



The Holocaust reminds us of the power of words

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A Holocaust memorial event was held on 25 January 2018 in the Millennium Forum Derry/Londonderry to mark 73 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland.

The event was hosted by The Executive Office in collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Among the participants were Dr Martin Stern MBE, a holocaust survivor who gave the key note address. The symbolic lighting of a commemorative candle was performed by Jane Hurwitz whose great grandfather helped fund the purchase of the Millisle Farm, which served as a safe refuge to many children and young people escaping Nazi tyranny.

Speaking at the event, the Head of the Civil Service, David Sterling said: "Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us that we must reflect on the terrible consequences of discrimination and persecution.

"The theme for this year's commemoration is the power of words. Words can have a huge impact, whether for the good or bad. If we are to help build our shared and diverse society, we must ensure that words should never be tolerated to marginalise, inflict pain and hurt against anyone regardless of race, colour, religion, creed, nationality, sexual orientation, or disability. We must learn from the past if we are to build a better future.

"We must also remember the words and testimonies of those who suffered Nazi persecution and that of subsequent genocides. It is vital that their voices continue to be heard to ensure we do not forget the dreadful consequences of propaganda used to incite hatred."

Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust said: "This year, hundreds of thousands of people across the UK will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day and exploring the theme the power of words.

"During the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and the genocides which have taken place since in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, words have been used to divide communities and incite hatred. However, words have also been used for good: to resist persecution, to witness wrongdoing and to heal after genocide. At the Northern Ireland Ceremony and across the UK, we know that people will be choosing to use their words for good today and to learn lessons from the past, to create a safer, better future.

"Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is pleased to be working once again with The Executive Office in Northern Ireland to help support Holocaust Memorial Day 2018."

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Maolíosa McHugh added: “I was honoured to attend the event today in memory of the millions of people who lost their lives during the campaign of horror unleashed on the world during the Holocaust.

“It’s so important that the voices of the innocent victims continue to resonate through time, as a warning against bigotry and intolerance. Their story should never be forgotten and we must ensure that a legacy of equality, acceptance and reconciliation is allowed to grow from this unimaginable terror.”

Attending the event were members of the local Jewish community and representatives from a range of faith communities, minority ethnic and other groups. Participants included Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Maolíosa McHugh, Rabbi Singer, the Education Authority Music Service Youth Orchestra and representatives from faith, disability, minority ethnic and LGBT communities.

Holocaust Memorial Day was initiated in 2000 to remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and to raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides as a continuing issue for all humanity. The date, 27 January, was chosen as it was the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945.



VIEW magazine launch shared/integrated education issue

The Community Relations Council (CRC) is pleased to support the latest issue of VIEW magazine focusing on the shared and integrated education debate.

Bringing Together a range of voices from across Northern Ireland, it provides insight and opinion on shared and integrated education, how communities can support shared and integrated education and more. The latest issue features contributions from public and professional bodies, local political representatives, those currently working in the education system and from people who share their first-hand experiences of education in NI.



VIEW is a not-for-profit community media outlet drawing attention to injustice and other social issues that impact communities directly and indirectly across Northern Ireland.

The latest issue, supported by CRC, was described as “the start of another social debate on how we move forward with education” by VIEW Co-Founder, Una Murphy at the magazine’s launch on Monday.

In his contribution to the magazine, current Chair of the Community Relations Council, Peter Osborne said:

“It is systematic change that is needed...true wisdom in Northern Ireland is realising that the systems giving rise to segregated living over many years need to change; true courage is then speaking out for change.”

Contributors include guest editor Alex Kane; Chris Donnolly, Vice-Principal of Holy Cross Boys’ Primary School; Professor Tony Gallagher, Queen’s University Belfast; May Blood; Scott Naismith, Principal at Methodist College, Belfast; Nigel Frith, Head of Drumragh Integrated College; Lisa Dietrich, Director of the CRC-funded Community Relations in Schools (CRIS); Steven Agnew, Green Party Leader and many others.

Hard copies of the latest issue of VIEW magazine are available from local libraries across Northern Ireland.

A digital download of the magazine is available online: <http://viewdigital.org/2018/01/22/latest-issue-view-focuses-shared-integrated-education-debate/>

The Sheehy Skeffington Leadership Award 2017



Article by Mary McAnulty

On Wednesday 24th January, in Slieve Donard Hotel, this leadership award was presented to Dr. Ronnie Hamilton by Micheline Sheehy Skeffington.

After calling for nominations throughout August and September 2017, a selection panel decided on a short list of four and from this shortlist the winner of the award was unanimously agreed to be Dr. Ronnie Hamilton.

As Church elder Ronnie visits members weekly with a copy the service, which he recorded. He set up and ran Tuesday morning club for older people as well as a club for people with learning difficulties. He is tireless in his work in service to reconciliation, a founder member of Castlewellan Inter Church Forum.

