



**COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
COUNCIL**

Equity | Diversity | Interdependence

## **E News**

**Issue 24 - January 2019**

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## **Happy New Year!**

Hello and welcome to the refreshed E-news from Community Relations Council (CRC)! The E-news will arrive in your inbox every quarter, with each edition showcasing the work that we do in CRC and also highlighting the work of the groups that we fund.

No doubt you will have noticed that we have refreshed our logo. The staff and Board at CRC are delighted to have kept the weave design which has served the organisation well for many years. The evolution of the weave into its current form is reflective of the continued importance the CRC places on Equity, Diversity and Interdependence as we support activity to build good community relations across the region.

CRC want to help and support your organisation in community relations work. So, if you have an idea or project you think might help us build united communities together, then please get in touch to discuss opportunities for grant funding or showcasing your work. Remember we have a number of funding schemes in operation and please check our website to see which

schemes are open.

[Click here for CRC website](#)

### **T:BUC Engagement Forum**

12th February 2019

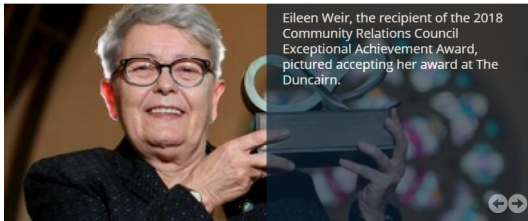
Killyhevlin Hotel

Enniskillen

9.30am - 1pm



[Register for the T:BUC Engagement Forum](#)



### **CRC Exceptional Achievement Awards**

Nominations are open for the 2019  
CRC Exceptional Achievement  
Awards

[Nomination Form for CRC Awards](#)

## **CRC FUNDING**

### **CRC Core Funded Groups**

The Core Scheme provides support for organisations considered of strategic importance in promoting community relations work across Northern Ireland. The scheme contributes towards salary and organisational running costs. This scheme is currently closed for new applications but will reopen again in 2019. Here are some news updates from groups that receive funding from the scheme.

**Youthlink  
Pursuing the Common Good**

Youthlink is a partnership of the four larger Churches working together to develop excellence in youth work and ministry, enabling young people and youth practitioners to be agents of transformation in a divided society. CRC Core Funding supports the development of new curriculum materials in relation to 4 thematic areas: Ethical and Shared Remembering; Mediation and Conflict Transformation; Civil Responsibility and Pursuing the Common Good.

As Northern Ireland continues to deal with the legacy of the Troubles, and in the interests of building a shared and peaceful future in which all the members of the society can flourish, there is a need to revisit what it means to pursue the common good.

[Read](#)

Youthlink facilitated two events on 'Pursuing the Common Good' for Good Relations Week 2018. The first, at the Duncairn Centre was a partnership event between Core Funded Groups Community Dialogue, Forthspring Inter Community Group and Youth Link. This event brought together a range of community leaders and practitioners. The second, for youth workers was held at Youth Link in Farset Enterprise Park.

[Read more](#)

Below are comments from some the 198 participants that Cathy has had on the programmes.

*"I have been very fortunate to have been able to sit in on some resources being trialled on the Common Good by Cathy Bollaert and the team at Youth Link. The lesson yesterday was based on the Division, Prejudice and Discrimination themes, looking at how they lead to conflict in society... In short, the resources are cool! They are extremely usable and perfect for what we are doing with the Year 10's. I am hopeful that we can avail of Cathy's expertise in our run through in May. In light of the recent Inspection (mis)reporting of the fact that a lot of Shared Education folks do not interact with controversial issues, these resources are an excellent rebuff to such criticisms and are an excellent tool and lead into dealing with controversial themes."*

*"It is not a topic that is ever discussed in youth work circles but connects so closely to youth work values, therefore an important discussion".*

*"The workshop helped me to understand what the common good can look like in the reality of everyday life."*

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## **One of the highlights of GRW 2018 was 'Barefoot & Fancy Free' at the Playtrail**



The all-inclusive family friendly event was held as part of Good Relations Week 2018 with an eclectic and culturally diverse mix of music, dance, arts and lots of alternative barefoot activities! Four organisations within the Derry/Strabane Council area have joined forces, The Playhouse/Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin/Hollywell Trust and The Playtrail.

CRC fund the Community Relations Officer at the Playhouse – the programme uses a range of artists with significant experience of using arts activity in conflict areas / areas of social breakdown to promote healing and reconciliation within Northern Ireland / Border Counties. CRC also funds posts in Holywell Trust/The Junction. The Trust emphasises the importance of culture,

history and heritage in the North West in forming the development of new approaches to cross-community work.



