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# Monthly News

## July 2020

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Hello again,

As we see restrictions beginning to ease, it is still important to say that everyone here at the NI Community Relations Council hopes you continue to keep well and stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

During these difficult times we have continued to bring you inspiring stories about the groups we invest in and how their work benefits communities throughout Northern Ireland.

During June we opened the registration process for Good Relations Week 2020! Already we have had a lot of interest. You can get involved to help make this years GR Week an online success! Find out the full details below.

In this issue, you can read about the Rural Community Network's project to highlight groups helping local rural communities. We also have a specially commissioned article from ARK about perceptions of Community Relations over the past 30 years. Plus our interview series with CRC core funded groups, and the Strive programme about connecting young people online.

We've also spoken to Gerard Deane from Holywell Trust as part of our profile series.

Keep safe everyone.

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# Covid-19 Update

The key priority of the NI Community Relations Council (NICRC) 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 moved to online platforms. 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.

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## Good Relations Week 2020



Get ready! Good Relations Week 2020 will take place between 14-21 September 2020.

This year we are embracing digital technology and curating a week of innovative, immersive, live, interactive and collaborative events – all online.

The theme is is: "**Celebrating our Past. Embracing our Future.**"

GRW 2020 will include a dynamic programme of content and events that showcase people and communities playing an active part in creating and sustaining good relations in Northern Ireland.

The GR Week 2020 website is live -- get involved now:

[Visit GR Week 2020 website](#)

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## Grants & Funding

### **CR/CD Small Grants Scheme**

Our Small Grants Scheme is now open for funding applications.

This funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups



throughout Northern Ireland engage in Community Relations work.

[Read more](#)

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### COVID-19 Charity Fund

A £15.5million Fund has been created to help local charities facing financial difficulties as a result of the current public health emergency.

The funding programme will provide financial support to charities which have lost income due to the impact of Covid-19.



[Read more](#)

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## Monthly News

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

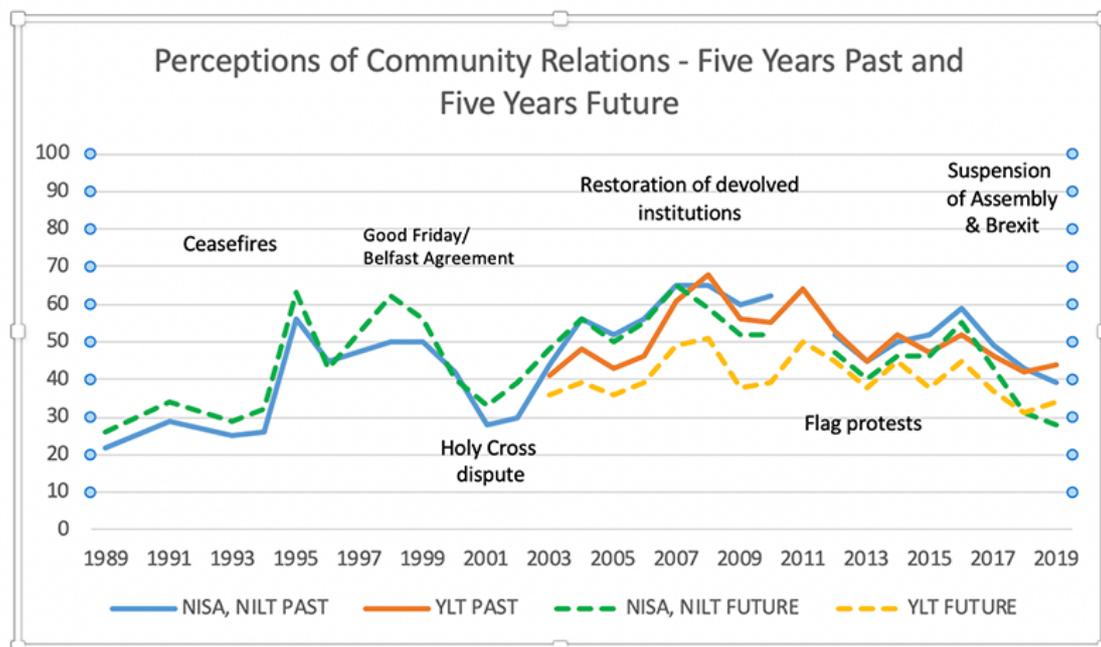
Our funded groups affect positive change in people's everyday lives.

