for active civic participation.



#### Cross-Community Youth Club

Provided weekly, safe, shared space for 33 young people (aged 10-15) to engage in peer-to-peer learning, team building and skill development activities. The club provided a progression route for participants from other peacebuilding projects.



#### T:BUC Summer/Autumn Programmes

Delivered two intensive good relations projects (one residential) for 20 young people from diverse backgrounds, providing focused dialogue and community exploration. This project also built the capacity of two junior volunteers to lead workshops.

### Our Overall Impact



**£29,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**963 Young People**

directly engaged in peacebuilding initiatives



**£77,000+**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

“Coming from a community with little integration, I was surrounded by a belief that the ‘other side’ hated us, and we were nothing like them. This programme has given me hope for a more integrated community in Northern Ireland.”

Participant on the Youth in Government project

### Breaking Down Walls, Building Futures

**934**

The Ubuntu programme engaged a significant number of young people, equipping them with the skills for active citizenship and positive relationship-building.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

The core mission requires moving young people from one-off projects toward sustained, long-term civic engagement.



#### Lesson

Creating clear, intentional pathways is the most effective way to secure a meaningful peacebuilding, youth-led legacy for community relations.

### Future Plans

Belfast YMCA aims to:

- Scale the Ubuntu project to reach more young people in segregated schools, driving identity and conflict dialogue across Belfast.
- Develop and pilot a new girls' project focused on empowering young women from diverse backgrounds to explore shared civic leadership.

### Learn More

- [www.belfastymca.org](http://www.belfastymca.org)
- +44 (0)28 9068 4660
- [hello@belfast-ymca.org](mailto:hello@belfast-ymca.org)
- [@BelfastYM](https://www.facebook.com/BelfastYM)
- [@belfastymca](https://www.instagram.com/belfastymca)



# Belfast Interface Project (BIP)



**Using Technology to Empower Interface Communities**

## Who we are

Established in 1995 to address the issue of interfaces in Belfast, the Belfast Interface Project (BIP) works to overcome legacies of violence and sectarianism. Through a mix of research, policy development, advocacy, and on-the-ground delivery, BIP brings residents and organisations together as partners to build empowering futures in their communities.



**Working in: Belfast; and Derry & Strabane**



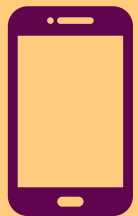
## Our Overall Impact

**£15,000**  
investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme

**80 Young People Engaged**  
from divided backgrounds to co-design a shared future

**20 Community & Youth Workers Trained**  
embedding innovative tools in their communities for the long term

## Key Projects & Initiatives



**Augmented Reality Community Planning**  
Partnering with Essex University and Animorph Cooperative, this project developed a toolkit that empowers young people from cross-community backgrounds to digitally reimagine and design shared spaces in their interface communities.



**"Shared Futures" Digital Platform**  
This initiative expanded BIP's youth programme by creating a mobile app and online platform. Residents can now use AR on their phones to view 3D maps of their area, toggle between 'present' (with barriers) and 'future' (with shared spaces), and post ideas for community-led change.



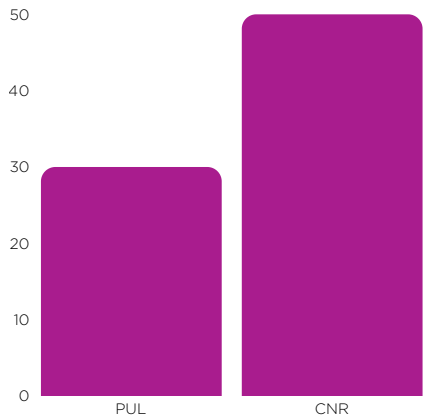
**Cross-Community Sports Partnership**  
This project successfully brought together the Limestone Utd and Star Neighbourhood youth groups on a cross-community basis. Both groups actively participated in the "Shared Futures" programme, using technology to plan for a shared future.



**Northwest Pilot Programme**  
This new initiative successfully engaged 20 community and youth workers in the Northwest. The positive engagement has laid the groundwork for expanding BIP's full youth programme into the Waterside, Creggan, and Fountain areas.



## Cross-Community Youth Engagement



By breaking down the barriers of the past, and bringing young people together from both communities, BIP is striving to build a shared future.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned

- Challenge**  
Bringing residents and organisations together as partners is threatened when vital community groups face their own capacity or staffing challenges.
- Lesson**  
To successfully build empowering futures, partnerships must be flexible and long-term to sustain relationships and offer support.

## Future Plans

- BIP aims to:
- Continue to innovate and develop the "Shared Futures" AR/VR platform with university and community partners.
  - Expand the delivery of the full youth programme into new areas, particularly the Northwest (Waterside, Creggan, and Fountain).

## Learn More

- [belfastinterfaceproject.org](http://belfastinterfaceproject.org)
- +44 (0)28 9024 2828
- [info@belfastinterfaceproject.org](mailto:info@belfastinterfaceproject.org)



# The Churches Trust



**Standing Together  
with Those in Need**



## Who we are

Established in 1993 by the leaders of four major churches, The Churches Trust (CT) is a peacebuilding and community development organisation with a core mission to “Stand Together with Those in Need.” Their vision is to build a cohesive community where people from all traditions can equally contribute, free from discrimination or division. Through their wrap-around service, they build a reconciled community based on social justice and strong community relations.

## Our Overall Impact



**£47,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**20 Accredited  
Qualifications Gained**

by young people who completed an OCN Level course



**£635,000**

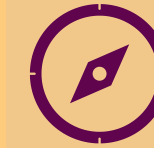
additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Our City Our Story

16 young people were trained as peacebuilders and active citizens, creating a documentary and book that gave voice to those protected by Section 75 of the law. This project also fostered a deeper understanding between young people and the PSNI.



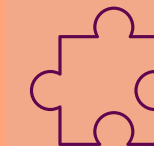
### Columba Champions

40 young people explored themes of heritage, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution, which enhanced their understanding of different traditions and developed key life skills.



### Choose to Change

This mentoring programme offered one-to-one support to 24 young people at risk of engaging in sectarian activity. The project empowered participants and strengthened their collaborative relationships with key stakeholders.



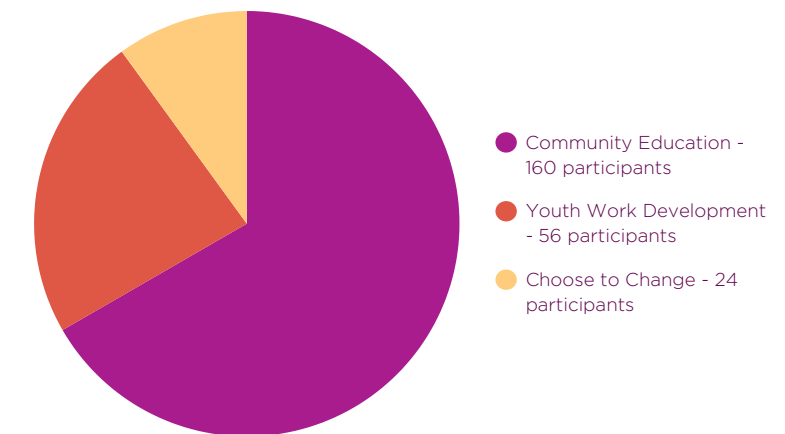
### TrACE to Transform

An intergenerational project that empowered women and young people to understand how adverse experiences impact their lives. The programme equips participants with the skills to address issues like coercion and community violence from a trauma-informed perspective.

“After years of having been to therapy, I now have a clearer understanding, through ACEs of what guides my inner thought processes. Individuals and communities are more interconnected than I thought.”

Participant on TrACE to Transform programme

## Learning Impact



A breakdown of the direct beneficiaries across the different programmes supported by the group’s core peacebuilding work.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£47,000



£635,000+  
(Total  
Project  
Funding  
Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

How to leveraging a shared faith foundation to address the deep-seated community trauma that impacts peacebuilding.



### Lesson

By standing together as a united voice we can become leading experts in good relations and peace building through using trauma-informed approaches.

## Future Plans

- To grow as a leading trauma-informed organisation, ensuring our staff and volunteers can provide the best possible support to the community.
- To continue expanding our intergenerational programmes, empowering women and men to heal from adverse experiences and build resilient families and communities.

## Learn More



[thechurchestrust.org.uk](http://thechurchestrust.org.uk)



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[@TheChurchesTrust](https://www.facebook.com/TheChurchesTrust)



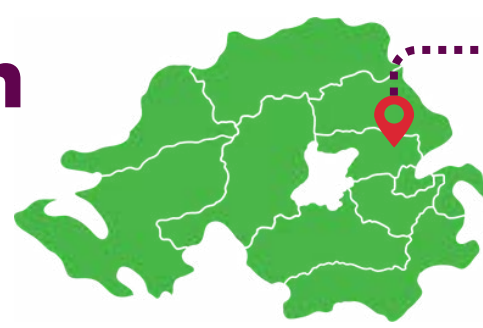
[Churches Trust](https://www.youtube.com/ChurchesTrust)



# Community Relations Forum



Fostering a Safe, Vibrant, and Shared Community



Working in Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



Core Funded by CRC

## Who we are

The Community Relations Forum (CRF), established in 1993, works at a grassroots level to ensure all residents of Antrim and Newtownabbey can thrive in a safe, pleasant and shared community where everyone feels welcome and equal. Based at the Barron Hall in Glengormley, the organisation acts as a hub for interagency engagement, good relations training, and community-led initiatives across the borough and beyond.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Shared Spaces for Community Connection

The organisation actively maintains and promotes the Barron Hall as a safe, welcoming shared space, hosting diverse groups and events like the Barronettes women's group and a successful Ceilidh, fostering connections and community spirit.



### The Great Glengormley Get Together

The 2024 Great Glengormley Get Together event at Lillian Bland Park, brought together 3,300+ attendees, including members of the Syrian community, PSNI, and local businesses. This has helped the organisation secure £5,000 in funding for the 2025 event.

## Our Overall Impact



£38,000

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



### Peacebuilding Award

recipient of the CRC Good Relations Award 2025



£15,000

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



### Community Safety & Hate Crime Response

Working closely with the PSNI and other statutory bodies, CRF supported community safety by addressing anti-social behaviour, delivering hate crime sessions, and sitting on interagency housing forums, which has helped foster safer neighbourhoods.

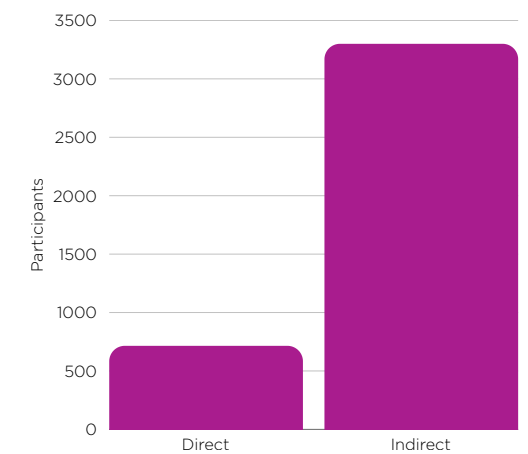


### Promoting Diverse Cultural Expression

Through initiatives like the "Remember Me" project, bringing together women from diverse backgrounds for the "Epilogues" conference, and partnering with groups like Diverse Kulture NI, CRF has championed cultural understanding and dialogue.