## Londonderry Bands Forum

CRC Core Funds part salary and running costs for the Co-ordinator and Education and Youth Outreach Worker.

Londonderry Bands forum is being supported to work directly with 20 local bands to promote cultural awareness through a range of outreach educational workshops, dialogue, community festivals and training programmes delivered across Derry and Strabane.

In July this year (2018) CRC announced the annual Core Funding Grant Awards, one of which went to the Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF). Their Mission Statement is '*Challenging Preconceived Ideas and Perceptions about Marching Bands*'. In pursuit of this the Forum has met with '*member bands and then as confidence in the process increased, groups outside in the community, statutory agencies, local council, and mainstream political parties from all sides*'. They also produced '*an education leaflet developed in partnership with the Good Relations team from our local council that we took to the schools and youth clubs around our council area. The majority of these workshops were with schools and groups associated with a CNR background.*'

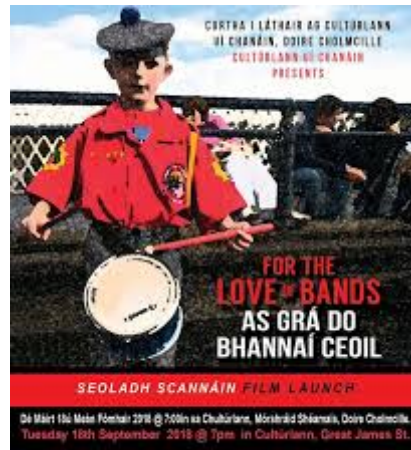
[Read more](#)

# An Gaelaras - "For the Love of Bands"

Watch the film on YouTube

## "As grá do Bhannaí Ceoil"

Curtha i láthair ag Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin "As grá do Bhannaí Ceoil." Suite i gcomhthéacs na paráide ag comoradh fhuascailt an léigir i gCathair Dhoire, tugann an scannán seo léargas as an ghnáth ar shaol na ndaoine sin a bhfuil grá agus tionchar acu ar an chultúr máirseála go áitiúil.



Ar fáil anois ar YouTube

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## Institute for Conflict Research





CRC Core Grant part-funds salaries for ICR's Senior Project Officer, Project Officer and Administrator, this allows the group to provide a positive contribution to the creation of a more shared, diverse, integrated and equitable society. To achieve this, core funded supported workers undertake a variety of work including research, capacity building, training and community development work that contributes to conflict transformation and social inclusion in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

The core funding has enabled ICR to be part of an EU funded PeaceTraining.eu project over the last two years. The project explores and analyses good practice and training needs of European Conflict Prevention and Peace Building (CPPB) actors. The goal was to provide recommendations on best practice as well as innovative approaches to training, which should be helpful to our work here in Northern Ireland. These insights can be found on [www.peacetraining.eu](http://www.peacetraining.eu) They hope to connect the existing CPPB training community in Europe and beyond, as well as bring a valuable resource for those new to the field and support the development of a pan-European community of CPPB trainers. You/your organisation can register on the platform and be among the first ones to make use of the provided services.

[More information](#)

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## **Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme**

This is a grant fund of approximately £400,000 spent each year on community relations projects. The fund is designed to help community/voluntary groups in Northern Ireland to undertake community relations projects using grants up to £10,000. Average grants tend to be between £2,000 and £5,000. Here are some news updates from groups that receive funding from the scheme.

## Beyond Skin

Beyond Skin were awarded £2,500 CRCD funding to cover facilitation costs to deliver a series of arts, music and diversity workshops as part of #ArtsDialogue 'Healing Power of Music'. The workshops and activities took place between 18.06.18 and 29.06.18, as part of Refugee Week covering 10 days of activities in Belfast, Ards and Omagh facilitated by Ami Yares and Dr Janelle Junkin of BuildaBridge International, Philadelphia.

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## Rathlin Community Development Association

Rathlin Development and Community Association (RDCA) has been involved in raising funds and supporting refugees through the charity 'Refugee Rescue' which supports work with refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos. RDCA uses a CR/CD grant to extend a warm welcome to refugees and people living in emergency accommodation, to visit Rathlin Island in order to learn more about the area and to feel 'welcomed' to Northern Ireland.

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## Cairncastle Ulster-Scots Cultural Group

As a result of the conflict there is little interaction between the two traditional communities of Carnlough/Cushendall and Cairncastle/Ballygally. Cairncastle Ulster-Scots Cultural Group has organised the annual Ulster Scots Festival over many years, and has worked to increase cross community participation and a more inclusive programme of activity to encourage attendance from across the community. They have received CRC funding to support this objective, and worked with the CR/CD team to develop the reach of this festival.