This forum runs wider appreciated cross- community events.; an example of this was four talks in March 2017 on Homelessness and Poverty, Bereavement, Mental health, Reconciliation. Without doubt that the community of Castlewellan district have been impacted through Dr Hamilton's tireless commitment to living out an ethical, compassionate life.

The Sheehy Skeffington nomination committee commented:

“Dr Ronnie Hamilton was awarded the Sheehy-Skeffington plaque for his work in reconciliation over the past 25 years. In a time where individualism is rampant, Ronnie stands out as a person who serves the community. He makes real and purposeful contact with people in his professional and personal life. His abiding contribution is to the people of the area where he lives, extending kindness and sharing his wisdom to all.”

The Award

This annual award for local leadership is a Sheehy Skeffington School Initiative began in 2016 when the volunteers of Castlewellan Community Partnership were selected to be the first winners of the world; it will continue until 2026.

This award is to acknowledge and encourage leadership that contributes to community, extends human kindness to all, showing courage and perseverance over the long haul; it can be awarded to an individual or group. The object of the award is to acknowledge the lives of those who live amongst us that persist, in good times and hard times, to respond with courage and compassion.

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.

The Plaque

The plaque is a beautiful hand carved piece of art, designed and created by local artist, Micheal Rodgers. It is on permanent view in Castlewellan Library, and is well worth a visit. As a permanent memento, Micheal carved the Tree of life on a small piece of wood for Ronnie.

The Story depicted on the Plaque

This leadership award is best demonstrated by the story. Many countries have legends about how, in times past, people and animals would help each other times of need. This plaque describes one such legend.

Among the Aztec people of Mexico it is said that a long ago a great fire swept across the land. People and animals ran from the fire in great fear. Brother Owl, Tecolotl, was also fleeing when he noticed a small bird with a long tail hurrying back and forth between the river and the fire.

Tecolotl flew towards the small bird and saw that it was our brother, the quetzal bird, Quetzaltototl, picking up small drops of water in his beak and dropping them on the flaming forest. Brother Owl approached the little bird and shouted "What are you doing? Are you crazy? You must fly away and save yourself."

The bird stopped for a moment and looked at Brother Owl and then said, "I am doing the best that I can with what I have."

Brother Owl was so impressed by the wisdom of the small bird that he gathered together all the birds and animals and people and they followed the quetzal bird to the river and each of them took water to help douse the flames. The land was saved because the birds in the air and the animals in the forest and the people of the villages joined together to do their best with what they had.

Watch out for the call of nominations for any individual or organization that you feel qualifies for Sheehy Skeffington Leadership Award 2018 in the coming months.

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Funding

2018/19 Central Good Relations Programme

Application process has opened and will close for Project Funding applications on Friday 23rd February 2018 at 2pm. Applications for Small Grant Funding will remain open throughout the year.

Application Forms, Guidance Notes and Frequently Asked Questions can be found at the link below:

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/together-building-united-community#toc-8>
(external link opens in a new window/tab)

For information on Funding Forums:

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/TBUC%20Funding%20Forum%20Flyer.pdf>

EVENTS

T:BUC Community Engagement Forum

The next TBUC Engagement Forum will take place in March 2018. This Engagement Forum will focus on young people and TBUC, and the Education Authority is leading its planning. A project team, made up of young people, has already been established and they are currently working to finalise the agenda, content and format of the event. **This event is for young people only and outcomes will be compiled in a report (will be made available on the CRC website).** Please contact Peter Parke, Education Authority, Peter.parke@eani.org.uk for further information.

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PRONI

PRONI is launching an exhibition on the Indian community on 28 Feb: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/contribution-indian-community-through-trade-migration-and-cultural-rites-passage>

Information and details of other events held by PRONI is available from: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/talks-and-events>

Jethro Centre, Lurgan

**“The History of the Loyal Orders” presented by Alderman Dr Chris McGimpsey
Wednesday 7th February at 7.45 pm.**

This event will inform both sides of the community of the nature, purpose, history and current activities of the Protestant Loyal Orders, namely the Orange Order, Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Loyal Black Preceptory and also their counterparts in the Roman Catholic tradition such as the Knights of St Columbanus and the Irish Foresters etc, thereby enabling us to clarify widely held and often very inaccurate perceptions that one community has of the other and to promote tolerance, respect and goodwill throughout our society.

**“Lay organisations within the Roman Catholic tradition”
Wednesday 28th February at 7.30 in St Peter’s Parish Centre**

This event aims to attract a large representation from both communities who were able to worship together in the local Church of Ireland parish church in a spirit of goodwill and unity.

Showcase your work with NVTV

Groups working on community relations projects are very welcome to contact Northern Visions (NVTV) 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.

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Mid & East Antrim #embRACE Week 2018

(17 February – 24 February 2018)

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, through its Good Relations Programme invite you all to celebrate the diversity and culture of the Borough. We have a packed programme and all events are aimed at making everyone in Mid and East Antrim feel welcome, safe, respected and celebrated.