## The Power of People



From focused programmes to large scale community events, the group's work have helped strengthen ties and build peace.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£38,000



£15,000  
(Local Council & Housing Associations)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Simply providing a safe physical space, like the Barron Hall, is not enough. True sharing requires actively building trust and navigating difficult histories.



### Lesson

The Remember Me project demonstrated that a safe space becomes a truly shared one through facilitated, open dialogue.

## Future Plans

The Community Relations Forum aims to:

- Expand its network of shared spaces and deepen interagency partnerships to address emerging community needs proactively.
- Develop innovative programs that continue to bridge cultural divides and encourage dialogue among an even wider range of residents.

## Learn More



+44 (0)28 9084 9314



[contact@communityrelationsforum.co.uk](mailto:contact@communityrelationsforum.co.uk)



[@barronhallcrf](https://www.facebook.com/barronhallcrf)



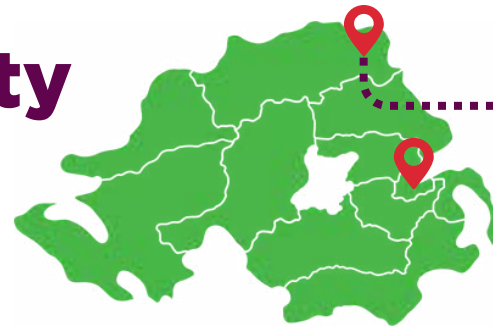
[@CRF\\_barronhall](https://twitter.com/CRF_barronhall)



# The Corrymeela Community



**Promoting Peace and Reconciliation Through Dialogue and Community**



**Working in: Causeway Coast & Glens; the Belfast area; and also Regionally**



## Who we are

Established in 1965, Corrymeela is a place of dialogue and community for people of all faiths and beliefs. With its centre on the Causeway Coast, the organisation promotes a peaceful and shared society based on reconciliation and mutual trust. Corrymeela's work reaches youth clubs, schools, parishes, and communities across the region, bringing people together from different backgrounds to engage with their shared history and build relationships. They also collaborate with international partners to apply a global lens to conflict transformation in Northern Ireland.

## Our Overall Impact



**£50,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**5,000 People Reached**

through residential and programmes that reach youth clubs, schools, parishes and communities



**£597,000**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Ritualising Peace: The Day of Reflection

Corrymeela co-hosted the annual Day of Reflection service at St. Anne's Cathedral. The service remembers lives lost during the Troubles and explores themes of reconciliation. The service drew 200+ in-person attendees, and the highlights video achieved 2,000+ views across platforms.



### Nurturing Hope: Seeds of Hope Programme

Corrymeela, in partnership with the Understanding Conflict Trust, Mediation NI and TIDES, designed an experiential program for young adults to build leadership skills within the peacebuilding sector. The programme supported six participants in developing social action plans.



### Brave Spaces for Sacred Stories: Borderlands

Corrymeela continued to host their highly successful "Borderlands" events, creating unique, accessible spaces for dialogue on pressing issues such as anti-migrant protests and intergenerational trauma..



### Facing Our History: Shared School Residentials

Residential and group work programmes for post-primary students explored difficult histories, stereotyping and upstanding. 417 students from eight schools participated. It created space for building relationships across different school communities.

“From my experience, Borderlands forms community by providing a space for people to come and share ideas and befriend strangers. I already feel connected to many after only going a couple of times. Borderlands offers a safe space for grief and communal lament.”

Participant from Borderlands event

## Consistent Community Dialogue



The average monthly attendees for Borderlands events, which provide a unique space for public discussion and connection.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£50,000



£597,000  
(additional funding secured by the group for 2024-28)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Fostering meaningful dialogue on sensitive and divisive issues requires creating brave, yet informal and accessible, community spaces.



### Lesson

The group's project work demonstrates that reconciliation is nurtured by quiet peacebuilders in everyday settings.

## Future Plans

The Corrymeela Community aims to:

- Further develop trauma aware and informed policy to practice work, providing a platform to explore how trauma continues to affect communities across the region.
- Build leadership skills in young adults with the Seeds of Hope program, and new partners like Youthlink and Youth Action NI.

## Learn More



[www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org)



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[@Corrymeela](https://www.facebook.com/Corrymeela)

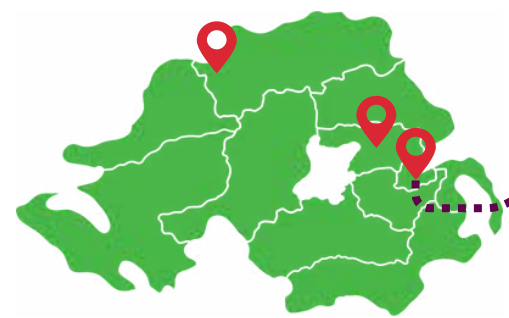


[@corrymeela](https://twitter.com/corrymeela)





## Inspiring a New Generation of Peacebuilders, One School at a Time



Working in: Antrim & Newtownabbey; Belfast District Council; Derry-Londonderry; and Regionally



**Core Funded by CRC**

### Who we are

For over 40 years, CRIS has inspired and equipped school communities to become powerful catalysts for peace and reconciliation. By working with pupils, parents, and school staff, CRIS builds bridges and nurtures trust across different communities. The organisation's work normalises "everyday peace" and empowers young people to become the next generation of peacebuilders, ensuring a legacy of reconciliation for years to come.

### Key Projects & Initiatives

#### Youth Leadership Program: Buddy Up!



This inter-school programme brought together 1,231 pupils to foster cross-community friendships and understanding. It created a space for young people to learn about identity, diversity, and empathy, helping them to build new friendships across their communities.



#### Building Everyday Peace: Shankill and Ardoyne Partnership

Working with parents and staff in interface communities, this project saw an organic growth of parent-led groups who are now fostering deeper community connections and exploring new opportunities for collaboration.

#### Training Our Educators: Professional Learning in a Changing Society



In partnership with Stranmillis and St Mary's University Colleges, CRIS delivered training to 252 future teachers. This equipped them with the skills to confidently address themes of identity, diversity, and inclusion in their classrooms.



#### Growing Good Relations and Collaborative Education (GRACE)

CRIS's GRACE initiative united 42 schools in two locality based multi-sector partnerships, embedding reconciliation at the core while addressing shared educational needs. You can [view CRIS 40th year impact video](#) to see the lasting changes made with the programme.

### Our Overall Impact



**£71,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**56 Schools Engaged**

to collaborate on key peacebuilding initiatives

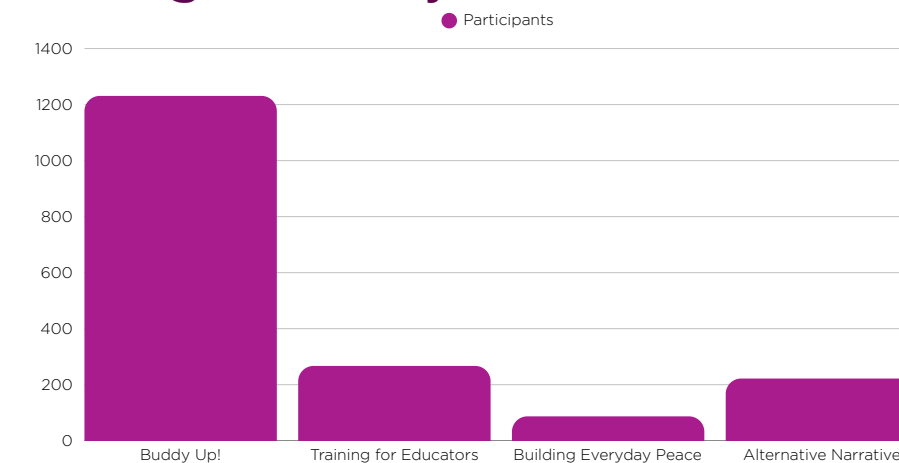


**£146,000+**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



### Building Peace Projects



From training future educators to fostering new cross-community friendships, CRIS have reached a diverse group of participants to lay the groundwork for a more peaceful future.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£71,000



£146,000+  
(Total Project Funding Secured)

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

Deepening trust and the creation of lasting relationships is intrinsic to Peacebuilding. Articulating this qualitative impact can be difficult.



#### Lesson

Developing frameworks, like the Trust Indicators Framework (TIF) with Coventry University, helped evidence this impact.

### Future Plans

- Developing and embedding a new educational framework for addressing controversial issues in the classroom.
- Bridging the business sector and peacebuilding to encourage businesses to see the role they have to play.
- Building workforce capacity and investing in a next generation of Peacebuilders and intercultural facilitators.

### Learn More



[www.crisni.org](http://www.crisni.org)



+44 (0)79 2185 1601



[info@crisni.org](mailto:info@crisni.org)



[CRIS](https://www.facebook.com/CRIS)



[@criscommunityrelationsinschool](https://www.youtube.com/@criscommunityrelationsinschool)



# East Belfast Mission (Turas)



**A Shared Future Through the Irish Language**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Turas (which is the Irish word for "journey") is a leading language and cultural project based in East Belfast, dedicated to promoting a shared heritage through the Irish language. Operating from the Skainos centre, Turas uses language classes, cultural events, and community development to build understanding, connect people from diverse backgrounds, and transform misunderstandings of the past into possibilities for shared belonging.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Irish Language Education and Mentoring

Turas offers 18 weekly language and cultural classes, including a robust mentorship system for new learners. This provided support for 700 individuals, fostering an inclusive environment for cross-community engagement.



### Pioneering Integrated Pre-School

The organisation supported the development of Scoil na Seolta, an Integrated Irish-medium pre-school, which secured €750,000 for a new purpose-built site. This project is a major step toward integrated primary education in East Belfast.



### Shared Heritage Bus Tours

East Belfast Mission delivered 10 distinct cultural tours, including the Gaelic East Belfast and Con O'Neill tours. These events directly engaged attendees in the shared history and placenames of the Ulster-Gaelic tradition.



### Community Hub and Cultural Events

The Turas programme provided a warm, social environment through film, drama, art, and seasonal events like Hallowe'en, Christmas, and Burns Night. This created multiple safe spaces for learners to practice skills and build lasting community connections.

## Our Overall Impact



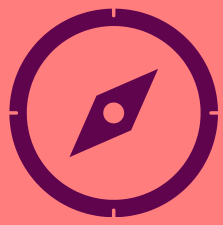
**£46,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**18 Classes**

provided weekly to support language and culture



**10 Cultural Tours**

delivered on shared history to foster cross-community cohesiveness



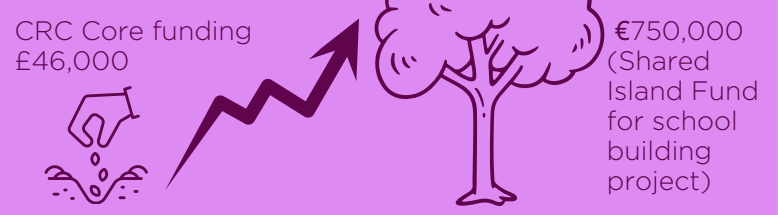
## Class Learning Participants



Turas supported 700 individuals through its language and cultural classes to foster an inclusive environment for cross-community engagement.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

### New School Site Project



## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Sustainably integrating the Irish language into the educational structure of diverse East Belfast communities requires long-term commitment and trust-building.



