



Dr Johnston Price

The Community Relations Council is saddened to hear of the death of Dr Johnston Price. Johnston was a quiet, thoughtful and committed man who in his everyday life displayed all the values that he sought to promote and develop in his work, often with a wry sense of humour. Johnston's commitment to peace building and good community relationships kept him in contact with the Community Relations Council over many decades; firstly during his years with the Ulster People's College and in more recent times as a result of his work with Forthspring in the *Five Decades* project, an oral history project engaging groups and individuals in community organisations across the region about the experience of living through the recent conflict. He had published two books 'A Parable of Possibilities', a history of Forthspring Intercommunity Group and 'Talking about the Troubles', a collection of stories about the conflict in and about N. Ireland. Earlier in his working life Johnston was Director of the Ulster People's College having previously also served as Head of Education, Training and Development with the College. He also taught with the WEA, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and Newtownabbey Further Education College.

He was someone who recognised the value of continuous, reflective evaluation of peace-building processes but he never lost sight of the need for practical action. He was fully engaged in interventions that helped people in their everyday lives. This will be a valued legacy of his work. Johnston will be sadly missed by those of us who had the opportunity to know and work with him. The Board and staff of the Community Relations Council would like to extend deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Jacqueline Irwin

CEO

Conflict, Polarisation and Partition – Can we build a new future from a difficult past?

Deirdre MacBride, Community Relations Council

Can build a new future from a difficult past? That was the question posed on Tuesday 21st November, 2017 at an important event in Belfast that reflected on some of the most significant events in the history of the island of Ireland.

Organised by the Community Relations Council (CRC) and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the conference - entitled *Conflict, Polarisation and Partition - Can we build a new future from a difficult past?* - heard from speakers including prominent historians Dr Eamon Phoenix and Dr Marie Coleman.

Happening one hundred years since the 1917 Irish Convention, the Creative Centenaries Conference at Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic Quarter campus explored a critical time in Ireland's history with the ensuing spread of sectarian violence and the partition of the island.

It explored and showcased best practice in dealing with controversial and sensitive issues in a series of seminars featuring case studies of projects that have successfully done so.

CRC Chairman, Peter Osborne, said: "The years 1917 -23 were part of our shared past that epitomised division and violence. We can't make our shared, conflicted past better but we can learn from it to make our shared future one that our children and grandchildren will thank us for".

Paul Mullan, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland, said: "The next number of years will present a number of commemorative challenges. We hope that this [David Holloway, Community Dialogue](#) conference will help to navigate that space and give communities confidence to remember thoughtfully."

Dr Eamon Phoenix, an eminent historian and lecturer at Stranmillis University College, talked through the political developments as well as the increasing polarisation on the island of Ireland from 1917, including sectarian violence proliferation, and the emergence of Ireland and Northern Ireland's Parliaments, including King George's speech on the opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament given during his 1921 Belfast City Hall address.

Dr Marie Coleman, Senior Lecturer in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast, talked about the end of World War One and how political turmoil persisted in Europe and Ireland after the war.

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The event comprised a further three sessions, each with opportunity for wider group discussion.

The first seminar on 'The Power of Objects' was chaired by Stella Byrne, Heritage Lottery Fund, and featured Robert Heslip, Belfast City Council Heritage Officer, as speaker.

The second session, chaired by Niall Kerr from the Nerve Centre, focused on skills development and featured Collette Brownlee of the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum as the speaker.

The third seminar, chaired by Sophie Long of Living Legacies, focused on dealing with controversial issues and the sensitivities of the decade, and included a presentation by Dr Kristian Brown, Lecturer in Politics at Ulster University.

There were also a number of publications launched at the conference. These were:

Decade of Anniversaries Toolkit Update 2017 with 25 new case studies

Review of the Marking Centenaries period and future challenges covering grassroots activity, Council and Council Museum programmes and educational and creative approaches. This report also sets out themes that may be useful for looking at the challenges ahead.

Results of the electronic survey are summarised in **Highlights of a Review of the Decade of Centenaries**.

