



**Building Positive Relations Project
Activity Update Overview
June 2019- July 2019**

Events

Workshops

Cultural Awareness Workshop, June 1st 2019 Belfast Region.

Cultural Awareness Workshop, June 28th 2019 Donegal Region.

Conference

Addressing Poverty - Building Peace?

June 26th 2019

Organised by Belfast Regional Coordinators.

Conference: Addressing Poverty – Building Peace

The first of two Year One conferences took place on the 26th of June 2019 in Belfast. The conference was entitled 'Addressing Poverty. The purpose of this conference was to unpack the realities of poverty in society, with an emphasis on understanding the experiences of those impacted by continued poverty resulting from conflict-related issues. Through both informative and interactive components, the conference provided much needed advice and support across society as well as exploring the opportunities for how addressing the issue of poverty could contribute to sustainable peace.

The first panel included Daniel Holder (Committee on the Administration of Justice) who examined issues including the impact on poverty across society as well as the challenges presented by external factors, including Brexit. The panel concluded with discussion from Eilish Rooney (Transitional Justice Institute) who explored the realities of those who continue to experience poverty in peace including the intergenerational experiences. A second section consisted of representatives from Coiste and EPIC, who outlined the impact of poverty on Republican and Loyalist ex-prisoners and their families. This was followed by Agnes Fraser (Welfare Advisor - Building Positive Relations Project) who explored the challenges facing clients as well as the services available. The final section of the conference welcomed input from each of the five main political parties who had the opportunity to present their policies to address poverty in peace. The conference concluded with a Q&A from attendees with all conference contributors.

In recognition of the project's action focused commitment, this conference also provide the opportunity for attendees to engage with the key services available to address issues of poverty and welfare. The 'Drop-In Clinic' was be available from 9.30 am – 3pm adjacent to the main conference suite and included stalls from key service providers.



**Cultural Awareness Regional Workshops
1st June 2019 (Belfast) and 28th June 2019 (Donegal)**

A Cultural Awareness workshop was organised by the Belfast regional Coordinators and took place on the 1st of June 2019. The purpose of this Cultural Awareness workshop was to provide a thought-provoking insight into the shared history of migration on the Island as well as highlighting the commonalities of the migrant experience for those who join our society today. Entitled 'Understanding Shared Cultural History – The Potato Famine and Migration' this workshop comprised of interactive cultural site-visits both in Belfast and Dublin. The workshop began with a guided tour at the Clifton House and Famine Graveyard, Belfast. The second site visit took place at the Jeanie Johnson Tall Ship in Dublin. This guided tour of the replica of the historical ship explored 'what life was like for those passengers who made the transatlantic voyage to an uncertain future in the 'New World'. The final section of the workshop incorporated a guided tour of The Irish Emigration Museum.

A second Cultural Awareness workshop took place in Letterkenny on the 28th of June 2019 with representatives from the ex-prisoner, the Syrian and Sudanese communities sharing their experiences.