### Lesson

Focusing on shared cultural heritage, we proved that language can be a unifying vehicle that attracts diverse communities.

## Future Plans

East Belfast Mission, through Turas, aims to:

- Expand partnerships with schools to introduce the concept of shared Gaelic heritage.
- Support the new Scoil na Seolta to maximise its engagement with the East Belfast community and establish itself as a successful, pioneering model for integrated Irish-medium education.

## Learn More

- <https://turasbelfast.com>
- +44 (0)28 9045 8560
- [Linda.Ervine@ebm.org.uk](mailto:Linda.Ervine@ebm.org.uk)
- @turasbelfast
- @BelfastTuras



# Falls Community Council



**Facilitating Dialogue and Delivering Inclusion**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Falls Community Council (FCC) is a dedicated force for peacebuilding and community development in Belfast. Using grassroots models, the organisation delivers vital programmes in conflict resolution, good relations and community safety. FCC strategically convenes crucial public discussions on contested issues like culture, legacy, and peace walls. The group also provides tailored training to adults and young people on sectarianism and the peace process, empowering residents to become agents of positive change.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### "Belfast Dialogues" Public Talk Series

FCC organised six high-level public talks, engaging 272 attendees on complex issues like the Windsor Framework, bonfires, and the role of the media in peacebuilding. These talks fostered civil, respectful discussion on contested issues and provided authoritative, nuanced information.



### Cultural Awareness for New Arrivals

Core funding allowed FCC to swiftly respond to a request from the Red Cross to deliver orientation training to seven newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. The course provided vital information about contemporary society and the peace process, building knowledge and confidence among participants.



### Cross-Border Youth Leadership

FCC played a key management and support role in bringing together three youth groups (from Belfast and Louth) to deliver a cross-community and cross-border training programme that explored culture and identity. It engaged 26 young participants and securing a foundation for a new subsequent project.



### Grassroots Tension Monitoring

The Council convened and attended 12 dedicated meetings to monitor and respond to community tensions, including racist outbreaks and issues around bonfires/marches. This work resulted in rapid, visible public signals of support for targeted minority ethnic communities.

## Our Overall Impact



**£36,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**466 People**

directly engaged across public talks and training courses



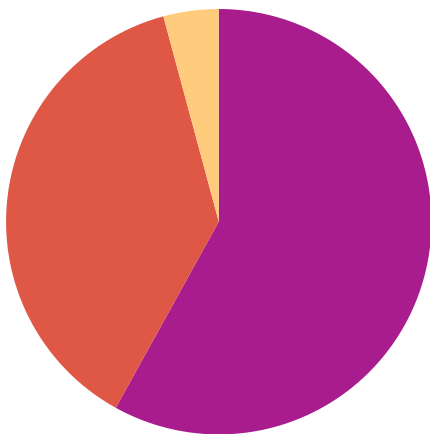
**£128,000+**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

“ I enjoyed hearing multiple different perspectives of life during the Troubles. It felt very human. Interesting, lots of information given. Engaging, used cards to encourage participation. ”

Cultural Awareness Training programme participant

## Bridging the Divide



- 58% - Catholic / Nationalist / Republican participants
- 38% - Protestant / Unionist / Loyalist participants
- 4% - Other participants

The cross-community impact of participants on the Cultural Awareness Training programme demonstrates that dialogue has helped bring people together.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Unexpected events required FCC to rapidly pivot resources to conflict resolution and community safety work.



### Lesson

The established practice of core-funded tension monitoring and information exchange networks proved essential to FCC to support communities.

## Future Plans

The Falls Community Council aims to:

- Continue to convene public discussions on contested issues such as sectarianism, legacy, and policy, ensuring all voices are heard and complexity is understood.
- Significantly increase the participation of minority ethnic communities and groups in peacebuilding and good relations.

## Learn More

- <https://fallscouncil.com>
- +44 (0)28 9020 2033
- [info@fallscouncil.com](mailto:info@fallscouncil.com)
- @FallsCommunityCouncil
- @WestSafety



# Falls Women's Centre



## Empowering Grassroots Women Leaders for Peacebuilding

### Who we are

The Falls Women's Centre (FWC), established in 1982, is a women-only community development organisation in West Belfast dedicated to tackling structural and gender inequality. Since 2009, FWC has been proactively supporting newcomer asylum-seeker and refugee families, recognising and responding early to West Belfast's changing demographics. Through cross-community partnerships and accredited Good Relations training, the Centre empowers women to gain knowledge, engage actively in political dialogue, and play a leading role in creating a shared, diverse, and safe future for all.



## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Grassroots Leadership & Dialogue

Fall Women's Centre held a 'Determining our Future' roundtable, bringing 45 women together with key speakers to discuss constitutional change, ensuring women's and minority issues are central to the political debate.



### Shared History & Cultural Exchange

The Shared History Programme facilitated group visits to 6 key city-centre venues (such as Ulster Museum and Clifton House) with partners like Greenway, which promoted shared cultural understanding and cross-city connections.



### Responding to Hate Crime

Following the racist riots during the summer, Falls Women's Centre provided immediate support to BME women and families, and designed a new OCN-accredited course on Equality, Culture and Diversity to actively challenge racism.



### Women, Peace and Security Training

The Centre developed a new OCN qualification, Women, Peace and Security, to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which promoted community-led education and prevention across three partner women's centres.

## Our Overall Impact



**£32,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**80 Women Empowered**

to lead community change and dialogue

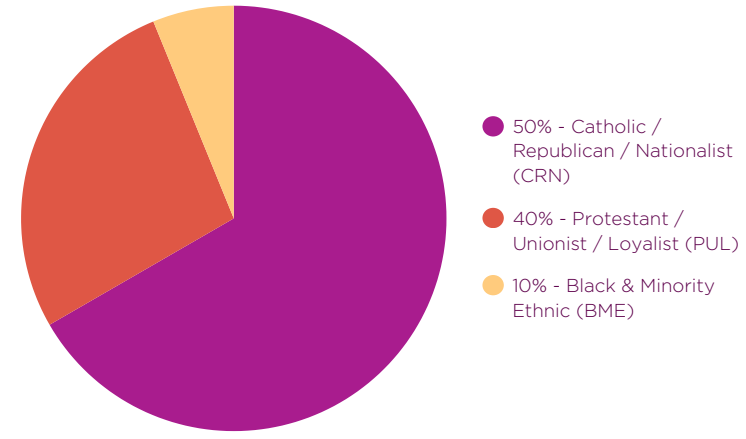


**54 Accredited Qualifications Awarded**

building new peacebuilding leadership skills



## Bridging Communities Through Education



The Centre's shared learning environment ensures the new generation of peacebuilding leaders is representative of all communities.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

The Centre needed to rapidly pivot in response to a surge in racist hate crime (impacting BME women).



### Lesson

Maintaining a dedicated women-only space allowed the Centre to develop a responsive OCN course on Equality, Culture and Diversity that helped rebuild trust.

## Future Plans

Falls Women's Centre aims to:

- Champion the new 'Women, Peace and Security' OCN to strategically address gender-based violence.
- Integrate women's voices and minority issues into major political debates through the Belfast Women's Assembly and key cross-community forums.

## Learn More

- [www.fallswomenscentre.org](http://www.fallswomenscentre.org)
- +44 (0)28 9032 7672
- [info@fallswomenscentre.org](mailto:info@fallswomenscentre.org)
- [@TheFallsWomensCentre](https://www.instagram.com/TheFallsWomensCentre)



# Forthspring



## Nurturing Shared Space at Belfast's Largest Interface

### Who we are

Forthspring is a dedicated shared space situated on the largest peace wall in Belfast, connecting the Springfield/Clonard and Woodvale/Shankill communities. Formed in 1997, it offers vital, cross-community, and intergenerational programmes, including registered childcare and youth work. Our work is focused on fostering positive, everyday peace-building and good relations initiatives within a safe, nurturing environment that promotes long-term, sustained relationships

### Our Overall Impact

 **£31,000**  
investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme

 **1,000+ People Engaged**  
and total community members engaged

 **4 Key Initiatives**  
and programmes delivered across the interface

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Moving Up Moving On (MUMO)

Delivered a holistic, cross-community family support programme, partnering with two local primary schools; from June 2021 to June 2024, 597 children and adults benefited from educational, therapeutic, and practical support. The project ceased in June 2024.



#### Centre-Based Youth Provision

Operated a vital cross-community youth centre four nights a week for young people from eight different areas. This consistent shared space allowed for the formation of sustained cross-interface relationships and provided access to professional youth support.



#### Detached Peacebuilding and Outreach

Provided the only cross-community, detached youth work in the interface area, significantly increasing outreach during periods of community tension. This proactive presence supported dialogue with police and local networks to ensure collaborative safety.



#### The Shared Asset Legacy

Successfully applied for funding to purchase the Forthspring building. Securing this long-term asset has created enhanced stability, ensuring the sustainability of shared space provision, and enabling future plans for a dedicated peace academy.

### Cross-Community Reach

**207**

Children from two schools were engaged in the core Moving Up Moving On (MUMO) programmes, delivering educational and peacebuilding support.

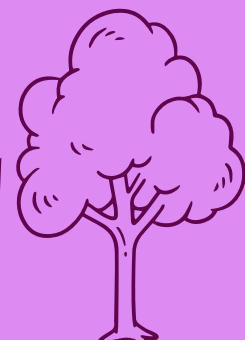
“  
I was at rock bottom after a life-changing injury and saw no light at the end of the tunnel, but MUMO came into my life via a friend. Now I'm living my best life.  
”

MUMO Parent and Programme Participant

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

#### Purchase of the Forthspring building

CRC Core funding £31,000



Purchase of Forthspring building & delivery of a Peace Academy

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

The most complex peacebuilding challenge is ensuring parental and community buy-in remains cross-community.



#### Lesson

Maintaining consistent, intergenerational shared space access is the most effective way to sustain relationships and provide a stable platform for future peacebuilding.

### Future Plans

Forthspring aims to:

- Launch a dedicated Peace Academy to train a new generation of community leaders.
- Expand cross-community detached youth provision to ensure young people in interface areas receive consistent support during key periods of potential tension.
- Increase the sustainability of their shared spaces.

### Learn More



[www.forthspring.org](http://www.forthspring.org)



+44 (0)28 9031 3945



[Director@forthspring.com](mailto:Director@forthspring.com)



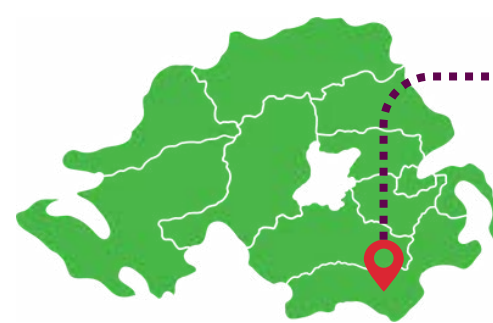
[@forthspring](https://www.facebook.com/forthspring)



# Harmony Community Trust



**Creating Wellbeing in Shared Spaces**



**Working in Newry, Mourne & Down District Council**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Established in 1975, Harmony Community Trust (HCT) promotes social inclusion and positive community relations from its residential and activity centre, Glebe House. HCT provides a safe, shared environment for children, young people and adults to overcome barriers such as poverty, social exclusion and sectarian division. By focusing on shared activities, learning and relationship building, HCT delivers crucial programmes that promote better health, wellbeing, and community connection.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Shared Nature Action Plan

In partnership with the RSPB and local schools, HCT co-designed action plans to protect County Down's land and marine wildlife. This re-established the youth programme and secured two new funding applications for future sustainability and shared community spaces.



