

[View this email in your browser](#)



e-News

Issue 29 - April 2020

Welcome,

Firstly, it is important to say that everyone at CRC hopes you are keeping well and staying safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite everything, eNews Issue 29 has arrived! Each quarter we showcase examples of the amazing work delivered by the groups we invest in.

In this issue, we have a video piece delving into migration in Northern Ireland, and also a theatre project exploring the topic through the medium of dance.

We've also hosted a T:BUC Engagement Forum focused on sport and creativity, and there's a video piece as well as a downloadable pdf of the keynote speakers.

Our profile this quarter is of Gareth Harper from PeacePlayers NI.

Keep safe everyone!!

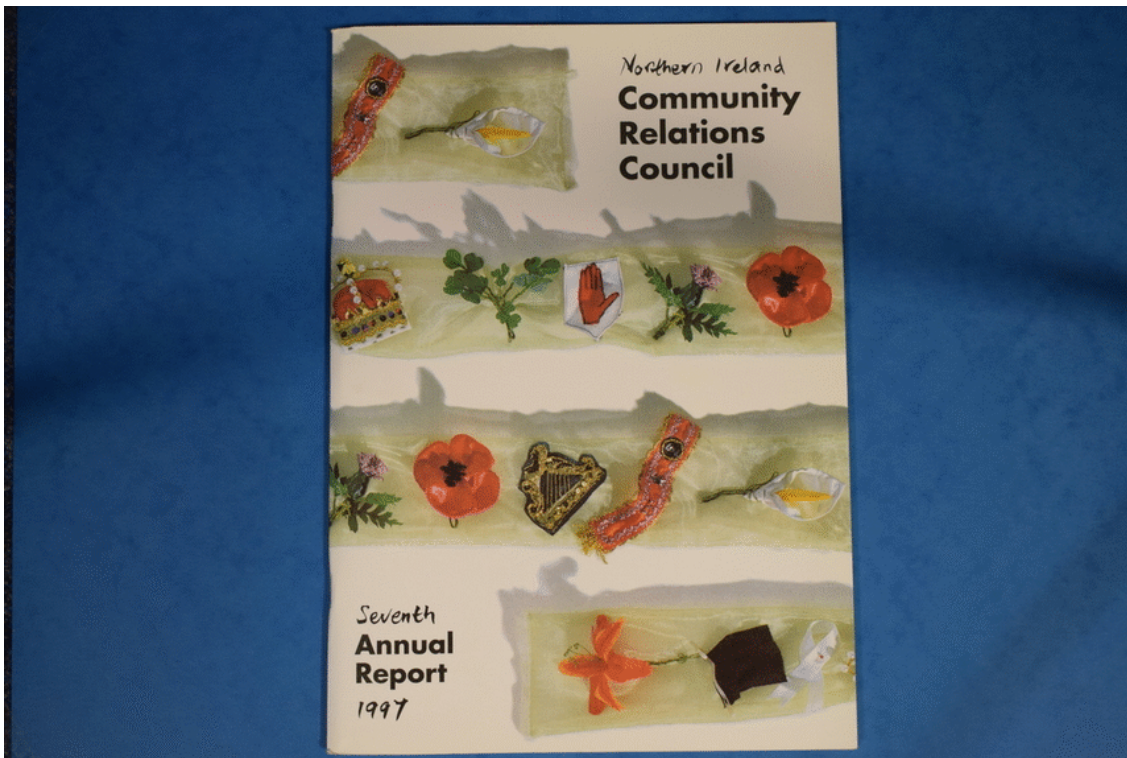
Covid-19 Update

The key priority of the Community Relations Council (CRC) is the health and well-being of those we work with, our staff and their families. We also want to ensure that we continue to deliver our services as far as is possible in these unprecedented times. You will all be aware of the recent change to the government's guidance on Covid-19. Below we have set out the steps we are taking as a result of the new guidance:

- Currently our office is closed. Our staff are working remotely and can be contacted by email or through our current office number: 028 9022 7500.
- All events organised by CRC have been cancelled. We will update this position when the government's guidance permits people to gather in numbers again.
- Until the emergency arrangements are relaxed, we have limited ability to collect post from our office. Post will be collected on Wednesdays only. Consider contacting us by phone or email.