In this section, you'll find out how perceptions of community relations have changed over the past 30 years with an article from ARK, as well as our interview series of videos with CRC core funded groups, the Strive good relations programme, and RCN's special "In This Together" project.

Plus many more great stories.

# Perceptions of Community Relations

## ARK Data Series for 30 years



2020 marks special anniversaries for two important organisations focusing on good relations: Community Relations Council (CRC) is celebrating its 30th anniversary, while ARK is ten years younger.

In 2000, researchers at Queen's University and Ulster University launched ARK – Northern Ireland's Social Policy hub. ARK's main goal

is to increase the accessibility and use of academic data and research relating to society and politics in Northern Ireland.

In a specially commissioned article by CRC, ARK provide a brief overview of community relations, while highlighting the importance of collecting time-series data.

[Read more](#)

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## Interview Series CRC Core Groups



Over the past few weeks, many CRC core funded groups have agreed to join us for a series of short video interviews, which we recorded using Zoom.

The interviews enabled groups to highlight how they have brought their work online during the pandemic and share their learning.

We're adding new videos each week to our YouTube channel, so be sure to check them out for great advice and insights into online working practices.

[Read more](#)

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# Connecting Young People

## Strive Good Relations Programme



A special online programme aimed at youths has brought together 8,000 people.

Youth work is built on face to face contact, but due to the current Covid 19 pandemic, online youth work has become an important means of providing youth provision.

Strive is a good relations programme for young people aged 14 to 24, led by Include Youth in partnership with Youth Initiatives (a core funded group of the Community Relations Council), and several other organisations.

In May and June 2020, Strive hosted two regional activities on social media, as an alternative to meeting in person, and involved young people across Northern Ireland and County Donegal.

[Read more](#)

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# Upcoming Events

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## Creative Connections E-Book Smashing Times



Smashing Times have launched Creative Connections, an E-book using creative processes to promote reconciliation and positive community relations.

Creative Connections is an arts-based project using creative processes of theatre, film and new digital technologies to promote reconciliation and positive community relations between people and traditions in Northern Ireland and on the island of Ireland today.

Download your FREE copy now.

[Read more](#)

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# extraORDINARYwomen

## Linen Hall Library



“extraORDINARYwomen: Supporting Communities (1965 – today)” is a heritage project which will digitally preserve and make accessible online a selection of the Linen Hall Library’s world-renowned archives focusing on the lived experience of women in Northern Ireland since 1965.

A key objective of the project is to enhance the Linen Hall Library’s collections on building a shared society through reconciliation and increase the presence of women in their archives through donated materials which speak to the project themes.

If you have archive materials, find out how you can help contribute to this extraordinary project.

[Read more](#)

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## Stay Home Memories Archive

### PRONI

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THE Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) is calling for the public to help create an archive of how we lived during the Covid-19 outbreak – to ensure the story of the pandemic is preserved and made accessible for future generations.

PRONI's Stay Home Memories project will capture individual's experience of the pandemic through documents, photographs, art, videos and diaries.

Since lockdown came into effect on 23 March 2020, the public have been innovative in adapting to life behind doors, including celebrating milestones, finding new ways to communicate, shop, exercise and entertain.

Find out how you can share your Stay Home Memories with PRONI.

[Read more](#)

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## CRC Profile

Each quarter we profile various Peace Builders and Good Relations workers across Northern Ireland. In this issue, we speak to Gerard Deane, Director of Holywell Trust, who are core funded by the Community Relations Council.

Gerard talks about his Forward Together podcast series which explores issues such as Brexit and the impact of the conflict on local people.

## Gerard Deane Holywell Trust



Holywell Trust, based in Derry/Londonderry, are supported through the CRC core funding scheme. The organisation works to support local people through a range of programmes, initiatives and partnerships.

"I am convinced that supporting the people to build stronger relationships and to see that a shared and integrated society makes sense for everyone is key to building a strong future for our community.

"I also believe that we need to hold challenging and difficult conversations in a respectful manner and, that when we entrust the community to arrive at solutions to issues that separate us, we will radically and positively change Northern Ireland.

"I got into peacebuilding and community relations work because I believe that each of us has a role to play in building strong relationships in society and I wanted to play my part in encouraging those who we do not often hear from to have a voice..."

[Read more](#)

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## Submissions

Have you got an amazing story or case study that would make a great fit for our next monthly newsletter?

Send your submission as a  
**word document**  
with a  
**photograph.**

Click the button below to submit...

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info@nicrc.org.uk

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