### Tots and Teenies Families

This programme delivered weekly cross-community sessions for 30 families. It provided vital relationship building for carers and used "messy play" to develop life skills, creativity, and mutual understanding among participants.



### Adult Well-being Workshops

Between October and March, 23 sessions focusing on self-care, crafts and new subjects were delivered to 154 individuals on a cross-community basis. Participants reported building new friendships, overcoming isolation, and significantly improving their mental wellbeing.



### Seedbed Community Garden

A strong core of 30 regular volunteers cultivated the raised beds and Polytunnel, strengthening community bonds while teaching new skills. This project led to the cultivation of a strong and mutually supportive relationship with the Strangford and Kilclief Men's Shed initiative.

## Our Overall Impact



**£9,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**200+ Individuals Engaged**

in programmes that promoted positive community relations



**£30,600**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



## Cultivating Connections

**154**

The Seed Bed project provided 154 participants with vital social support and a sense of belonging and connection, building bridges to tackling isolation.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

### AXA Parks Funding

CRC Core funding  
£9,000



£16,300  
(AXA Parks funding administered by the Community Fund)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Adapting programming to address deep-seated feelings of isolation and disconnection post-pandemic.



### Lesson

Investing time in cultivating strong, small-group volunteer relationships created self-sustaining social and therapeutic networks that became viable community assets.

## Future Plans

HCT aims to:

- Focus on co-designing programmes with adult and youth participants to ensure future activities are relevant and sustainable.
- Significantly expand the volunteer base and embed volunteering as a core component of future social engagement and community ownership.

## Learn More



<https://glebehouseni.org>



+44 (0)735 6130 070



[info@glebehouseni.org](mailto:info@glebehouseni.org)



[@HarmonyCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/HarmonyCommunity)



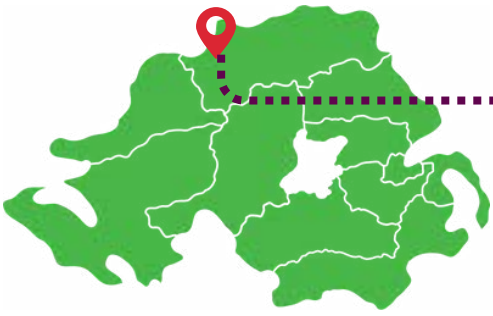
[Harmony\\_LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Harmony_LinkedIn)



# Holywell Trust & The Junction



**A Collaborative Approach to Peace**



**Working in Derry & Strabane District Council; and Regionally**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Holywell Trust and The Junction are two key peacebuilding organisations working collaboratively to create a more inclusive and peaceful society in Derry/Londonderry and the wider North West region. By combining their expertise in community relations, leadership development, and peace-focused education, they are addressing the root causes of division and empowering local people to become agents of positive change. Together, their combined approach creates a comprehensive and powerful model for peacebuilding.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### The Leadership Collective - Holywell Trust

This redesigned year-long programme is supporting 23 new community leaders from diverse backgrounds as they explore key themes like strategic thinking, policy engagement, and equality, diversity, and inclusion.



### Addressing the Menace of Intimidation Toolkit - The Junction

In partnership with other key organisations, The Junction has developed a new, in-depth toolkit and training programme to help individuals and communities counter intimidation and build resilience.



### Re-Imagining Relationships - The Junction

This innovative project used discussion-based workshops to explore the root cause of violence and the creation of a new Peer-Led Facilitator Shared Learning forum for leaders, enabling difficult conversations. The project engaged 134 people (and fed into TEO's EAWG work).



### Future Relationship Conversations - Holywell Trust

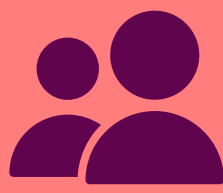
Engaging with 200+ participants through a series of events and research, Holywell Trust has facilitated difficult, forward-thinking conversations about the "constitutional question" in a safe and neutral space.

## Our Overall Impact



**£80,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**10,000+ visitors**

attended events, meetings and used workspaces within the Holywell Trust building.



**£305,000+**

additional funding secured by the groups to expand reach and impact

## Cooperative Peacebuilding



The total number of additional beneficiaries across the different programmes supported by both groups' core peacebuilding work.

“The Junction plays a unique role as the holder of ‘the spaces in between’, facilitating reflection and dialogue across boundaries - generations, communities, sectors and systems.”

Peer Leader/ Associate Facilitator

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Both organisations faced the persistent challenge of overcoming historical mistrust and scepticism.



### Lesson

By creating safe spaces for dialogue, both Holywell Trust and The Junction have shown that trust can be built incrementally, paving the way for deeper, more meaningful, engagement.

## Learn More - Holywell Trust

- [www.holywelltrust.com](http://www.holywelltrust.com)
- +44 (0)28 7126 1941
- [hello@holywelltrust.com](mailto:hello@holywelltrust.com)
- @HolywellTrust
- Holywell LinkedIn



## Learn More - The Junction

- [thejunction-ni.org](http://thejunction-ni.org)
- +44 (0)28 7136 1942
- [info@thejunction-ni.org](mailto:info@thejunction-ni.org)
- @TheJunctionNI
- The Junction LinkedIn



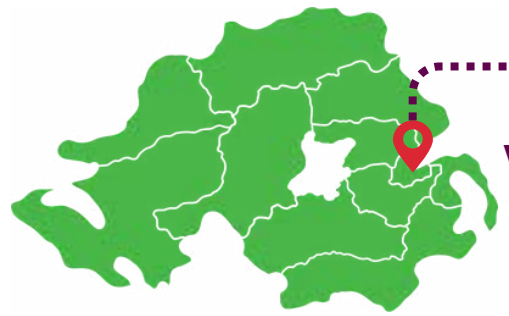
# Intercomm



## Cultivating Peace and Resilience Across the Interface

### Who we are

Intercomm was founded in 1995 as a grassroots response to community conflict and social deprivation, and it has since developed an organic, solution-focused peacebuilding model. Based in North Belfast, the organisation proactively tackles the social, economic, and political problems created by conflict. In addition to local work in interface areas like Tigers Bay and New Lodge, Intercomm has deployed its expertise to assist in conflict transformation processes across the world.



Working in the Belfast area



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Peace in The Park

This third-annual event, held in partnership with DCP in Alexandra Park, promoted the space as safe and shared. It engaged over 5,000 people in a mixed-community setting, with feedback indicating a high sense of safety and inclusion.



### Interface Communication Support

Intercomm maintained vital links during periods of tension, including the Adam Street Bonfire. This continuous dialogue with residents and political reps in Tigers Bay and Duncairn ensured communications remained open, supporting sensitive and dignified cultural celebrations.



### Capacity Building for Local Leaders

The team provided direct support and mentoring to groups like Westland Community Group and Residents, helping them secure funding and progress plans for a new community facility through the Urban Villages programme.



### Multi Agency/Residents Engagement

Working with residents in the New Lodge area, Intercomm established new engagements to tackle issues like ASB and drug dealing. This led to focused meetings with PSNI, resulting in an improved, more collaborative relationship between residents and local policing.

## Our Overall Impact



**£27,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**5,230+ People**

engaged in peacebuilding to promote positive community relations



**£20,500**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



## Confidence to Engage



Reported 95% of attendees at the Peace in the Park event stated feeling safe and welcomed future shared use of the park.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

Peacebuilding work in interface areas requires constant adaptation to a rapidly changing political and social landscape.



#### Lesson

Core funding was essential in fostering the level of trust required to build new programmes of engagement and deliver cross-community initiatives.

### Future Plans

Intercomm aims to:

- Expand engagement with emerging leaders and local groups in areas where new community facilities are being established.
- Consolidate and share its unique peacebuilding model to help other post-conflict areas learn from grassroots experience and expertise.

### Learn More

- [@IntercommIreland](#)
- [@IntercommIE](#)



# Irish School of Ecumenics



## Building Peace Through Faith-Based Dialogue



Working in: Causeway Coast & Glens; Fermanagh & Omagh; Mid-Antrim; Mid-Ulster; Newry, Mourne & Down; and Regionally



### Who we are

The Irish School of Ecumenics Trust, an Institute within Trinity College Dublin, has been at the forefront of peacebuilding and reconciliation since 1979. Rooted in Christian inspiration, the Trust fosters shared learning and theological dialogue across different denominations and communities in the region. It sustains a vital network of local Inter-Church Fora, providing a structured space for civic conversations on challenging topics like identity, social justice, and a shared future.

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Inter-Church Fora Network

The Irish School of Ecumenics supported eight local Fora across the region, facilitating monthly dialogues on key issues from social justice to shared history, directly building relationships between over 350 church members.



#### CONNECT Conferences

The group organised two regional conferences on the Palestine-Israel conflict, bringing diverse attendees together to apply compassion and justice to complex global issues, undermining traditional sectarian splits.



#### Sixth Form Conferences

Hosted the "Building CommUNITY" conference for 75 post-primary students from different school sectors, fostering critical thinking and intergenerational discussion on inclusivity and difference.



#### Exploring Beyond the Doors

The Dungannon Forum ran a well-attended series of five events exploring local churches, successfully removing fear and lack of understanding of diverse traditions, deepening inter-church knowledge.

### Our Overall Impact



£30,000

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



350+ People Engaged

through profound dialogue and new shared learning opportunities

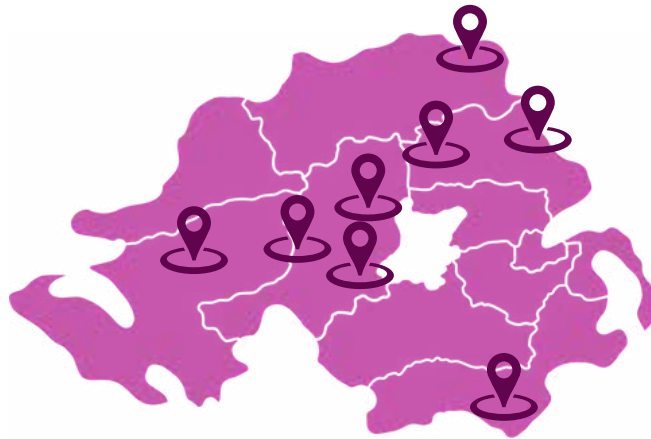


8 Local Fora Supported

to nurture neighbourly relationships into resilient community action



### Where Faith Connects



Core funding allowed the ISE Trust to develop eight distinct local Inter-Church Fora, demonstrating a wide geographical reach in cultivating peacebuilding dialogue at a grassroots level.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

Engaging with politically and religiously complex subjects is challenging, yet essential for developing social values.



#### Lesson

Providing a structured, ecumenical space for honest, critical, and diverse dialogue is key to undermining deeply entrenched sectarian perspectives.

### Future Plans

The Irish School of Ecumenics aims to:

- Nurture new local Fora to expand reach and impact into currently underserved areas.
- Develop resources and training that empower participants to actively promote inclusion and acceptance of diversity.
- Equip young people with the critical thinking skills needed to build peace.