To stay up-to-date, keep checking our website and social media channels.

30th Anniversary



This year, CRC is 30-years-old.

We'll be highlighting the significant work undertaken by the groups and organisations that have been supported by us to build peace in local communities.

If you want us to help tell your story, contact us on info@nicrc.org.uk

GR Award



The Good Relations Award 2020 winner will be announced at an award ceremony in the near future. We had to postpone the event we had scheduled for 31 March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We'll keep you posted about the award ceremony date on our website and social media channels.

Media Grant



We awarded 7 organisations with Media Grants for 2019/20.

This represents an investment of £25,000.

Our funding will help to create podcasts, interactive maps, short films and more – across Northern Ireland.

[Read more](#)

Grants & Funding

CR/CD Small Grants Scheme



Our Small Grants Scheme is opening soon for funding applications.

The opening date is scheduled for later in April 2020. Watch our website and social media for details.

[Learn more – Small Grants Scheme](#)

Real People – Real Lives

We support and fund organisations that promote community relations work right across Northern Ireland.

Our funded groups affect positive change in people's everyday lives.

In this issue, there are two central themes:

- Culture & Migration
- Sport & Creativity

Keep reading to find out more about developing an increased cultural awareness, how the power of sport can heal political divides, and the ability of dance to bridge language barriers.

Plus many more great stories.

Culture & Migration

Language for Transformation

Sky You Are Too Big



To celebrate International Migrants Day 2019, a special cultural event was held by musicians and poets.

Sky You Are Too Big was funded by the Community Relations Council (CRC) through the Small Grants Scheme.

Maria McManus, who organised the event through Quotidian – Word on the Street, noted the need for continuing cultural relations, and peace and reconciliation.

[Read more](#)

The Child Migrant Experience in Dungannon



Sutemos means *twilight* in Lithuanian. A name chosen by the newly arrived immigrant children who banded together to form a dance group in Dungannon.

When the Community Relations Council funded a 3-day workshop based on the child migrant experience, Jane Coyle knew there was an obvious choice to be made.

“Dungannon is so multi-cultural,” Jane explained. “It felt right that we do our workshop there, to build on the idea of the child migrant experience with children from a migrant and multi-cultural background.”

Jane is an award-winning playwright and founder of Powerstone Entertainment.

But success would require a collaboration with other creative experts.

[Read more](#)

Building Cultural Awareness Chinese New Year



People from different backgrounds and communities joined together to explore a major world culture.

300 participants attended the Chinese New Year celebrations organised by the Mandarin Speakers Association (MSA) for the past 10 years.

The event, funded through the Small Grants Scheme of the Community Relations Council, was about connections and cultural awareness.

It provided a forum to allow participants to understand and tackle racism, as well as exploring the various barriers to integration.

[Read more](#)

Sport & Creativity

"Children Who Play Together Can Learn to Live Together"



The power of sport and community relations has helped to heal the divide in North Belfast.

In 2001 and 2002 a North Belfast primary school found itself in the news headlines. Holy Cross Girls is a Catholic primary school located in the middle of a Protestant area and schoolchildren walking to school faced daily pickets. In what was known as the *Holy Cross dispute*, violence and tensions escalated in Ardoyne and the wider North Belfast area.

Following the aftermath of these tensions, PeacePlayers NI – core-funded by the Community Relations Council – brought together pupils from Holy Cross and the predominately Protestant neighbouring Wheatfield Primary.

This peace-building intervention utilised an innovative programme of tailored community-relations work through sport.

[Read more](#)

Building United Communities T:BUC Engagement Forum



Sport and creativity are important ways to bridge community divides and bring young people together to form lasting relationships.

This key ideal was intrinsic to the latest T:BUC Engagement Forum where practitioners from the Irish Football Association, Gaelic Athletic Association and PeacePlayers NI delivered keynote talks.

