



Women's Peace Process Activist Honoured with Major Award



A woman who first found herself involved in the conflict at just 16 years of age, but quickly realised her promise as a future peace-builder, has been recognised with a major award for her decades of community relations work.

The award recognises exceptional achievement of an individual in promoting

community relations, intercultural work or peace-building in Northern Ireland and is intended to highlight the ongoing, courageous work of this nature.

Eileen had only turned 16 when she briefly joined the UDA, a period she recounts in INCORE's 'Accounts of the Conflict'. However, it was a short time after that she withdrew her associations with the loyalist paramilitary group and pursued full-time employment in women's equality and fair employment matters.

For a short while after being made redundant in the late 1990s, Eileen facilitated black taxi tours of the Shankill area for tourists and international visitors.

It was during this time that she first volunteered with Shankill Women's Centre, a decision that would lead to years of dedication to women in the area, bringing them together to explore differing beliefs and identities while ensuring that their largely underrepresented voices in relation to the Good Friday Agreement – or Belfast Agreement – and the Northern Ireland peace process were heard loud and clear.

Coordinator of the Greater North Belfast Women's Network and closely involved in cross-border programmes with Glenree Centre for Peace, Eileen also worked with early release prisoners under the Good Friday Agreement to develop and deliver programmes to support the former prisoners, many of which had been incarcerated for over a decade, to integrate back into society, secure employment and adapt to family life.



Upon receiving her award, Eileen remarked, “I’m incredibly humbled.”

“As an outreach worker based at the Shankill Women’s Centre, I’ve dedicated my career to community relations in north and west Belfast and to similar work throughout greater Belfast. Over the years I’ve seen many ups and downs, but I work every day on the ground on with all our local communities. We’re beyond the traditional divide of Catholic and Protestant and our communities encompass so much more diversity.

“Every day more residents and volunteers are stepping up to the mark to promote good relations. It’s encouraging for the future of Northern Ireland and for the profound positive impact it has on our local community. I’m extremely proud to have played my part in nurturing such an environment and I’m honoured to receive this award from the Community Relations Council.”

Peter Osborne, Chair of the Community Relations Council, said:

“Eileen’s journey, her courage and remarkable achievements deserve this recognition from the Community Relations Council. She is living proof of how peace is built from the grassroots. Central to her work in recent decades has been giving voice to the voiceless and excluded, challenging gatekeepers and making sure all who can contribute positively are given the opportunity.

“For almost three decades, Eileen has been at the fore of crucial cross-community work in the Shankill area, work that has had a profound impact on its community.

“The narrative during the conflict in Northern Ireland was a largely male one – the narrative of peace building must include everyone. Eileen is a powerful advocate for an inclusive, empowering approach.”

The award was presented at the David Stevens Memorial Lecture where Dr Johnston McMaster delivered a lecture on the topic of “Public Theology: A New Model for Public Engagement”.

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T:BUC Engagement Forum

Gemma Attwood, Policy Officer CRC



A T:BUC Youth Engagement Forum was held on 13th March, Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

The forum was designed to engage with children and young people on the T:BUC Strategy and its related priorities, and a project team, made up of young people (supported by the Education Authority), organised and facilitated the event. The format of the day comprised of icebreakers, a media presentation and interactive activities. The project team also devised and delivered a range of

workshops, which looked at the following themes - sectarianism, equality of opportunity and disadvantage, respect for cultural background, shared space, the role of social media bringing people together or keeping them apart, and finally the impact of cross community work and shared education.

Over 200 young people, representing schools and youth organisations, attended the day. The project team did a wonderful job and deserve a big congratulations for their commitment to the planning and delivery of the day. Well done to everyone involved! A full report will be available over coming months.

Challenge NI

Thomas Copeland, ChallengeNI

On Wednesday 21st March 2018, Challenges NI launched its latest project – '20 Years 20 Days'. The premise is simple: 20 articles from 20 writers in the 20 days leading up to the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement! So what is unique? What sets Challenges NI, a platform for youth engagement, apart from every other media outlet with a frenzied focus on this historic anniversary? Well, to answer that, I need to tell you a little bit more about Challenges NI.