### Learn More

- 🌐 [www.tcd.ie/ise](http://www.tcd.ie/ise)
- ☎ +353 1 896 4771
- ✉ [isedir@tcd.ie](mailto:isedir@tcd.ie)
- 📘 [@Irish-School-of-Ecumenics](https://www.facebook.com/Irish-School-of-Ecumenics)
- ✂ [@tcddublin](https://twitter.com/tcddublin)



# Londonderry Bands Forum



## Using Music and Culture to Build Bridges and Community Connections



Working in: Causeway Coast & Glens; Derry City & Strabane; and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Areas



### Who we are

The Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF) is a vibrant network of 23 marching bands working to grow a confident and competent membership. Through strategic leadership, educational outreach, and positive engagement, LBF challenges misconceptions and promotes understanding. As a founding member of the North West Cultural Partnership, the forum connects its grassroots work to wider cultural initiatives, fostering collaboration and creating a positive, lasting impact across the community.

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Growing the Next Generation

The group delivered workshops to 1,400+ pupils across 25 schools in the Fermanagh & Omagh and Derry City & Strabane areas, including recognised qualifications such as GCSEs. These sessions introduced young people to marching band music and helped them to understand a new aspect of cultural heritage.



#### Strengthening Bands from Within

LBF provided crucial support to its 23 member bands by offering governance advice and training on child protection, first aid, and IT. This support ensures that bands are safe, inclusive, and nurturing environments for their members and the next generation.



#### Showcasing Culture & Community

LBF organised a sold-out Christmas concert that brought together bands from across the region for the first time. The event attracted a diverse audience and raised £1,800 for a local charity, demonstrating the positive community impact of the bands.



#### Building Partnerships, Securing Peace

The forum engaged with key statutory bodies and local political representatives to proactively address issues related to parades and ensure peaceful outcomes. This dialogue helped build trust and led to positive outcomes, like the use of cameras during parades to ensure safety.

### Our Overall Impact



**£48,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**2,100+ People Reached**

to promote cultural awareness through educational outreach workshops



**29 Schools Engaged**

and cultural workshops delivered to pupils representing all communities.

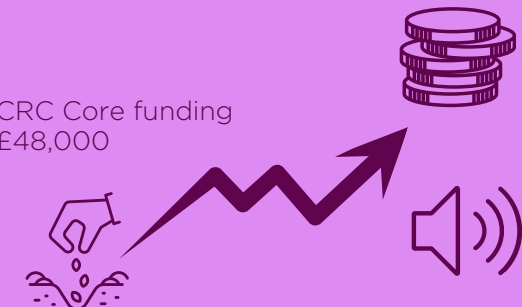


### Cultural Outreach Activities



A breakdown of the total beneficiaries reached through the group's cultural outreach programme.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



Built capacity building and long-term stability

Amplified the group's overall reach

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

Providing quantifiable evidence of marching bands' positive contribution to community health and safety is difficult.



#### Lesson

The Culture Now Research Project demonstrated that by using innovative research methods it's possible to gather concrete data that proves positive community impact.

### Future Plans

- The Londonderry Bands Forum aims to:
- Continue to grow as a leading voice for cultural expression and community relations in the region.
  - Develop accredited pathways for musicians through partnership with the London College of Music.

### Learn More

- +44 (0)28 7126 5869
- [info@londonderrybandsforum.com](mailto:info@londonderrybandsforum.com)
- [Londonderry Bands Forum](https://www.londonderrybandsforum.com)



# Partisan Productions



**Creating Socially Engaged Theatre**



## Who we are

Partisan Productions is an award-winning professional theatre and film company established in 1999, dedicated to social justice and the creation of a shared, equitable future. Community relations and development issues are at the heart of their work. They develop and deliver integrated programmes of research, training, public performance, and debate, collaborating with partners to address complex social issues through creative engagement.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Shared3?

Conducted 25 research and script development sessions with five resident and immigrant groups across South Belfast, shifting the focus to housing-related racial tension. Five public performances helped frame concrete legislative proposals in partnership with communities.



### The Nine Hats and More

The organisation engaged 355 community and youth workers across Belfast through shared events and small-scale forum theatre to explore the complex challenges of their roles in a divided society, building resilience and shared practice.

## Our Overall Impact



**£33,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**395 People Engaged**

directly in research, workshop, and performance projects



**5 New Partnerships**

created with funders and international bodies



### International Peace & Diversity

Secured initial funding and developed a pilot for a new programme addressing Peace Building and Diversity Education with three North and South Belfast primary schools, in partnership with the international non-profit, Yesterday Today Tomorrow.

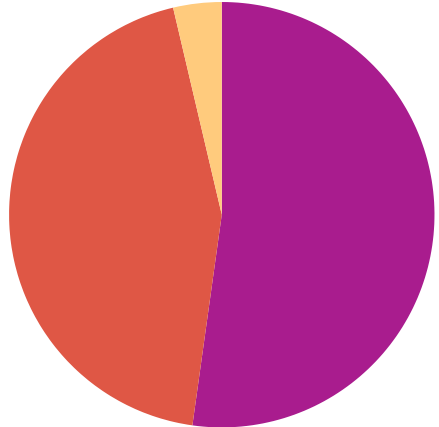


### The Well-Being Dialogue

Launched a targeted research strand on the intersection of mental health and community relations, developing scripts to show connections between overcrowding, community tension, and mental illness. This work will inform future theatre, focusing on well-being and social support access.



## Real People, Real Dialogue



- 355 - Participants at Community Events & Workshops
- 300 - Public Performance Audiences
- 25 - Research & Development Participants

Theatre is a powerful catalyst for grassroots peacebuilding, ensuring critical social and relations issues are debated by people directly .

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned

- Challenge** (Trophy icon): The necessity to address immediate, volatile community issues, such as the racial tensions explored in the Shared3? Project.
- Lesson** (Magnifying glass icon): The power to generate meaningful public discourse is maximised when the creative output is nimble and responsive to shifts in the community relations environment.

## Future Plans

- Partisan Productions aims to:
- Professionalise the policy output of its theatre work by formally embedding legislative proposal drafting into community performances.
  - Bridge international research and local community development, using its partnership with Yesterday Today Tomorrow.

## Learn More

- +44 (0)28 9031 0900
- [partisanproductions@hotmail.com](mailto:partisanproductions@hotmail.com)
- [@partisanproductions](https://www.facebook.com/partisanproductions)
- [@partisanNI](https://twitter.com/partisanNI)

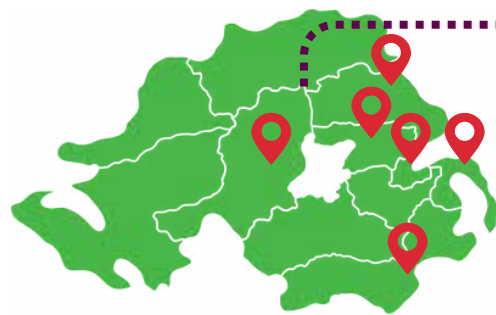


# PeacePlayers NI



PEACE PLAYERS

**Building Bridges  
Through the Power  
of Sport**



**Working in: Ards & North Down; Antrim & Newtownabbey; Belfast; Mid & East Antrim; Mid-Ulster; and Newry, Mourne & Down**



Equity | Diversity | Interdependence

**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

PeacePlayers International – Northern Ireland (PPI-NI) has used sport since 2002 to unite, educate, and inspire children and young people from divided communities. By leveraging the inherent lessons of teamwork and communication in games like basketball, PPI-NI facilitators promote peace and reconciliation in areas that continue to suffer from sectarian division. Through school and community-based programs, PeacePlayers creates a safe space for young people to connect, learn, and grow together.

## Our Overall Impact



**£55,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**1,600+ Young People Reached**

through Twinning, Bridging Divides, and Leadership Development Programmes



**79% Positive Attitudes**

reported by participants toward people from different religious backgrounds

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### School Twinning Programme

Pairing schools from different community backgrounds, this programme delivered 18 twinings and engaged 856 young people, creating new friendships and breaking down barriers on the basketball court.



### Bridging Divides Programme

This after-school programme engaged 354 young people across 10 different areas, building on the lessons of the school twinning curriculum through cross-community basketball training and discussions.



### Game of Three Halves

A unique multi-sport event that brought together young people from different backgrounds to explore culture and identity through football, Gaelic football, and rugby, fostering understanding and collaboration.



### Leadership Development Programme

A year-round programme that provides formal training and hands-on experience to young leaders, empowering the next generation of good relations practitioners and peacebuilders with soft and hard skills.

## Friendship Impact



Reported by participants on PeacePlayers programmes as the percentage who now have friends from different religious background.

“A friend made a racist joke about foreigners and I called him out and discussed why there is nothing wrong with foreigners being here, just because the news is talking about some doing wrong things doesn't mean they are all bad here.”

Leadership Development Programme Participant

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£55,000



£290,000+  
(Total Project Funding Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Ensuring that the positive interactions fostered on the sports court translate into long-term leadership skills and peacebuilding actions.



### Lesson

Through our Leadership Development Programme, we learned that formal training, like our new OCN-endorsed course, is vital to equip young leaders.

## Future Plans

PeacePlayers plan to:

- Forge new strategic partnerships to embed sport as a key tool for good relations across the region and cross-border too.
- Scale their leadership development programmes, empowering a new generation of coaches and peace practitioners with the skills to lead and sustain positive change.

## Learn More



[peaceplayers.org](http://peaceplayers.org)



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@peaceplayersni



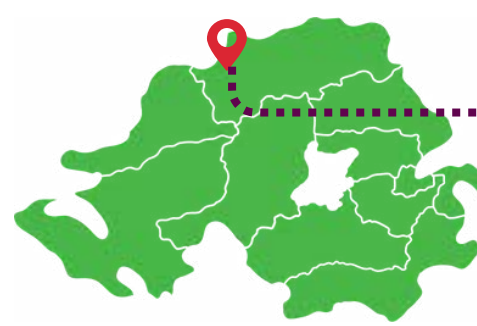
@peaceplayersni



# The Playhouse



**A Global Leader in Using the Arts for Peacebuilding and Social Change**



**Working in: Derry & Strabane District Council; and also Regionally**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

The Playhouse is a vibrant theatre and arts organisation established at a time of conflict to meet community needs. It has grown into a national asset: an award-winning producing theatre, an empowering centre for learning and a global leader in arts and peaceful change. By creating a welcoming space for everyone, The Playhouse inspires creativity, fosters inclusion and through the arts provides an equitable platform for the powerful, often difficult conversations that are at the heart of positive social change.

## Our Overall Impact



**£37,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**16,650+ People Engaged**

through theatre programming and peacebuilding initiatives



**€253,000+**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Bridge: Stepping Up & Standing Out

The Playhouse offered Open College Network (OCN) accredited training to young people from different faith backgrounds. Through drama, music and discussion, participants explored themes of friendship, peace and diversity, leading to the creation of showcase performances and visual learning resources.



### That's Powerful

Exploring the interface between civic dialogue, social change, peacebuilding and art making, it also drew on the rich legacy of Playhouse work in acknowledging the impact on communities from the conflict in the region, while looking to the future to determine the issues that are impacting communities now.



