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Monthly News

October 2020

Hi <<First Name>>

Thank you to everyone involved in Good Relations Week 2020! This was our first year taking a digital approach and bringing the week online. The response was amazing and we are delighted to say that there were well over 200 events online during the week.

Missed anything during Good Relations Week? Don't worry you can still view the material online! Our website GoodRelationsWeek.com contains material from all the events, with everything from innovative virtual talks, podcasts, video, lectures, and more.

In this month's issue of the CRC newsletter, you can also read about:

- CRC's newly opened funding schemes
- Case Studies from our Small Grants Scheme
- Good Relations Award 2020 winner
- Delivering T:BUC during the pandemic - the T:BUC Engagement Forum
- Footsteps to Peace - a documentary featuring CRC core funded groups
- Making A Difference project with TEO and Gilford youths

- Virtual Reality helping to tackle sectarian prejudice.

Keep safe.

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 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.

Grants & Funding



Core Funding Scheme

CRC's Core Funding Scheme is open.

The scheme provides support for organisations of strategic importance in promoting community relations work across Northern Ireland.

Deadline: **13 November 2020.**

[Read more](#)

Media Grants Scheme

CRC's Media Grant Scheme is open.

We're commissioning media projects to help with peacebuilding.



Deadline: **9 October 2020.**

[Read more](#)



CR/CD Small Grants Scheme

Our Small Grants Scheme is now open.

This funding can help community and voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland engage in Community Relations work.

Deadline: **4 December 2020.**

[Read more](#)

Publication Grant Scheme

CRC's Publication Grant Scheme is open.

It aims to encourage the production and dissemination of publications that contribute to better community relations in Northern Ireland

Deadline: **15 January 2021.**



[Read more](#)

Case Studies

SMALL GRANTS CASE STUDY



PROGRAMME	CR/CD Small Grants Scheme
ORGANISATION	Imagine! Belfast
PROJECT NAME	Imagine! Belfast Festival 2020
LOCATION	Belfast & online
COUNCIL AREA	Belfast City Council
GRANT AWARD	£5,000

OVERVIEW

The Imagine! Belfast Festival of Ideas & Politics took place during 25-27 March with a packed programme of 41 webcasts examining political and cultural issues, including the threats presented by COVID-19. Forced to withdraw over 90 public events because



We've highlighted some of the great projects that have been funded through our CR/CD Small Grants Scheme.

Across the year we'll be highlighting even more projects that contribute to better community relations and peacebuilding.

[Read more](#)

Monthly News

We support and fund a wide range of organisations that promote community relations work.

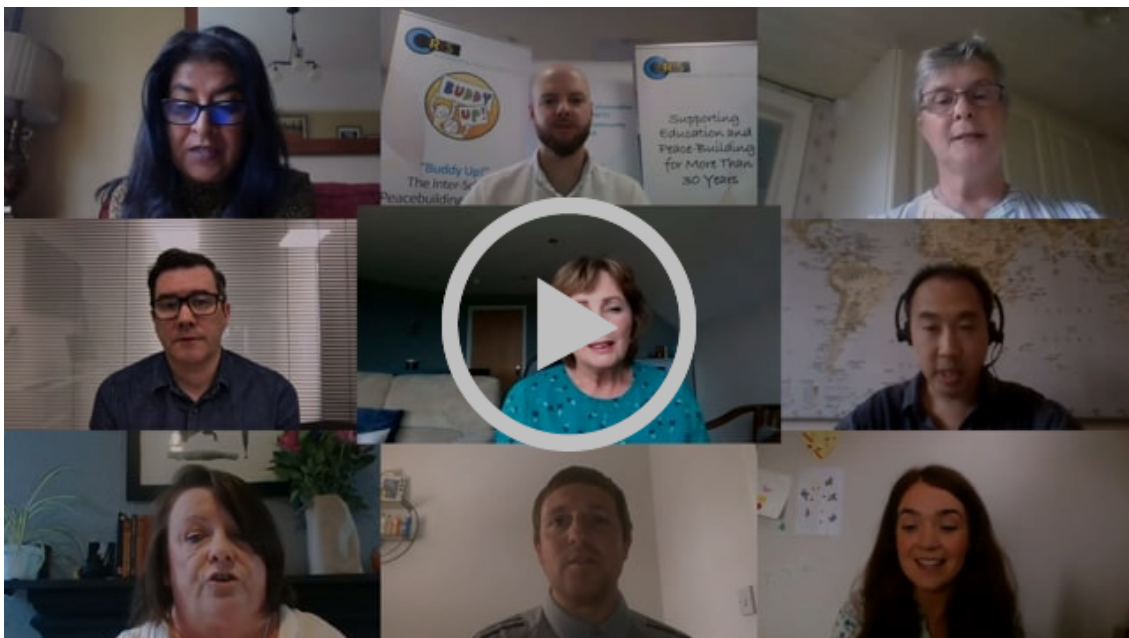
Our funded groups affect positive change in people's everyday lives.