These can be downloaded from <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/decade-centenaries>

Paper copies are available from the Community Relations Council.

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20 YEARS OF DIALOGUE IN CONFLICT: DIALOGUE, POWER SHARING AND BREXIT

Community Dialogue 20th Anniversary Conference

David Holloway, Community Dialogue

Introduction

Community Dialogue hosted a conference on the efficacy of dialogue as part of the celebrations for its 20th Anniversary. Three experienced peacebuilding practitioners provided inputs followed by small group dialogues with 47 participants drawn from 28 peacebuilding and other bodies from across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Speaker Inputs

Our speakers were peacebuilding practitioners with decades of experience: Community Dialogue's Director David Holloway, former Director and independent practitioner Anne Beattie and former Director, now Director of Dialogue for Diversity, Brian Lennon. They offered personal reflections on the efficacy of dialogue in response to conflict and intolerance in Northern Ireland and presented their views on the current state of peacebuilding and the peace process with reference to the collapse of power sharing in Northern Ireland and the implications of Brexit for our peace process.



Brian offered numerous personal anecdotes that illustrated the capacity of dialogue to shift opponents from being stuck in fixed positions to understanding each other's positions more deeply. He noted how 20 years on from the foundation of Community Dialogue we remain in a situation where dialogue between our divided peoples remains essential.



Anne offered emotionally impacting reflections on the personal cost of our conflict in the lives of so many and the remarkable ways that dialogue can be used to promote truth, reconciliation and healing in our still divided community. She called, in particular, for more engagement by women and the necessity that the voice of women be heard.

David outlined how dialogue works to build empathy and shared understanding. He detailed obstacles that peacebuilding organizations currently struggle with and the challenges to peace caused by the collapse of power sharing in Northern Ireland and the impacts of Brexit on North-South relationships and relationships between the governments of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. He asked participants to join the Galvanizing the Peace coalition's efforts to build a unified voice for our sector.

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All three speakers noted that our peace process is under significant threat and called for reinvigorated dialogue engagement across Northern Ireland on the critical obstacles and challenges we are currently facing in our on-going struggle to achieve a lasting, prosperous and inclusive peace.



The speakers were followed by facilitated dialogue.

The event was filmed throughout by Northern Visions and includes in depth interviews with Community Dialogue Director David Holloway and long term colleagues Anne Beattie and Brian Lennon.

A full report is available for download from www.communitydialogue.org and we urge you to read it for more detail on the thinking of many experienced sector practitioners on where we are at in relation to the peace process and what we need to do about the growing crisis.

Community Dialogue acknowledges with appreciation those who attended for their insightful contributions to our dialogues on the collapse of power sharing in Northern Ireland and the impact of Brexit on our peace process.

Community Dialogue thanks NICRC, DFA, Big Lottery and CFNI for support that enabled this event to take place. We also thank Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts for hosting the event, Café Krem for providing dinner and the pupils of St Dominic's School for beautiful musical accompaniment.



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Funding

Community Relations and Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme

The small grants scheme is open and the deadline has been extended to **5 January 2018**.
For application form and guidance notes:
<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/community-relations-cultural-diversity>

EVENTS

MASTERCLASS:

MEMORY, PLACE and NARRATIVE IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES

6 DECEMBER 2017, 2-5 PM

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, LECTURE ROOM G16, LOYOLA INSTITUTE BUILDING

In 1882 Ernst Renan argued that the forging of a new nation required the selective forgetting of discordant aspects of the past. Renan's belief has become almost axiomatic in transitional justice; Divisive pasts risk a return to violence or societies forever trapped in cycles of hatred and atavism. To avoid further violence, narratives of post-conflict societies are transformed, managed and reshaped, and shared stories and spaces of hospitality, healing, and reconciliation are promoted. Those who are unable or unwilling to 'move on' are often presented as either 'out-of-step' with the new post-conflict political and social reality, or as relics of a violent age that no longer exists.