### Leaders for Peace Network

This leadership development programme, supported by PEACEPLUS, nurtures and equips future community peacemakers. A cohort of leaders who can effect positive change at grassroots and government levels is built through dedicated training, mentoring and professional network development.



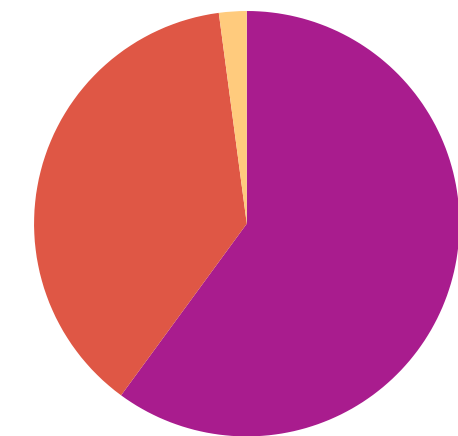
### Theatre Programme

As a cultural hub located in an interface area, The Playhouse hosted over 60 nights of high-quality theatre and music. Productions like "The Man Who Swallowed a Dictionary" and "Nancy Boy Shenanigans" sparked crucial conversations on social justice, peace and reconciliation while engaging a broad audience of 6,300+.

“Taking part in the That's Powerful community building sessions at The Playhouse has been one of the most inspiring experiences of my life. It gave me the space to share my voice, listen to others and really feel part of something meaningful. I've built friendships, confidence and a deeper connection to my and other communities.”

Participant, That's Powerful Programme

## Audience Engagement



- 10,000+ engaged as residents and in classes
- 6,300 engaged as indirect audience members for productions
- 350 engaged as direct participants in productions

The power of reach is demonstrated by how The Playhouse impacts every level of community life, from classrooms to the stalls.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst



## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Sustaining engagement across political and social divides when participants lack resources (especially transportation) to consistently attend neutral, shared spaces.



### Lesson

Future arts-based peacebuilding requires a mobile, hyper-local strategy that actively deploys creative facilitators and resources.

## Future Plans

The Playhouse aims to:

- Deepen their reach into new, often-overlooked communities by improving the accessibility of its approach to community engagement.
- Expand their rights-based creative programmes to include addressing racism, sectarianism, classism and female rights delivered across the region.

## Learn More

[www.derryplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.derryplayhouse.co.uk)

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@PlayhouseDerry



# Shankill Parish Caring Association



Working in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council



Core Funded by CRC



Dialogue, Mentoring, and Community Action

## Who we are

The Shankill Parish Caring Association (SPCA), established in 1996, fosters reconciliation by connecting communities across Lurgan. Rooted in a cross-community partnership, its mission is to promote understanding and compassionate responses to social need. The Jethro Centre serves as a vital, neutral shared space, supporting leaders, mediating conflict, and delivering grassroots good relations programmes tailored to local historic and cultural issues.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### The Jethro Centre: A Shared Space

The Jethro Centre provided a safe, shared space, maintaining a consistent 2,000 people weekly footfall. It offered programs like "The Living Room" and Palms to address social needs, particularly the Cost of Living crisis, loneliness, and isolation.



### Think Twice Crime Prevention Programme

This initiative, developed with the PSNI and PCSP, ran twice with 16 young adults (aged 17-21). One group made a film; they came back together to see the film and the PSNI also attended. This opened a discussion about related crimes that could occur within their scenarios, and what might happen in real life.



### Practitioners Meet-Up & Mentoring

Hosted 10 meetings that brought together key leaders (including PSNI, Health Trust, and Minority Ethnic workers). This networking led to numerous collaborations, projects, initiatives and relationship building, such as an intervention by the Ethnic Minorities worker to ease community tensions and hate crime issues.



### Community Education & Dialogue

The group delivered diverse interventions, including the Women Across Borders session for over 35 women, as well as the Welcome to the Table dialogue event focused on race issues. One community leader credited this event with inspiring them to continue their peace work.

## Our Overall Impact



£28,000

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



2,000 Weekly Users

attended the Jethro Centre Lurgan



16 Young Adults

completed the Think Twice crime prevention programme

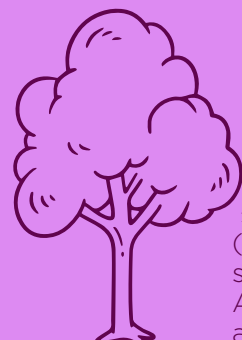
## Strategic Partners



The Jethro Centre is a key factor in supporting 12+ strategic partners and organisations, such as ABC council, PSNI, Women Across Borders, and more.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£28,000



£12,000  
(Funding secured from ABC Council and DfA)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

The continued rise in community anxiety, particularly around attitudes to ethnic tensions, requires constant outreach.



### Lesson

Sustaining neutral platforms for dialogue is paramount. The group successfully mediated tensions involving different ethnic groups and local residents.

## Future Plans

Shankill Parish Caring Association aims to:

- Strengthen the use of the Jethro Centre as a fully inclusive, shared space for an increasingly diverse local community.
- Leverage the success of the Mentoring and Dialogue programmes to secure more community leaders dedicated to cross-community collaboration and peacebuilding.

## Learn More



<https://jethrocentre.org>



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[info@jethrocentre.org](mailto:info@jethrocentre.org)



[@JethroLurgan](https://www.facebook.com/JethroLurgan)



# Rural Community Network



**A Voice for Rural  
Communities Working  
Across the Region**



**Working across the Region**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

For over three decades, the Rural Community Network (RCN) has been the voice for rural communities across Northern Ireland. As a membership-based organisation with around 250 members, RCN works to tackle social exclusion, poverty, and disadvantage. By adopting a community development approach, they empower rural practitioners and groups, building resilience and fostering peacebuilding efforts where they are needed most.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Beyond Belfast Forum

RCN has coordinated this forum for over a decade, connecting good relations practitioners and statutory services across rural Northern Ireland. During 2025 they saw a significant increase in members from new areas and organisations like the GAA, fostering wider collaboration and knowledge-sharing.



### Empowering Communities

This initiative focused on supporting communities facing challenges like paramilitary control and social exclusion. RCN worked with partners like the North West Cultural Partnership and BCRC Ballymoney, bringing groups together and providing vital support.



### Building Resilient Communities

Through a suite of workshops and courses, RCN equipped communities with the skills to address sectarianism and the impacts of conflict. They delivered pilot workshops on Trauma-Informed Practice and a programme on Bystander and Upstander behaviour to help empower individuals and groups.



### Faith in Peacebuilding

RCN collaborated with partners to support and equip church and faith leaders. By providing training on topics like racism and hate crimes, they empowered faith leaders to play a more visible and vocal role in peacebuilding within their communities.

## Our Overall Impact



**£65,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**63 Practitioners Trained & Supported**

through peacebuilding initiatives and residentials



**£328,000+**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



## Peacebuilding in Rural NI



59 people achieved the Diploma in Community Development Practice (Galway University).

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

### PeacePlus Programme with North-West Migrants Forum

CRC Core funding  
£65,000



£250,000  
(PeacePlus  
Funding  
Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

For good relations and peacebuilding practitioners working outside of major urban areas, a sense of professional isolation can hinder collaboration.



### Lesson

By supporting regional networks like the Beyond Belfast Forum, RCN has proven that collaboration is a powerful tool for strengthening peacebuilding.

## Future Plans

- Ensuring future peacebuilding efforts and funding are equitable and reach the most disadvantaged rural areas.
- Developing new training programmes to equip practitioners and community members with the skills needed to address complex issues, from racism to paramilitary intimidation.

## Learn More

[www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

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[info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

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@RuralCommNet





### Who we are

Since 1992, Springboard has been a vital force for peacebuilding in Northern Ireland, working with young people and communities affected by the conflict's legacy and socioeconomic deprivation. They design and deliver innovative, needs-led programmes that equip young people to overcome barriers, build positive relationships across divides, and develop respect for diversity. This funding has allowed Springboard to provide crucial learning opportunities that facilitate personal growth and a sense of belonging.

### Our Overall Impact



**£33,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**400+ Young People**

**Engaged**

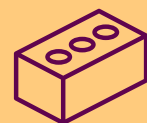
across a range of peacebuilding projects and initiatives



**10,000+ Exhibition Visitors**

for Wall2Wall photography project delivered in partnership with Belfast Exposed

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Wall2Wall

This youth-led project brought together young people from both sides of Belfast's first peace wall at Cupar Way. Through workshops and a powerful photography exhibition visited by over 10,000 people, participants built mutual understanding and created an impactful report for future peace barrier removal.



#### Directions

A youth-led cross-community programme focusing on areas impacted by disadvantage and the legacy of the conflict. It supports 15 unemployed young people aged 16-25 years, particularly those at risk of paramilitary involvement and sectarianism. An integral part of the programme is developing good relations.



#### Journeys Initiative

This multifaceted cross community initiative supports distinct groups of disadvantaged and at-risk young people from diverse communities in Greater Belfast, Greater Limavady and L/Derry to realise their potential and become active contributors to building a shared, united and more cohesive society. Participants are empowered to become advocates for change.



#### Fusion+

Working with students from diverse school communities in Belfast and the North West, this programme fostered understanding through social action. Young people volunteered together on community and environmental projects, using their collective voice to create podcasts and share learning on global issues with local relevance.

“Springboard gives you the opportunity to discover yourself while being exposed to diversity, the reason isn't to change what you think but to understand why you think the way you do. Springboard has changed my life.”

Participant on Wall2Wall programme

### Community impact



Based on direct programme outcomes, the percentage of participants who felt they had a better understanding of different cultures and communities, by programme end.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£33,000



£1.8m  
(SE PUB,  
TEO & IFI  
Funding  
Secured)

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

The ongoing and pervasive influence of the Troubles in the lives of young people who live in economically and socially deprived communities.



#### Lesson

We must build trust and offer flexible support for young people that addresses their complex backgrounds.

### Future Plans

Springboard is committed to empowering young people by focusing on:

- Championing the voice of young people, ensuring their insights drive discussions around peacebuilding and social change.
- Expanding the reach of our work to support more communities in building positive cross-community relationships.

### Learn More



[springboard-apps.org](http://springboard-apps.org)



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[general@springboard-apps.org](mailto:general@springboard-apps.org)



[@springboardapps](https://www.facebook.com/springboardapps)



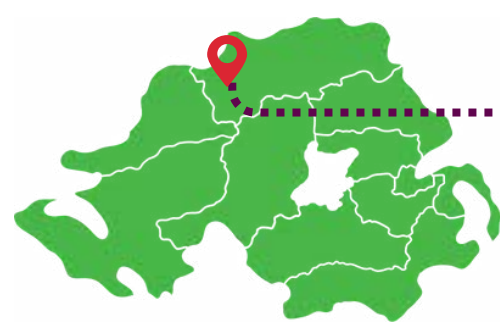
[@springboardapp](https://twitter.com/springboardapp)



# St Columb's Park House



**A Space for People,  
Place, and Peace**



**Working in Derry & Strabane District  
Council**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Established as a neutral venue in 1994, St Columb's Park House is a hub for peacebuilding, bringing communities together to foster understanding and collaboration. Through its diverse projects, the organisation empowers individuals of all ages and backgrounds to become active citizens and positive changemakers, committed to building a fair and peaceful society where everyone's contribution is valued.