In 2015, the voter turnout rate in that year's General Election was lower than ever before, particularly amongst younger voters. Young people could see no opportunities to engage directly with their elected representatives and the political elite, leaving them feeling ostracised from the political process.

It was against this backdrop that a close friend, Jack O-Dwyer-Henry, and I felt motivated to look for some means of change. It was with change in mind that we co-founded Challenges NI in 2015, when we were 16 years old. We wanted to create a means to empower and inspire young people to engage in Northern Irish society.

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Challenges NI has hosted live events since 2015, giving young people and local communities the chance to question those in power. The most exciting development in the Challenges NI project came in 2017, when we launched our online platform, challengesni.com. Jack and I encourage young people from across Northern Ireland, the UK and Ireland to contribute articles to the website, irrespective of their experience, education or socio-economic backgrounds. This gives young people the opportunity to display their engagement in the political process, their creativity in devising new solutions and is a medium to voice their unique perspectives on the obstacles we face. We publish articles about every topic under the sun, from Brexit to body confidence, education to equality, health to homelessness and everything in-between! Challenges NI is promoting the opinions of young people in order to prove to our politicians in Northern Ireland that listening to our young people is important in finding solutions to our problems and imperative in moving forward as a united, not a divided society.

Our '20 Years 20 Days' project has been created in this very spirit. We have brought together 20 diverse writers, each with different backgrounds and political hues, different priorities and challenges as well as different aspirations for the future of Northern Ireland. For 20 days they are all contributing under one united banner, each writing about a different way in which the Good Friday Agreement has affected their lives and shaped their unique vision for years to come. We believe that it is only by exposing every young person to the full breadth of political opinion in this way that we can break the cycle of inherited sectarianism in Northern Ireland. There is no better time than now to reflect upon where we have come from, and what sort of country our young people are aspiring to build.

If you would like to publish an article on our platform or find out more, follow Challenges NI on twitter (@ChallengesNI) and Facebook, or via our website (challengesni.com).

20 years since the Good Friday Agreement – It's time the value of women's peace building work is recognized

Kellie Turtle, SluggerOToole Soapbox on March 15, 2018

In the latest part of our sHERed Future series, Kellie Turtle (Feminist Activist and WRDA's Women's Sector Lobbyist) writes about the role of women in peace building in Northern Ireland – published on sluggerotoole.com on the 13th March to read the article [click here](#).

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Research

Promoting Positive Change

Patricia O'Neill, CRC

Promoting Positive Change was launched at the Houben Centre on Thursday (22 March), the launch was attended by community workers, residents and politicians. The report is based on interviews with 48 residents of North Belfast, commissioned by TASCIT (Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill Communities in Transition). The report documents the changes in experience and attitudes of people living in what has been called “a most notorious interface” area, recorded through workshops and interviews. To download the report [click here](#).

Peace Walls Community Survey by School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast

A Gilreath, QUB

We are interested in understanding more fully the effects that the removal of the peace walls may have on the residents of Belfast. We are distributing an online survey for people to give us feedback about what the removal of the peace walls will mean to them and their community. We want to make sure we get a range of ideas and opinions, so we are reaching out to a wide range of communities and organisations and asking if we may share the online survey with the community and organisation members.

The only survey takes around 20 minutes to complete. As a thank you, each participant who completes the survey will be emailed a £5.00 Tesco e-Gift voucher that they can use online and in-store. Please use the survey link: https://acsurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5org1KAdw74pCIZ

Feel free to contact if you have any questions, email: agilreath01@qub.ac.uk

New research on Sectarianism on Social Media in Scotland

Research carried out by YouthLink Scotland in partnership with ScotCen Social Research

New research on Sectarianism on Social Media in Scotland shows more work needs to be done. This report presents findings from the 2017 Sectarianism on Social Media survey on the use of sectarian language on social media. Social media is a space where sectarianism is often seen but not necessarily monitored or reported. This research fills this gap and is the first survey to explore in detail people's perceptions on sectarianism online and especially on social media. To download pdf [click here](#).

