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# Monthly News

## February 2021

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Hi <<First Name>>

First up, a huge thanks to everyone who took the time to nominate someone for the 2021 Good Relations Awards. We had a tremendous response! We'll announce the winners at an online presentation event in March 2021. All the details next time.

Coming up at the end of this month, we have a Resource Fair with information and help for groups planning to mark the forthcoming Centenary in 2021 - there's more information below.

Also in this month's issue of the CRC newsletter, you can read about:

- Grants Explained - a video about the different CRC funding schemes
- T:BUC Engagement Forum - Our Shared Community
- Resource Fair - Marking the NI Centenary 2021
- Investing in Community Leadership Programme
- Unholy War drama set in East Belfast
- In This Together 2021 project from RCN
- Interview with CRC Board Member Michael McDonnell.

Keep safe.

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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 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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**Resource Fair**  
Marking the 2021 NI Centenary

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## **Resource Fair - Marking the Centenary 24-26 February 2021**

Is your organisation marking the forthcoming 2021 NI Centenary?

Join us for our FREE 3-day online Resource Fair which will highlight resources, provide info sessions, and showcase contributions from PRONI, Nerve Centre, Northern Ireland Screen and many more.

The Resource Fair, which takes place online, will provide opportunities to discuss the use of available resources and their application in a way that reinforces the Principles for Remembering.

[Click for more information and booking](#)

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## **CRC Grant Video**

## **Our Funding Explained**

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Find out about the different grant schemes available from the Community Relations Council, as well as helpful advice and tips for completing your application.

Our short video delves into the different grants schemes available, and which one might be right for you or your organisation.

[Read more](#)

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## Grants & Funding

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### **Central Good Relations Fund**

The 2021/22 Central Good Relations Fund is open for groups.

Applications must be submitted by Friday 12 February 2021 at 6 PM.

[Read more](#)

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## Dormant Accounts Fund

The Dormant Accounts Fund NI is now open.

This programme will support the VCSE sector in Northern Ireland to be more resilient and prepared for the future by funding activity that increases long term capacity and sustainability.



[Read more](#)

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# Monthly News

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

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

In this section, you can find the following:

- T:BUC Engagement Forum - Our Shared Community
- Resource Fair - Marking the NI Centenary 2021
- Investing in Community Leadership Programme
- Unholy War drama set in East Belfast
- In This Together 2021 project from RCN
- Interview with CRC Board Member Michael McDonnell.

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## Our Shared Community T:BUC Engagement Forum



On 19th January over 200 people attended the fully online T:BUC Engagement Forum – “Our Shared Community” which explored creative ways in which T:BUC has delivered through the theme of shared community.

Our Shared Community aims to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

TEO Junior Ministers Declan Kearney and Gordon Lyons were in attendance, and the event was hosted by Dr Mark Browne of The Executive Office.

[Read more](#)

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## Investing in Community Leadership



An ambitious programme will identify and develop leaders in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

The “Investing in Community Leadership” programme is a 3-way partnership between Holywell Trust (core funded by the Community Relations Council), Fermanagh Trust, and the Rural Community Network (also core funded by Community Relations Council).

[Read more](#)

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## Unholy War An East Belfast Story



Unholy War follows ordinary people caught up in the tumultuous events of East Belfast from 1920—22. It's a nuanced study in how the past has shaped the present.

The drama project from The Bright Umbrella Drama Company was funded through the Community Relations Council (CRC) Small Grants Scheme.

“This period of the history of East Belfast is not well known and yet the huge demographic shifts of the time and the political positions that were adopted still affect us today,” said artistic director Trevor Gill. “The broader challenge of the piece was to ask if we will learn from our past or are we condemned to make the same mistakes over and over again?”

[Read more](#)

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**In This Together 2021**  
**Rural Community Network**



The Rural Community Network (RCN), who are core funded by the Community Relations Council, is delivering a special digital project during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“In This Together 2021” will showcase local rural groups helping and supporting their communities. The project is led by RCN’s Charmain Jones.

“We are in uncertain times and there is much fear, confusion and frustration out in the community as the virus continues to rage and we enter a winter lockdown,” she said. “We understand many groups and volunteers are looking for ways to make a difference this time around again and we thought we would share some of the brilliant work of our groups with you and help you to think about what might be possible this time around.”

[Read more](#)

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## CRC Board Interview

Michael McDonnell



We've recorded a series of interviews with our Board Members to introduce them and their work, and to find out more about who they are.

This month we're featuring an interview with Michael McDonnell.

Michael is Chief Executive of the Choice Housing Group, a registered Housing Association and charity. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1989 and has worked in leadership roles within both the private and not-for-profit sectors before entering the housing sector.

[Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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

- Celebrate International Mother Language Day with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Good Relations webinar
- Ards and North Down Borough Council is holding a series of lectures entitled "Towards Reconciliations in Northern Ireland"
- The Irish School of Ecumenics next webinar on the theme "Is There a Common Good?"
- Dividing Ireland Conference: The Origins, Impact and Legacy of Partition with the Nerve Centre

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# Choose to Challenge North West Migrant Forum



Take part in “Choose to Challenge” – a series of online seminars aimed at providing confidence and leadership skills for BME women and girls across Northern Ireland.

Delivered by the North West Migrant Forum (NWMF), the seminars include active discussions about the intersections between racial equality and gender justice in Northern Ireland.

[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?

[Submit your story now!](#)



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

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