## Our Overall Impact

 **£49,000**  
investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme

 **5 New Peacebuilding Programmes Delivered**  
covering youth leadership, community engagement, and cross-border initiatives

 **£1 Million+**  
additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### IgnYte Programme

This program supports young adults who are disengaged from education, employment and peace building. It provides them with essential skills and qualifications, helping them to find their path and reduce the risk of becoming involved in anti-social activity.



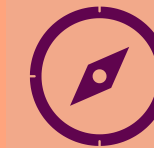
### Connecting at the Interface

Working in interface communities, this initiative built trust and capacity, connecting residents from Tullyally and Curryrierin. A key success was securing PeacePlus funding, which established a resident action group and a participatory budgeting model for new projects.



### The BLOOM Project

Using the shared green spaces of St Columb's Park as a vehicle for peace, this project brought diverse community groups together to connect with nature. The key use of the location as a neutral venue to connect people in a shared space has helped build stronger communities.

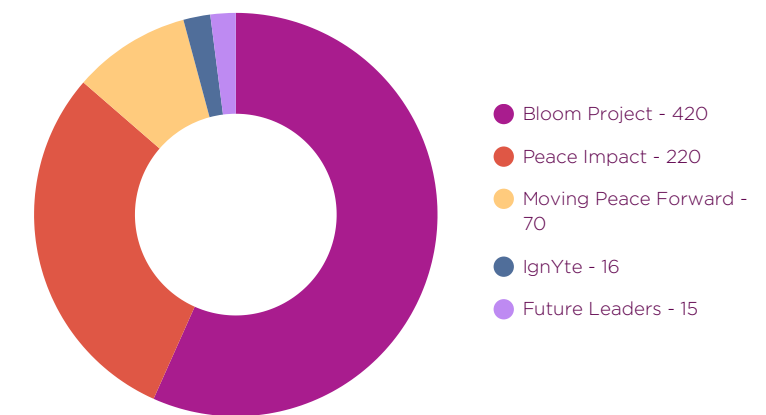


### Future Leaders

This cross-border and cross-community programme worked with young people aged 15-18 to develop their leadership and peacebuilding skills. Through shared projects and residentials, it helped to build lasting relationships and empowered them to become advocates for peace.



## Community Focus



A breakdown of the direct beneficiaries across the different programmes supported by Core peacebuilding work.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

### CONNECTING AT THE INTERFACE PROJECT

CRC Core funding  
£49,000



£151,000  
(PeacePlus Project Funding Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

The research from the "Moving Peace Forward" programme revealed the perception of peace today is dramatically linked to class and socioeconomic status.



### Lesson

By creating a neutral space for difficult conversations, St Columb's Park House helps facilitate a deeper understanding of the challenges that impact communities.

## Future Plans

St Columb's Park House will continue to champion peace by focusing on:

- Expanding participatory budgeting models to empower communities to implement their own peacebuilding projects.
- Deepening cross-community and cross-border connections through shared learning and joint action.

## Learn More

 [stcolumbsparkhouse.org](http://stcolumbsparkhouse.org)

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 [@stcolumbsparkhouse](https://www.facebook.com/stcolumbsparkhouse)

 [to be provided]



# TIDES Training



**Mediation, Good Relations and Capacity Building**



**Working in: Belfast; Antrim & Newtownabbey; Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon; Causeway Coast & Glens; and Newry, Mourne & Down; and regionally**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

TIDES Training & Consultancy is an established leader in conflict resolution and capacity building, working across community, public and private sectors since 2000. Underpinned by an ethos of building capacity for positive peaceful change, the group's mission is to develop and deliver processes to facilitate strong and flexible relationships to create a respectful society. The values that drive all TIDES work include: transformation (changing behaviours and relationships); interdependence; diversity; equity; and sustainability.

## Our Overall Impact



**£45,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**90% Rate**

of mediation cases resulted in successful agreed mitigation



**380+ Empowered**

community members empowered with accredited training, mediation, and capacity-building support

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Community Conflict Resolution

TIDES managed over 50 mediation cases for the NIHE, Councils, EA, and Housing Associations, achieving a successful agreed outcome in over 90% of cases. These cases include neighbour disputes, complex community cases relating to race, interface challenges and cultural expression.



### Change Makers: Women Empowerment

A 24-week programme led by Shankill Women's Centre. TIDES delivers 3 Level II OCNs and mentoring support to 24 women per year. Themes include building confidence, community leadership, and wider issues like paramilitary influence.



### Peace in Partnership

TIDES supported: young people in East Belfast with an OCN qualification to positively interrupt nightly peace Line violence; 4 Rural Men's sheds in their first Good Relations OCN, which helped foster community; and Supporting Peace Barriers groups empowered participants for long-term sustainably.



### Elevate Future Peace Leaders

Ten individuals from different backgrounds worked together over 2 years to complete OCN Level III in Conflict Analysis and ILM III. Participants also successfully completed regional community resilience model training to improve trauma informed practice using restorative practice methodologies.



## Peace Qualifications



TIDES delivered accredited learning to award 117 Open College Network qualifications across multiple peacebuilding programmes.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£45,000



£30,000+  
(Funding secured from DFC and DFA)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Relying on project-specific funding often necessitates a focus on reactive mediation rather than sustained relationships.



### Lesson

The ability to consistently maintain unfunded relationships is the critical foundation that allows TIDES to effectively deliver mediation.

## Future Plans

TIDES Training aims to:

- Focus on expanding their network of trained community mediators, moving from addressing disputes to systemic prevention.
- Advocate for statutory and community bodies to adopt a trauma-informed and restorative approach to all public service delivery.
- Champion the inclusion of women and young people.

## Learn More



<https://tidestraining.org>



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[@tidestraining](https://www.facebook.com/tidestraining)



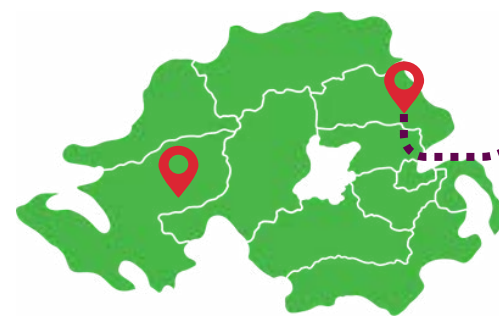
[@tidestraining](https://twitter.com/tidestraining)



# Trademark



**Combating Prejudice and Inequality Through Trade Union and Community Action**



**Working in: Belfast; Fermanagh & Omagh District Council; and regionally**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Established in 2001, Trademark is the anti-sectarian unit of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). The charity works to tackle prejudice, discrimination, and inequality by using a unique blend of mediation, education, and research. Rooted in both the trade union movement and local communities, Trademark has a long track record of fostering relationships and promoting social justice.

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Promoting Community Wealth Building

In collaboration with Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI), Trademark has worked to integrate the principles of Community Wealth Building (CWB) into local and regional government policy. This has influenced a policy shift toward a more localised approach to economic development.



### Combating Racism and Far-Right Narratives

Trademark delivered targeted education sessions to almost 250 participants from various trade unions and community groups, including NASUWT, CWU, and Equity Actors Union. These sessions equipped members to respond to the rise of racism and the far-right.



### Transforming Interface Areas

Trademark has been leading a project to transform a historic mill building on the Cupar Way interface into a Community and Co-operative Hub. The project has raised awareness among policymakers and local communities about the potential for inclusive economic and good relations benefits.



### Building Community Capacity

Trademark provided education and capacity building to marginalised communities in rural Fermanagh and the border region. Organised with Turas na nDaoine, the work built understanding of key societal challenges, as well as promoting inclusion and integration through the principle of cooperativism.

## Our Overall Impact



**£56,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



## New Anti-Racism Charter

developed to combat discrimination and promote inclusion



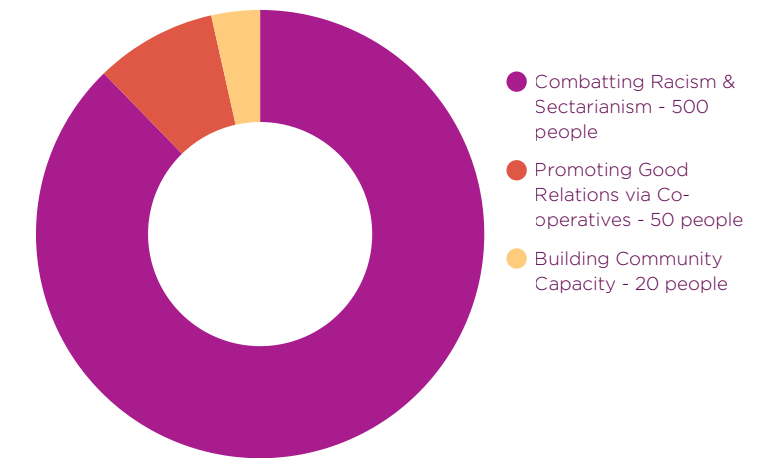
**£167,000**

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact

“ This course was a real eye-opener. It gave me a better understanding of the structural roots of racism and the far right, and why tackling economic inequality has to be part of our response. I’m looking forward to delivering this message to my members and other people in my circle. ”

Course Participant

## The Power of Proactive Response



By directly combatting the rise of racism and the far-right in local communities, the group is focusing on the most urgent social issues.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust**

CRC Core funding  
£56,000



£167,000  
(Project Funding Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

The rise of racism and the far-right often manifests as direct attacks on working-class communities and a deliberate attempt to fracture trade union solidarity.



### Lesson

Embedding anti-racism education directly into trade union structures is a powerful way to build collective resistance.

## Future Plans

- Strengthen anti-racism education programmes within the trade union movement and with activists.
- Expand Community Wealth Building to more deprived interface areas, promoting cooperative business models.
- Develop new educational resources tailored for the youth sector.

## Learn More



[trademarkbelfast.com](http://trademarkbelfast.com)



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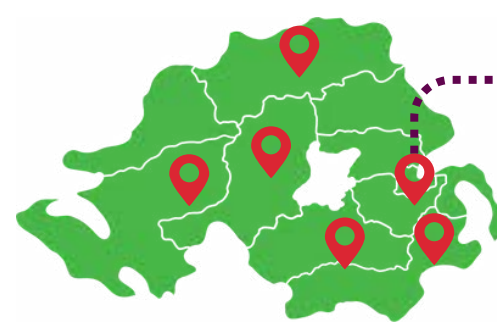


[Trademark](https://www.facebook.com/Trademark)



[@TrademarkBF](https://twitter.com/TrademarkBF)





### Who we are

Ulster GAA is a provincial body supporting over 300 clubs and 250,000 members across the nine counties of Ulster. Recognising its vital role in civic society, the organisation is committed to promoting good relations and peacebuilding through sport. Partnering with government and community stakeholders, Ulster GAA uses the power of Gaelic games to drive community engagement, challenge perceptions, and create open, welcoming shared spaces for people of all backgrounds.

### Our Overall Impact



## £47,000

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



## 1,000+ People Engaged

including young people and professionals through cross-community and outreach programmes



## 21 Schools & Colleges

non-traditional GAA schools and colleges (including Integrated and Controlled sectors) that participated in coaching or talks

### Key Projects & Initiatives



#### Cúchulainn Initiative

This 8-week peacebuilding programme brought together 286 young people (aged 14-16) from nine different schools across communities for joint Gaelic games coaching. The output was a shared sporting experience, culminating in a Cúchulainn Cup competition, and a better appreciation of diverse cultures.