Rooms for hire at Holywell

Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership would love for you to come and visit to see their beautiful new building offering a welcoming, safe space to meet right in the city centre, in the heart of Derry/Londonderry.

They have a multi-function room with a capacity of 112 theatre style, 2 training rooms, 2 board rooms, counselling/quiet resource library cafe bar area and a roof garden. They also offer desk space and cityDESKing (hot desk facility). Contact Una MacFarland on 02871261941 to discuss your requirements.

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Events

Integrated Education Fund (IEF)

IEF's coffee and conversation about integrated education, these are drop in sessions but for catering purposes please let us know which one you'll attend by emailing jessica@ief.org.uk.

Hollywood Arches Library

Wed 11 April 10.00 - 11.30

Tues 17 April 18.00 - 19.30

Sat 21 April 10.00 - 12.00

Wandsworth Community Centre

Thurs 19 April 10.00 - 12.00

Woodstock Library

Sat 14 April 10.00 - 12.00

Mon 16 April 10.00 – 12.00

Good governance and charity reporting seminars

The Developing Governance Group in association with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and local support networks would like to invite you to a free seminar focusing on the annual reporting requirements. The sessions will also look at the Charity Commission's new guidance on fundraising and data protection.

[Belfast - 11 April 2018 - 2:30pm to 4:30pm](#)

[Newry and District - 10 May 2018 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm](#)

BBC Children in Need Funding Information Session - Kilkeel

Date & Time: 10 April 2018, 10.30am

Venue: Nautilus Centre, Rooney Road, Kilkeel, BT34 4AG

This year because of the generosity of everyone who donates to BBC Children in Need, over £3.5 million will be spent on projects working with disadvantaged children and young people here in Northern Ireland.

BBC Children in Need are hosting a funding information session in Kilkeel to explain our current funding opportunities and to give you a chance to talk specifically about your project to one of our staff.

Getting ready for GDPR

NICVA

This half day workshop will help you assess and plan what you still need to do to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It will help you plan your approach to GDPR compliance and take action to ensure you meet the new regulations.

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[18 April 2018 - 10:00am to 1:00pm - NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB](#)

[9 May 2018 - 10:00am to 1:00pm - NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB](#)

Stronger Together Conference

Date: Wednesday 2nd May 2018

Location: InVOLve House, Magherafelt

The conference theme for 2018 is 'Human Solidarity. How Can We Be Stronger Together?'

We would like to explore the concept of solidarity in the modern day and discuss how to foster solidarity and togetherness in the age of the individual (ego).

Solidarity is often associated with commonality and shared interests, but it is also vital to deal with the difference in experience and paths that bring individual people or groups to those commonalities. Therefore, concentrating on the idea that all humans are 'equal under the skin' cannot be done without acknowledging and addressing that all too often people cannot get past 'the skin' in the first place and thus those who are not white experience anything but solidarity most of their lives.

The event will be run as a mixture of talks, conversation cafés and plenary feedback sessions looking at the concept of solidarity from various angles and exploring how solidarity can be fostered on a practical level through everyday acts of kindness, activism, art or in education. Who is this conference for?

The conference is aimed at:

- Minority Ethnic group representatives and individuals
- The current 200+ members of the Stronger Together Network
- People working/volunteering with Black and Minority Ethnic communities across NI
- People with an interest in diversity, human rights and anti-racism
- Health and Social Care Trust employees
- Staff representing government and statutory bodies

To download information and registration [click here](#) (word document).

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The Good Friday Agreement at 20: Seminar Series

This Seminar Series is being jointly organised by the Human Rights Consortium, CAJ, UNISON, Queens University Belfast and the Ulster University Transitional Justice Institute.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. As we reach this milestone, we believe that it is time to not only celebrate the achievement of the Agreement and the role that civic society played, but to reflect on its implementation and consider how its outstanding provisions regarding rights and equality can be delivered.

We are hosting a series of seminars, beginning on the date that the Agreement was reached, to consider the opportunities and challenges civic society faces in realising the rights-based society envisaged within the Agreement. We want to discuss how we can construct a new campaign in solidarity with each other in order to deliver this goal. We are asking for your input and participation in these seminars, which we hope will lead to a renewed, collective effort to implement the rights-based society promised within the Agreement.

