



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Equity | Diversity | Interdependence

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The Community Relations Council is a regional funding and development agency for community relations.

WHO WE ARE

The Community Relations Council (CRC) was established in 1990 to lead and support change towards reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust; and to be a catalyst for good inter-community and inter-cultural relationships in Northern Ireland.

We are an arm's-length body of The Executive Office (TEO) and a key delivery agent of The Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy. T:BUC reflects TEO's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

WHAT WE DO

We distribute grant aid on behalf of The Executive Office (TEO) in line with the requirements of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI); we provide development support; we identify and share best practice; and we facilitate wide community engagement on effective approaches to peacebuilding and shared community relationships.

The Community Relations Council also promotes the benefits of Good Relations policies and practices at regional, institutional, local and community levels.

We advocate for acknowledgement of our interconnectedness; and we challenge sectarianism, racism and all the related activities that are motivated by hate.

OUR VALUES

Human dignity is the fundamental basis for good community relations. In that context, the Community Relations Council is guided by the following values and beliefs:

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

CRC recognises the importance of living well together and the interdependence of personal and community experiences of all those living and working in Northern Ireland. We believe in inclusive and open dialogue. CRC exists to promote good relations based on trust, respect, inclusion and interconnectedness.

DIVERSITY

We believe that our diversity of identities and cultures in Northern Ireland enriches life and is to be celebrated.

EQUITY AND EQUALITY

CRC is committed to fair treatment for all, through open access to resources, structures and decision-making processes at all levels of society, as an essential basis for good community relations.

RESPECT AND DIGNITY

CRC is committed to human rights, inter-cultural respect, freedom of expression and movement (whether expressed through religious, ethnic, or political backgrounds) and supports the peaceful expression of variety and difference. CRC therefore recognises non-violence as an essential condition for the growth of trust, dialogue, and conflict transformation.

THE COMMON GOOD

CRC believes that community relationships built on trust and living well together contributes to sustainable development, the general well-being of our society, and the common good.

OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To maintain trust and confidence in our work as a provider of public services, CRC embraces these values in all of its work.

FUNDING

Every year the Community Relations Council invests around £2 million in peacebuilding organisations and projects. CRC manages six funding programmes:

1 CORE FUNDING SCHEME

The Core Fund Scheme provides grants to organisations that are considered of strategic importance in promoting good community relationships across Northern Ireland. The grants focus on the salary and running costs of these organisations.

2 Community Relations and Cultural Diversity (CR/CD) Scheme

CR/CD funding focuses on helping community and voluntary groups to engage in community relations work in Northern Ireland. The scheme provided grants up to £10,000, with the average award around £2k - 5k.

3 PUBLICATION GRANT SCHEME

The aim of the Scheme is to encourage the production and dissemination of publications that contribute to greater understanding and better community relations in Northern Ireland. Applications must come directly from publishers and the maximum award is £5,000.

4 MEDIA GRANT SCHEME

The Scheme offers financial support to media projects designed to underpin peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. This can include digital content projects, infographics, television, radio, video, and podcasts.

5 North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP)

NBSGRP is a ministerial funding scheme set up by TEO with the key aim of improving community relations in North Belfast. CRC administers the scheme on behalf of TEO.

6 PATHFINDER SCHEME

Pathfinder provides emergency funding support in specific circumstances. All qualifying projects are agreed according to strict criteria approved by TEO.

The opening of each grant funding scheme varies and is dependent on the funds available each year. To view all currently open schemes, please visit our website: www.community-relations.org.uk/funding

ENGAGEMENT

The exchange of learning and Best Practice across our funded groups and wider networks remains at the heart of our work. We also engage in the programmes outlined below to help broaden the understanding of the role CRC plays in peacebuilding and good community relations.

T:BUC ENGAGEMENT FORUM

The Forum reflects on the delivery of the T:BUC strategy. CRC delivers three T:BUC Engagement Forums each year on behalf of TEO. These events each attract over 150 participants, many of which include community practitioners, policymakers and academics.

GOOD RELATIONS WEEK

Good Relations Week is an annual event coordinated by CRC and supported by government departments. During the week-long event held in September, community, cultural and statutory organisations showcase good relations work taking place throughout Northern Ireland.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE MONITORING REPORT

With independent funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, independent authors and an independent Advisory Group, CRC facilitates the production of the NI Peace Monitoring Report. You can view the reports here: www.community-relations.org.uk/publications/northern-ireland-peace-monitoring-report

SHARED LEARNING FORUM

Each quarter, we convene a Shared Learning Forum to support our funded groups. A key element of each Shared Learning Forum is the exchange of ideas and skills.

GOOD RELATIONS AWARDS

Since 2006, CRC's Good Relations Award has highlighted exceptional achievement in promoting good community relations, intercultural work, and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. There are now five Awards categories. The awards are made in conjunction with partners in The Executive Office, NICVA, NI Youth Forum, Volunteer Now, and The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Find out more information about CRC's work and keep up to date with our activities:

 www.NICRC.org.uk

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