#### GAAME of Three Halves

This initiative created new shared spaces by hosting cross-community coaching sessions at local GAA clubs. 145 pupils from different community primary schools attended three completed events, successfully working to eliminate perceived barriers.



#### Schools Engagement Programme

A values-based coaching program was delivered to 6 non-traditional GAA schools (including Integrated and Controlled sectors). This resulted in 232 pupils receiving 6 weeks of Gaelic football coaching, with 6 teachers being mentored to continue the cross-community sport delivery.



#### Getting to Know the GAA

Outreach talks were delivered to non-traditional GAA audiences to promote understanding of the organisation's ethos and diversity efforts. The project delivered 5 sessions at the PSNI College, engaging approximately 240 new recruits, alongside 6 talks in schools, reaching a total of 383 participants.

“ I didn't like sports before I joined the programme and now I really enjoy it and I feel like I got closer with my classmates and girls from the other school. ”

Pupil from St Fanchea's College, participant on the Cúchulainn Initiative

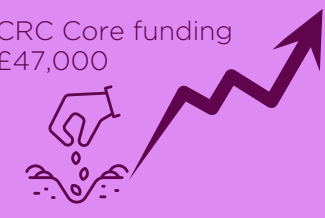
### Female Participation in Peacebuilding Programmes



63% of participants were female across Ulster GAA cross-community youth programmes, leading the way in gender inclusion in peacebuilding.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding £47,000



- ★ Schools Engagement
- ★ Cúchulainn Initiative
- ★ Club Engagement
- ★ "Getting to Know the GAA" events

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

The difficulty in engaging the Controlled school sector and Gaelic Games in integrated settings.



#### Lesson

Sustaining peacebuilding impact requires proactive, long-term collaboration with external partners to jointly challenge cultural perceptions.

### Future Plans

Ulster GAA aims to:

- Elevate the club network to be universally recognised as open, shared community assets where all are welcome.
- Deepen the understanding of cultural diversity and inclusion among all new partners, especially within statutory and community safety bodies.

### Learn More

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- [@UlsterGAA](https://twitter.com/UlsterGAA)



# Youth Initiatives



## Equipping Young People to Lead in Peace and Inclusion



Working in: Downpatrick; Belfast (East & West); Derry~Londonderry; Banbridge; and Lisburn



Core Funded by CRC

### Who we are

Youth Initiatives is a regional youth work organisation that specialises in reaching and empowering 11-25-year-olds in divided communities. Operating 39 weekly programmes across six hubs, the organisation focuses on young people at risk of exclusion or engaging in criminality, equipping them with the skills to reject sectarianism and embrace diversity, becoming catalysts for change. The central focus is on embedding good relations and reconciliation principles into all aspects of their work.

### Key Projects & Initiatives



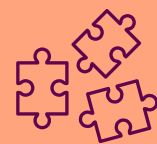
#### The Crosslinks Arts Showcase

Crosslinks brought together 51 young people from diverse backgrounds in East and West Belfast and the Diverse Youth Hub for weekly arts workshops, culminating in a final showcase for over 400 friends, family and public attendees. The young people created an original theatre production and art exhibition.



#### Regional Good Relations Camps

A total of 207 young people from six hubs across the region attended a four-day residential camp. Participants engaged in intensive Good Relations workshops and team building, directly fostering cross-community relationships and challenging entrenched views in a neutral space.



#### New Anti-Racism "Game of Life" Resource

The Good Relations manager oversaw the launch of an anti-racism Game of Life resource. This new resource has been created to be shared with other youth organisations, demonstrating an impact that extends beyond Youth Initiatives' direct beneficiaries.



#### Strategic Peace Plus Programme Development

Core funding enabled the Good Relations manager to secure £448,000 in Peace Plus funding for the E2T and Strive projects. This strategic work ensured the integration of good relations elements into long-term programmes that support the educational and employment pathways of young people across the region.

### Our Overall Impact



£29,000

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



780 Young People

engaged in weekly and project-based programmes across the region



£547,000+

additional funding secured by the group to expand reach and impact



### Next Generation Peace Leaders



The training of 111 young volunteers from diverse backgrounds across six regional youth community hubs helped embed Good Relations principles.

### Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£29,000



£547,000+  
(Funding secured from TEO, DFAT, and SEUPB)

### Lessons Learned



#### Challenge

Deeply entrenched community divisions meant young people were initially reluctant to cross lines for the Artbridge project.



#### Lesson

Creative outreach and targeted relationship-building ensured young people could engage across community lines.

### Future Plans

Youth Initiatives aims to:

- Build the organisational capacity of partner hubs to ensure staff can lead anti-racist and anti-sectarian responses within their local communities.
- Embed Good Relations principles into sustainable, long-term educational and employment pathways.

### Learn More



[www.youthinitiativesni.com](http://www.youthinitiativesni.com)



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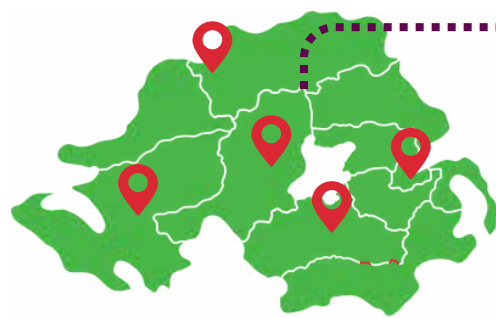
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# Youthlink



**Empowering a New Generation of Peacebuilders**



**Working in: Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon; Belfast; Derry City & Strabane; Fermanagh & Omagh; Mid & East Antrim; Mid Ulster; and Newry, Mourne & Down**



**Core Funded by CRC**

## Who we are

Youthlink is an inter-church organisation committed to building a more inclusive and peaceful society by empowering young people and youth workers. Rooted in a vision of reconciliation, Youthlink bring together four of the largest Christian denominations to work collectively for the benefit of young people and their communities. They also provide accredited training and non-formal learning opportunities to equip individuals with the skills and confidence needed to foster good relations and promote respect across cultural and religious divides.

## Our Overall Impact



**£50,000**

investment from CRC Core Funding Scheme



**11 Community Organisations Partnered**

across good relations training programmes



**3 New Resources and Curriculums Developed**

to equip young people with the skills for reconciliation

## Key Projects & Initiatives



### Beyond Our Walls: A Good Relations Toolkit

Youthlink developed a toolkit and "train-the-trainer" sessions to equip youth workers with practical tools for peacebuilding. This resource, inspired by the African concept of Ubuntu, has already trained and equipped 89 youth workers to embed peacebuilding into their daily practice.



### Women's Leadership and Peacebuilding

Through dedicated training programs and seminars, Youthlink supported 29 young women from diverse backgrounds in becoming leaders and peacebuilders in their communities, with many gaining their first formal qualification.



### Western Counties Engagement

Youthlink expanded their peacebuilding mission by creating new spaces for dialogue and relationships in the western counties. The "Kairos: A Time for Reconciliation" project, brought together 31 young people to engage in intergenerational conversations and build connections across traditional divides.



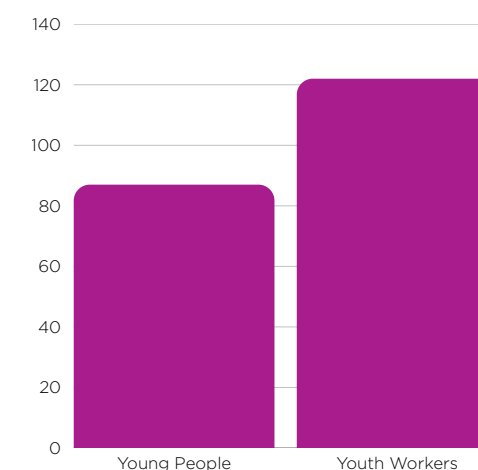
### The Wee Peace Podcast

This podcast served as a vital platform for reflection and dialogue on reconciliation, the legacy of the past, and youth work. It provided a space for young people, practitioners, and community leaders to share their voices and insights with a wider audience.

“Youth Link gave me the chance to meet people I'd never normally connect with. The Beyond the Walls training and attaining the OCNNI Level 2 in Good Relations have shaped how I work with people but also challenged me to see things differently.”

Youth Volunteer (22-years-old), East Belfast

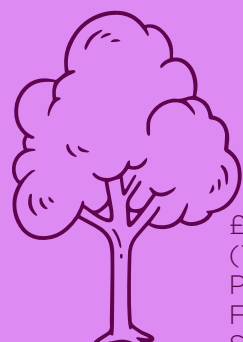
## Qualifications Achieved



The number of qualifications achieved by trained participants on Youthlink programmes.

## Enabling Impact: Core Funding as a Catalyst

CRC Core funding  
£50,000



£196,000+  
(Total Project Funding Secured)

## Lessons Learned



### Challenge

Ensuring that peace and reconciliation work remains relevant for young people in Northern Ireland.



### Lesson

Through the development of the "Beyond Our Walls" toolkit, we learned that to be truly impactful, peacebuilding resources must be co-designed with youth workers.

## Future Plans

Youthlink is planning the following:

- Sector-wide Change: Continuing to advocate for a greater focus on women and youth in peacebuilding policy and practice across Northern Ireland.
- Deepening Reconciliation: Fostering more intergenerational and inter-church dialogues that address the legacy of the past and help build a shared future.

## Learn More



[www.youthlink.org.uk](http://www.youthlink.org.uk)



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# IN CONCLUSION



*The 29 profiles you have just read are not isolated successes. They are powerful, living proof of what happens when communities are trusted and funded to lead. They show organisations on the ground tackling our region's most interconnected challenges through innovation and deep-rooted collaboration.*

This is what exceptional value for money looks like. The "value" is not an abstract metric. It is the youth anti-racism resource you saw developed by Youth Initiatives, the cross-community OCN qualifications delivered by Falls Women's Centre, and the safe space provided by the Community Relations Forum.

It is this stability that partners trust. It allowed these groups to build strategic partnerships – with schools, universities, businesses, and public bodies – and leverage that trust to generate almost £7 million in additional funding. This is not just a number: it is the tangible expansion of peacebuilding made possible by the Core Fund.

But as these stories show, this work is not finished. It is ever evolving. As new divisions emerge, the need for these community anchors grows.

Without the security of the Core Fund, the very stories you have read would be at risk. The trusted relationships, the skilled staff, the safe spaces – all would be undermined.

To meet these needs, we must move beyond sustained support and commit to enhanced support for this vital foundation.

The group snapshots you've seen are not an end point: they are the foundation. With continued and enhanced investment, we can empower thousands more stories just like them. We can build on this proven bedrock of stability to create a society that is truly more united, inclusive, and at peace with itself.

**Martin McDonald MBE**



**£1 =  
£5.76**

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## STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Over the last 20 years the CRC core fund has enabled recipients to establish new strategic partnerships and funding relationships with a wide range of stakeholder to further support their work.

The Executive Office | NI Executive Departments | District Councils | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Reconciliation and Shared Island Funds) | PeacePlus Programme | International Fund for Ireland | Northern Ireland Housing Executive | Housing Associations | Police Service of Northern Ireland | Education Authority | Trade unions | Universities | Businesses