On 10th April we intend to reflect on the provisions of the Agreement relating to human rights and equality, discuss the challenges facing their implementation, and outline the programme of seminars that will follow through the rest of 2018.

Immediately following the introductory seminar on the 10th April we would also invite you to join us at Stormont for a photo opportunity to mark the 20th anniversary of the Agreement and call for the implementation of a genuine human rights and equality framework and on that basis a return to devolved government.

The first Seminar, "Series Intro – The Promise of the GFA" will take place on 10th April from 09:00-11:00 at the Stormont Hotel.

To book [click here](#) (external link)

DARE to Lead Change Project launches to build positive relations (DARE)

A new project, DARE to Lead Change (Dialogues about Race and Ethnicity) was launched on Tuesday 13th March at IFA Headquarters, Windsor Park, Belfast. This project is led by Bryson Intercultural, in partnership with TIDES Training and Consultancy. It is funded by the EU's PEACE IV programme, managed by SEUPB.

The aim of DARE is to build, improve and sustain positive relationships with local people and their neighbours from different cultures and countries.

The project offers local people in communities, schools and the workplace an opportunity to participate in dialogues about race and ethnicity. Interested people are encouraged to get involved and avail of free training on Good Relations and Understanding Diversity.

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.

Jo Marley, Director of Bryson Intercultural said: "Bryson is delighted to launch Dialogues about Race and Ethnicity (DARE). Our ambition is to promote peace and reconciliation by engaging different cultural, ethnic and religious communities in a sustained and meaningful dialogue that will change our shared knowledge and perceptions of each other.

We will use training and mentoring to equip local people and Black and Minority Ethnic individuals to become Cultural and Community Champions. They will work alongside each other and DARE to lead different intercommunity conversations on a large, medium and small scale.

Over the life of the project we aim to engage with over 2,000 people across Northern Ireland and the border counties."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said: "This project will help address many of the negative attitudes that exist in relation to race and ethnicity. It will challenge stereotypes, break down barriers and bring people together. Reflecting the core aims of the EU's PEACE IV Programme it has been designed to encourage meaningful contact between people from different communities."

Salwa, originally from Yemen, has made her home here and recently completed the DARE to Lead Change training to become a Cultural and Community Champion: "I like the will of the people in Northern Ireland... they are working to build their society and I feel that I have this opportunity to share in building the society that I have chosen to live in. This is the place I can prove myself and reach my goals. Working well with the community will empower me more.... For me, I like to be part of this wonderful active team, because I believe in their vision and challenges. That is why I like to be involved."

Match funding for the project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Community and Rural Development in Ireland.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the DARE to Lead Change project or wishes to access the free training can contact Ross Fletcher, Bryson Intercultural, Tel: 028 90325 5835 or rfletcher@brysonintercultural.org www.brysonintercultural.org/dare

DARE Diversity Programme

The Dare to Lead Change Project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

To complement CAP's PICAS programme we are hosting a short Diversity programme called DARE to Lead Change. CAP is reaching out to artist/facilitators, youth workers and arts managers to participate on the programme.

DARE is a new and exciting project lead by Bryson Intercultural in partnership with TIDES Training and Consultancy. It seeks to inform and change what citizens know and think about the mix of society in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties, by introducing multifaceted conversations about cultural, racial and ethnic interdependence. The programme is funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and is therefore FREE for participants.

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So what's on offer?

Stepping into Diversity

A 3-hour introductory workshop

Date and time: 18th April, 10.30am -1.30pm.

Venue: The ARC (Arts Resource Centre), & Donegall Street Place, Belfast, BT1 2FN

Good Relations & Civic Leadership, OCN Level 2

Dates and time: 25th April & 2nd May, 9.30am – 5.30pm

Venue: The ARC (Arts Resource Centre), & Donegall Street Place, Belfast, BT1 2FN

A second OCN Level 2 course

The actual course will be decided by participants but the general themes on offer include Understanding Diversity within Society, Developing Leadership Skills, Improving Team Building Skills, etc.