The T:BUC Engagement Forum, which runs three times per year, is organised by the Community Relations Council on behalf of The Executive Office.

[Read more](#)

Youth workers in North Belfast Giving back to the community



Newly qualified youth workers in North Belfast will now be able to give back to the community.

The 14 graduates received an OCNNI Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice. Ardoyne Youth Enterprise (AYE) led the training, supported by the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP).

NBSGRP is delivered by the Community Relations Council in partnership with the Executive Office.

Ruth Curran, a new graduate, is now working with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise as a youth work facilitator on Uniting Opportunities, run in partnership with New Lodge Arts, Ashton Community Trust, and T:BUC.

[Read more](#)

Workshops & More

Decade of Centenaries

Partition: A Dividing Ireland in a Dividing Europe



The Community Relations Council, Heritage Fund and Decade of Commemorations Roundtable organised a regional one-day event about the period 1920-22.

The theme of partition was also continued in another Decade of Centenaries roundtable held on 27 February 2020 in Crumlin Road Gaol.

Dr Eamon Phoenix was the keynote speaker at this event.

More roundtable events are being planned for the future. We'll keep you posted on our website and social media channels.



[Read more](#)

Google Digital Garage Shared Learning Forum



Each quarter, the Community Relations Council provides a Shared Learning Forum to develop key skills and techniques for our core funded groups.

At our last event, we invited Google Digital Garage to present two courses:

- Social Media Strategy
- Writing for Social Media.

The training took place in the wonderful setting of the 174 Trust Duncairn Centre, and Google presented to a full house of people eager to discover new ways to community their stories through social media.

[Read more](#)

River of Hope Good Mental Health



The dreams and wishes of service users and staff were displayed at the acute Mental Health In-patient Centre.

The artwork, produced by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) to mark Good Relations Week 2019, depicts a river of their words and thoughts. *River of Hope* was created by artists Grainne Kielty and Anne Quail.

Jacqueline Irwin, Community Relations Council (CRC) Chief Executive, attended the unveiling alongside Peter McNaney, HSC Trust Chair.

[Read more](#)

We All Belong **Tackling Hate Crime and Prejudice**



A campaign to tackle prejudice and hate crime in all forms has been launched in Derry/Londonderry – entitled “We All Belong.”

The campaign will work with groups from across Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF) – core funded by the Community Relations Council – was asked to be a part.

Derek Moore, LBF Regional Coordinator, highlighted the importance of musicianship and how it relates to education and inclusiveness.

[Read more](#)

Discovering the Common Good Irish School of Ecumenics



A research project on the Common Good was created to mark the Irish School of Ecumenics 50th anniversary.

This new 3-year research project, which began in November 2019, has a number of key aims:

- Develop a series of civic conversations in strategic locations and with a major conference
- Engage in action research on the theme: Is there a common good?
- Produce a book based on research findings which will provide an educational resource
- Develop a community educational strategy, which would be inclusive of education and action.

[Read more](#)

Profile

Each quarter we profile a person, from our Core Funded groups, to find out a little more about their daily work life and aspirations. This issue we speak to Gareth Harper from PeacePlayers NI.

Gareth talks about how to utilise sport and its inherent lessons of teamwork, cooperation, communication and determination to unite young people from the historically divided traditions.

Gareth Harper PeacePlayers NI



PeacePlayers use sport to unite young people from the historically divided traditions. PeacePlayers NI is core-funded by the Community Relations Council.

"Whilst we have peace in Northern Ireland there is a continued need for a focus on reconciliation and relationship development.

"Despite it being 20 years since the signing of the Good Friday agreement over 100 peace walls still exist across NI, 90% of public housing remains segregated along sectarian lines and less than 7%

of children in NI attend integrated schools.

"As such, opportunities for young people to engage in productive and cooperative cross-community activities are very limited. Many young people continue to live in separate areas and attend separate schools..."

[Read more](#)

e-News Submissions

Have you got an amazing project that would make a great fit for our next e-News?

Send your submission as a
word document
with a
photograph.

Click the button below to submit...

[Submit e-news events](#)



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

Our email address is:

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.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.