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# North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme

The North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme is a Ministerial funding scheme set up by The Executive Office with the key aim of improving relations between and within communities in North Belfast. The Executive Office is responsible for the strategic direction of the Programme which is delivered by eleven contract holders and partner organisations. The Community Relations Council administers the scheme on behalf of The Executive Office.

[Click here for more info on NBSGRP](#)

## Ballysillan Community Forum



The Forum works with young people to senior citizens and runs a range of programmes from shared history to women in public life. Their good relations programme promotes social mobility, increases the use of shared safe spaces and services across the Ballysillan and Ardoyne area.

Within the Greater Ballysillan area there are a number of thriving community organisations aiming to approach regeneration and conflict resolution through programme work with everyone, ensuring a common purpose and a better,

safer and shared future for everyone in the North Belfast area.

What participants have said about Forums projects:

*"Great course Tutor explained everything simply & thoroughly, loved the hands on exercises"*

*"BCF programme welcomes everyone, and I felt so looked after on my history visit."*

*"Great to see programmes for (50yrs+) giving me a greater understanding of the culture of those from another community background."*

[More information](#)

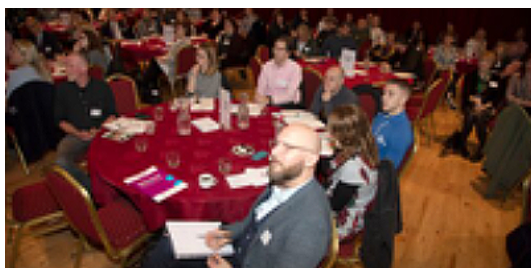
## CRC ENGAGEMENT

CRC facilitates community engagement and sharing of best practice on effective approaches to peace-building, reconciliation and good community relationships. We do this in a number of ways some of which you can read about below.

### **T:BUC Engagement Forum**



On 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, The Executive Office (TEO) and over 150 community practitioners, policy makers and academics gathered in Lisburn Island Centre for the seventh meeting of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Engagement Forum. The event focused on the T:BUC theme Children and Young People and placed a strong emphasis on what central government and practitioners can do to develop and engage with young people and explore actions that could enable greater participation by young people in promoting good relations.



Dr Dirk Schubotz, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, QUB and a member of ARK organises the annual Young Life and Times (YLT) survey made a presentation at the event. The presentation covered data from the surveys and analysis around four main areas. These were young people's participation in good relations projects and programmes, attitudes to minority ethnic communities, attitudes to good relations, and respect. You can see Dirks presentation by clicking on the link below.

[View presentation here](#)

[Read the Summary Report of the Forum](#)

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## **Good Relations Week 2018, then, now... Next?**



**Good Relations Week  
took place from  
Monday September  
17 to Sunday  
September 23.**

<b>Good Relations Week</b>		<b>#GRWeek18</b>
<b>17-23 September</b>		<b>11</b> Council areas represented
Thousands of people involved across NI		With support from a range of government departments
		<b>180 events</b>
Visit <a href="http://goodrelationsweek.com">goodrelationsweek.com</a>		
Major events happening across NI, including by e.g.		And including International Day of Peace
<a href="http://goodrelationsweek.com">goodrelationsweek.com</a> @NI_CRC #GRWeek18		

In 2018, the name of Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week was changed to Good Relations Week following consultation at the T:BUC Engagement Forum. It was a busy week with wide participation across all Council areas.

[Read CEO Jacqueline Irwin's introduction to the week](#)

[Read Belfast Live's introduction to week and some highlights](#)

## **CRC Exceptional Achievement Awards**

The Community Relations Council invites nominations for the 2018 - 2019 Community Relations Award for exceptional contribution in building a shared and reconciled society. The award is presented annually since 2006 and is given to help recognise and highlight some of the excellent ground-breaking and courageous peacebuilding work, developed and delivered in Northern Ireland, and the border areas. This work includes promoting trust and interdependence, challenging sectarianism, racism and violence, supporting

inter-cultural relations within our increasingly diverse society, and promoting conflict transformation. Closing date for nominations is 12 noon on the 31<sup>st</sup> January.

[More information](#)



[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Website](#)

**Our email address is:**

[info@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:info@nicrc.org.uk)

We have updated our [Privacy Notice](#) to reflect changes we've made that strengthen your privacy rights. This is part of the Community Relations Council's commitment to how we use your data and keep it safe. We have included changes to address the new standards introduced by the data protection law known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The unsubscribe option below is only visible as a function of MailChimp. We may continue to process your personal data because it is necessary for the performance of our public tasks.

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