Dates and time: 9th May & 16th May, 9.30am-5.30pm

Venue: The ARC (Arts Resource Centre), & Donegall Street Place, Belfast, BT1 2FN

The sessions are interactive, discussion based and engaging.

Interested? Contact Gabri on gabri@capartscentre.com or tel: (0)28 90923493 as soon as possible.

2018 Armagh Peace Building Summer School

July 8th - 17th based at Charlemount Arms Hotel

The program for the 2018 Peace Building Summer School is being finalised

The School will examine:

- Tough Issues in the conflict how they have been resolved or not;
- Parades from Loyal Order, marching band and residents' perspectives, accommodations and current position in Armagh;
- Impact of the conflict Armagh City and south Armagh with guided tours;
- Visit to Derry/Londonderry Museum of free Derry, parades and how they have been managed in the City;
- Life in Northern Ireland from the perspectives of: LBGT, asylum seekers, ethnic communities tour of peace walls in Belfast.

Participation by people from Ireland and those from abroad through UMASS Boston giving opportunity for learning and interaction of local and international perspectives.

Those from UMASS can undertake accredited learning as part of UMASS teaching. Those from Ireland can undertake accredited learning through Open College Network course on Peace Building specifically designed for the school.

For further information go to web site [Armagh Summer School](#). The Summer School is being led by [Diversity Challenges](#) and [University of Massachusetts Boston](#) Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance and a partnership of [REACT](#), [West Armagh Consortium](#) and [Rural Community Network](#).

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Funding

Community Relations and Cultural Diversity grant scheme is now open

Aim of the CR/CD scheme

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, has established a fund to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.

Objectives of the CR/CD Scheme

This grant scheme seeks to achieve the objectives listed below by providing advice and financial support for projects.

1. To develop opportunities for groups to explore their own cultures, beliefs and traditions, thus increasing their capacity to develop relationships of trust with those of different traditions and values.
2. To develop opportunities for groups to extend their knowledge and understanding of others' cultures, beliefs, traditions; increasing their acceptance of and respect for diversity.
3. To enable groups to challenge stereotypes in order to acknowledge and address difference.
4. To increase the ability and confidence of groups and organisations to identify and address those issues that divide them.
5. To develop networks of communication, trust and co-operation between divided communities.
6. To promote models of good practice for community relations work in Northern Ireland.

To access Guidelines and Application Form, please to [CR/CD Grant Page](#).

The Screwfix Foundation

The Foundation is a registered charity set up in 2013 with a clear purpose of raising funds to support projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need throughout the UK. They fund throughout the year to support causes that will change people's lives. Screwfix Foundation work with both national and local charities, donating much needed funds to help all sorts of projects, from repairing buildings and improving facilities in deprived areas, to decorating the homes of people living with sickness and disabilities.

The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations **funding of up to £5,000**. All applications are reviewed individually by the team on a quarterly basis, the review dates are in February, May, August and November. All successful applications will be contacted by post, email or phone to arrange the next step. Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted within one month of the review meeting. If on the first instance an application is unsuccessful, future applications are welcome.

To apply visit <https://screwfix.wufoo.com/forms/s3clvj6117pusn/>

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Community Foundation Micro Grant Programme

The Micro Grant Programme has been established in recognition and celebration of the contribution of voluntary groups and people to our society and the need for a simple application process for small amounts of funding. Up to £1,000 is available to low capacity groups who have limited access to funding. Groups do not need a constitution to apply.

If you're thinking about a project that does one or more of the following CFNI could help:

- Reduce isolation and vulnerability
- Focus on the positive contribution of people within the community
- Enable active participation of a community in decision-making and addressing of local issues
- Help get people engaged in taking community action where it hasn't happened before

Examples of the types of activities that may be supported:

- Basic training support materials (books for example)
- Interview training
- Mentoring
- Travel costs to access relevant training (public transport for up to six months)
- Childcare during employability training (up to six months)
- Access course

It is recommended that you read the Grant FAQs before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927 or visit www.communityfoundation.org.

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