Increasingly, this paradigm is being challenged by activists, artists and scholars in countries as diverse as Argentina, South Africa, Northern Ireland, and the United States. When groups mark and inscribe places of past and ongoing violence, and seek justice in spite of official or de facto amnesties, these powerful political statements question state claims to equality and justice. Such transgressive and disruptive memory practices, moreover, contest convenient narratives the past is 'settled' in post-conflict spaces.

The purpose of this masterclass is to explore theories and practices of memory, place and narrative that exist at the intersections between memory studies, human geography, and transitional justice. Using specific case studies from a range of countries, as well as discussion groups and workshops, we hope to introduce participants to spatial and creative approaches that takes seriously the divergent and pluralistic ways in which people *know* the past, and how these varied ways of knowing in turn shape the possibilities and limitations of post-conflict futures. We seek to collaboratively explore with participants how these insights and intersections can inform their own area of study or the post-conflict spaces and places which have directly affected them.

Speakers and Workshop Leaders include:

Dr Yaser Alashqar, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin
Eamon Rafter, Learning Coordinator, Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Joe Robinson, Researcher, Glenree, Research Fellow, Irish Research Council, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Geography, Maynooth University
Professor Karen Till, Department of Geography, Maynooth University

This masterclass is free and open to the public, but advanced booking is necessary. To register, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/masterclass-memory-place-and-narrative-in-post-conflict-societies-tickets-40839685599>

Hosted by the Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and the Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD

Generously funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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EVENTS

Derry and Strabane District Council

Burn's Night

Wednesday 25th January is Burn's Night, a famous night in Scottish and Ulster Scots Culture. To mark the occasion Derry City and Strabane District Council's Community Relations team are offering a free lunchtime event on Tuesday 23rd January 2018.

Date - Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Time - 11am - Lunch

Venue - Eglinton Hall, 40 Main Street

Cost - Free (includes 'Neeps, Tatties and Haggis' lunch)

Programme

An entertaining showcase of Burns and Ulster Scots culture through food, dance, music and of course, Burns poetry. Watch out for the haggis in case it tries to escape. Wear tartan if you wish (not compulsory). Programme kindly put together by James Kee.

Bookings will open on Monday 8th January 2018 and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. You can book by phone, email or post using the contact details below. If the event is oversubscribed a limit of 4 members per community group may have to be imposed. Spaces are prioritised to those living or working in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area on a first come first served basis.

To book, please complete and return the attached registration form and return it to:

Pauline.oneill@derrystrabane.com Tel: 02871253253 ext. 8220

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Ards and North Down Good relations department will be holding a 2 week Holocaust exhibition at the Curve in Bangor Library displaying work from community groups and schools on the theme 'The Power of Words'. Launches on 23rd January 2018 (open to public, library hours).

Holocaust Memorial Event

26 January 2018 Bangor Town Hall 7pm. Registration required.

'Judgement at Nuremburg'

Play at Millisle Presbyterian church on 30 January 2018 7pm, based on the Nuremburg trials in 1947. Registration advised.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

Showcase your work with Northern Visions (NVTV)

Groups working on community relations projects are very welcome to contact Northern Visions to discuss showcasing their work. Northern Visions are especially interested in setting up discussions with groups or individuals around community relations themes.

NVTV is broadcast on Freeview 7 & Virgin 159 and available to download via www.nvtv.co.uk.

For more information, email feedback@nvtv.co.uk.

Launch of Amplify Sessions



Amplify NI is launching **Amplify Sessions** this December!

Amplify Sessions is a series of workshops that will help people come together to understand how people in their communities experience inequalities, tell the stories of their communities that often get overlooked, and use these insights to work in collaboration with communities to create solutions.

Session One will introduce you to the Amplify NI programme, the motivation for community-led change, and get you excited about signing up to our Sessions that will run from January 2018!

Hear from community change-makers. Connect with stories and narratives. Workshop ideas for transformation.