Saturday 17 February 2018

Children's Story Telling and Craft Event

11am – 12 noon, Carrickfergus Library—Registration essential – contact Carrickfergus Library on 028 9336 2261

Come and hear stories and participate in crafts and learn about other cultures. This event will focus on Chinese New Year and will help celebrate the diversity of the Borough of Mid and East Antrim.

#embRACE Celebration

Carrickfergus Town Hall – Saturday 17 February 2018 from 2pm-4pm

Come and celebrate all cultures of Mid and East Antrim, with performances including Chinese Lion Dance, Chinese Fan Dance, Ulster Scots Dancers etc. Arts Workshops including kite making, Mexican Piñata making and more. All free of charge.

Monday 19 February 2018

International Café Event

7.00pm – 8.30pm, Ballymena Methodist Church Hall

This event will be hosted by Inter Ethnic Forum for Mid and East Antrim) in partnership with Ballymena Church Members Forum - Registration essential - please email info@ballymenacmf.com.

Come and hear the stories of those who have come to Ballymena from other countries. Learn about different cultures through conversation. Light refreshments will be provided. This is free of charge.

Tuesday 20 February 2018

Children's Storytime and Craft Event

3.30pm – 4.30pm, Whitehead Library

Registration essential - contact Whitehead Library on 028 9335 3249

This event will be Indian themed and will help celebrate the diversity of the Borough of Mid and East Antrim. Children will be invited to hear stories and participate in crafts and learn about the Indian culture.

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.

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Diversity

Larne YMCA After Schools Club
3.30pm -4.30pm
(Open to all who attend the After Schools Club)

The Inter Ethnic Forum for Mid and East Antrim will be delivering an Diversity Programme with Larne YMCA After Schools Club.

Friday 23 February 2018

The Far East Experience (Flagship Event)

7.00pm – 9.00pm
The Shed, Market Yard, Larne
(this is a free event open to the public)

This event will include music and dance performances from the Far East as well as a Costume Display. There will be arts workshops and far eastern cuisine to sample, all free of charge.

Saturday 24 February 2018

Chinese New Year (Flagship Event)

10.00am – 2.00pm
Ballymena Town Centre/Tower Centre/Fairhill Centre
(this is a free event open to the public)

This event will celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the dog and will include a parade led by the Chinese Dragon and Chinese Lion, through the Centre of Ballymena. The Parade will leave the Bandstand Area at 11.00 am. There will be free arts workshops including kite making in the Tower Centre and Fairhill Centre throughout the day.

Castle Building Event

2.00pm – 4.00pm – Carrickfergus Museum

This is a fun event for parents and toddlers as part of the Playful Museums Festival. Children will have the opportunity to learn about history and culture in a fun interactive way through Castle Building.

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2018北爱尔兰狗年贺岁新春音乐会
2018 CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR
EXTRAORDINARY SILK ROAD
UK TOUR CONCERT

2018年2月18日星期日
ULSTER HALL 剧场
 下午3:30点 (3点开门)
 门票£10 票数有限,
 预购从速!

Year of the Dog
Sunday 18/2/2018
@Ulster Hall 3:30pm
(Doors open at 3pm)

订票热线:
028 90 33 44 55

World Class Performance
Troupe from Beijing

更多信息请查看
ulsterhall.co.uk
 或 cwa-ni.org

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SAVE THE DATE 18th February for
Ulster Hall Event

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Community Relations Forum (CRF)

CRF will be bringing the play *The Green and Blue* to Ballyclare Town Hall on Thursday The 15th February at 7pm. This a play from Kabosh Theatre Company.

Green & Blue explores the realities faced by the individuals who patrolled the border during the height of the conflict. This new multi-media production looks at the person behind the uniform and the different experiences of two individuals on either side of a man-made line in the ground.

Green & Blue is based on an oral archive of serving RUC and An Garda Síochána officers. Each performance will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

If you are interested in coming along to see this play, please contact Kathy Wolff on 90849314 or 07801989917.

Women's Development Programme

(including prejudice and discrimination awareness)

Are you a woman interested in taking on more responsibility in your own women's group or community group but feel you lack experience? Are you interested in learning how to organise and run successful community and voluntary groups? If so then Co-operation Ireland's Women's Development Programme may be what you are looking for. This programme will provide you with an opportunity to:

- Learn how to run effective meetings
- Learn Committee skills
- Learn effective fundraising strategies
- Learn how to manage difficulties and conflict
- Learn the value of networking
- Learn how to design and implement a small project
- Gain an OCN Level 1 qualification: Prejudice and Discrimination Awareness

The Women's Development Programme will take place on Thursdays from 10am-4pm in a venue in Ballymoney/Coleraine area. There will be 10 workshops in total starting on Thursday 8th February 2018 and finishing on Thursday 3rd May 2018. There is also a one night residential which will take place 2nd - 3rd March 2018. All programme activities are free: food, transport, facilitation and materials.

If you want more information or have any questions please call or email Patricia Keenan, 07909 916376, pkeenan@cooperationireland.org

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