

SMALL GRANTS CASE STUDY



PROGRAMME

CR/CD Small Grants Scheme

ORGANISATION

Guardians of the Flame

PROJECT NAME

Film screening plus Q&A

LOCATION

Portadown & Coleraine

COUNCIL AREA

ABC Borough Council

GRANT AWARD

£5,000

OVERVIEW

Guardians of the Flame is an organisation that exists to transform conflict and prevent violence by promoting values of peace and reconciliation. Their first feature length documentary explores the role that tribal religion has played in fuelling the tragedy of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. The film tells the redemptive stories of three individuals who have suffered and lost greatly during The Troubles. Originally the project was to take screening and Q&A events to new parts of the country where they had not yet been.

The desire was to make the evening a warm inviting space that was nevertheless hard-hitting as the attendees engaged with the content of the film. Due to COVID-19 the events happened online from the 26 to 28 March 2020.

Jonny Clark, the documentary producer, hosted a 60-minute Q&A session after each screening.



T:BUC THEME, AREA OF WORK AND DELIVERY METHOD

1. Key Priority 2: Our Shared Community
2. Challenging Sectarianism/Racism & Shared History
3. Film screening plus Q&A

IMPACT

- Initially anticipated 300 attendees of the in-person screenings and Q&A sessions. This was surpassed with 1,574 online attendees across three events.
- During the Q&A sessions questions came from people all over Northern Ireland, from both sides of the conflict, from people who had been directly affected, and people who were interested in peacebuilding in our country.
- The digital nature of the event meant that a wider range of participants could take part in the discussions, including international guests.
- There was engagement from overseas peace builders working in Nigeria and with Native American communities in North America. Both participants reflected on what they could learn from the Northern Ireland peacebuilding process and apply it to their own contexts.

“

We learned that there is an audience for this kind of event and that it is important that we advertise it well online.

We also saw that there is a common desire around the world to learn from the Irish context.

**Sorcha
Turnbull**
Project
Co-ordinator

”