In this section, you'll find out about:

- Good Relations Week archive
- Good Relations Award 2020 winners
- Delivering T:BUC during the pandemic - the T:BUC Engagement Forum
- Footsteps to Peace - a documentary featuring CRC core funded groups
- Making A Difference project with TEO and Gilford youths
- Virtual Reality helping to tackle sectarian prejudice.

The Archive

Good Relations Week 2020



Good Relations Week 2020 had over 200 online events that took place 14-21 September.

Many of the events are still available to view from the archive with everything from podcasts to online art exhibitions, talks and discussions.

What are you waiting for? Delve into the archive now!

[View GR Week archive](#)

Inspirational Local Peacemaker Good Relations Award 2020



An inspirational local peacemaker, Paddy White from YouthLink, received the Good Relations Award 2020 at an online ceremony on 16 September.

The Awards, held by the NI Community Relations Council (CRC) had the largest number of nominations this year since the Award's inception in 2006. Such was the calibre of the nominations that three "Highly Commended" awards were also made this year.

The Good Relations Award highlights exceptional achievement in promoting community relations, intercultural work, and peacebuilding.

As the Director of Youth Link, Paddy has devoted a significant part of his life to community relations and intercultural work across Northern Ireland and the border regions.

[Read more](#)

Delivering TBUC during the pandemic



Over 200 people attended the first fully online T:BUC Engagement Forum – “Delivering T:BUC during the pandemic,” which explored creative ways to continue delivery of key projects and learn from best practice examples.

The event was part of Good Relations Week 2020, and was organised by NI Community Relations Council (CRC) on behalf of The Executive Office (TEO).

The T:BUC Engagement Forum is an important opportunity to hear from people and organisations involved in the delivery of T:BUC (Together: Building a United Community) during these unprecedented times.

[Read more](#)

Footsteps to Peace



FOOTSTEPS TO PEACE

30 years of community relations

Exploring 30 Years Of Community Relations in Northern Ireland.

The documentary “Footsteps to Peace” featured many Community Relations Council core funded groups, and was screened on NvTv throughout Good Relations Week.

NvTv added archive footage to newly recorded material to highlight community relations practice over the years and bring this important story to television screens.

[Read more](#)

Making a Difference TEO and Gilford youths



10 young people from the Gilford area of County Down completed the Making a Difference Project 2020.

The Making a Difference Project, funded by The Executive Office and delivered under the Planned Interventions Programme as part of the wider Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy, is focused on young people in interface areas and areas where there is the potential of unrest during the summer period.

The Programme aims to improve attitudes between young people who come from different community backgrounds, and reduce incidents of anti-social and risk taking behaviour by young people.

[Read more](#)

Virtual Reality Challenging Sectarian Prejudice



Virtual Reality is being used to help challenge stereotypes and reduce sectarian prejudice in a project developed through Queen's University Belfast, with assistance from the Community Relations Council (CRC).

Dr Salvador Alvidrez, principal investigator for the project, said: "Our project will test social interactions in VR between members of the Catholic and Protestant communities in Northern Ireland and their influence in overcoming prejudiced perceptions."

In the video above, Salvador gives an update on his project.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

In this section, you'll find links to upcoming events focused on peacebuilding and good relations from various local groups across Northern Ireland:

- FREE Zoom training session from Supporting Communities
- Measure impact in border regions - Cross Border Studies Seminar
- "Measuring Up" – current monitoring practices within Good Relations by Droichead Project in Cultúrlann
- Linking Generations Northern Ireland - resources and help during Covid-19

- How Organisations Navigate Conflict and Build Peace by Joanne Murphy - book launch
- Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival 2020 - Smashing Times
- "The Legacy of the Border" with The Nerve Centre, Diarmaid Ferriter and Garrett Carr
- "Get Real" online community education programme with RCN and NIACRO
- Brexit 2020 – What's happening with the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland? -- webinar with Falls Council

BAME Covid-19 Recovery Fund Migrant Centre NI



Migrant Centre NI has been concerned that many small BAME projects working with diverse communities across Northern Ireland are facing risk of closure due to financial pressures due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

They have made available grant support for BAME-led community organisations to deliver services at this challenging time. This is possible because they were chosen as one of 10 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) led organisations who will fund hundreds of small projects across the UK with a £3.4m fund from Comic Relief and National Emergencies Trust.

Deadline: **15 January 2021.**

[Read more](#)

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.

[Submit your story now!](#)



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