Monday 4 December, 11.00 – 13.00 incl. lunch

The Playhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, 5-7 Artillery Street, Derry-Londonderry, BT48 6RG

RSVP for catering purposes: Becca.bor@youngfoundation.org

Tuesday 5 December, 13.00-15.00 incl. lunch

Ormeau Baths, 18 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HS

RSVP for catering purposes: Rebecca.watterson@youngfoundation.org

Wednesday 6 December, 11.00-13.00 incl. lunch

Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place, Enniskillen, BT74 7HR

RSVP for catering purposes: jim.ledwith@youngfoundation.org

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

VACANCIES

Screenwriter, Filmmaker and Film Director

The Playhouse, Derry-Londonderry is seeking a Screenwriter, Filmmaker and Film Director to create a short educational film.

The aim of the film, which is funded by the PCSP and the Youth Justice Agency, is to warn young people aged 14 - 18 years about Cybercrime. The Playhouse will produce an emotionally powerful short film (approx. 6 - 10 minutes) which will demonstrate the consequences of this Cybercrime from the point of a view of the victims, the perpetrators and families of those involved in these offences, while also focussing on means of preventing such offences in the future. The short-film will be used as an educational resource by artist facilitators, teachers, youth workers, police officers, and YJA officers to educate young people about the hazards of cybercrime including sexting, and internet safety. Produced by The Playhouse, the film will be written, filmed and completed by 28th February 2018.

Timescale

11th December - Team selected
 7th January 2018 - Screenplay completed
 29th January 2018 - Filming completed
 20th February 2018 - Editing completed
 28th February 2018 - Film launch

The total available budget is: £12,347 to cover all associated costs, including screenwriters' fee, actor's fees, prop and costumes, filming and production costs.

The Playhouse is seeking;

A Screenwriter who has the proven ability to write hard-hitting, meaningful films which dramatize the reality of social / political issues. To be considered for this position, please submit a cover letter outlining your availability and your fee, plus a CV, a recent script and a short synopsis of your concept for the Cybercrime film.

A Filmmaker who has the proven ability to create short emotive films which visualise the complexity of the world we live in and the issues being dealt with. This person will organise camera, sound, lighting and editing of the project. To be considered for this position, please submit a cover letter outlining your availability and your fee, plus a CV and links to two appropriate films.

A Director who has the proven ability and experience to direct short films which have a social meaning. To be considered for this position, please submit a cover letter outlining your availability and your fee, plus a CV and links to 2 appropriate films you have directed.

Please email Elaine Forde if you wish to discuss this project. Send applications to elaine@derryplayhouse.co.uk. The closing date is 12 noon on 11th December 2017.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
 agus Trádála
 Department of Foreign Affairs
 and Trade

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TENDERS

Playhouse (Theatre Facilitators)

Tender Fee: €25,500 Approx.

The Playhouse is seeking tenders from Theatre Facilitators for its Theatre Peace Building Project funded by EU Peace 4 that will work in partnership with Holywell Trust, Thomas D'Arcy Foundation and Queens University. The project will use Theatre as a tool to explore truth recovery, peace building & community relations issues in a safe, accessible environment. The project will target those people and communities most affected by the conflict, including representatives from interface & segregated areas, historical atrocities and victims & survivors who were significantly involved/impacted upon.

Tender Specification is available to download [here](#), or from info@derryplayhouse.co.uk. To apply please send your CV and Tender Specification response (see Selection Criteria and Weighting) to:

CEO, The Playhouse, Artillery Street, Derry/ Londonderry, BT48 6RG Tel - (028) 71 268027

Or email: info@derryplayhouse.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications - Monday 4th December 2017, 12noon

The Playhouse is an Equal Opportunities Employer. A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

RESEARCH

Katie Jones, a third-year Geography student at the University of Liverpool is currently conducting research on whether attitudes towards segregation have changes, and if so, how?

If you would like to take part in this piece of research, please follow the below link which will take you to an online questionnaire.

All respondents will remain anonymous.

To access the questionnaire, follow this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GuB400_tI9_rTxmbGtjHALVe8l_O5S9KYZqVEew5Bts/viewform?edit_requested=true

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*Season's Greetings from all
at CRC*

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