



Justin Kouame former chair of NICRAS delivers part of the workshop at Cultra, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum- Newry/ Dundalk group

Year 1 Achievements:

- 9 workshops on the theme of Anti-sectarianism, Anti-racism and Cultural Awareness
- Event launch
- 'Addressing Poverty, Building Peace' Conference
- 'Prosecuting the Peace' Conference
- Project Coordinator meetings and steering group meetings
- Welfare advice support
- Counselling service
- Planning and initiation of Sustainable Leadership Programme with the Peace IV Open Doors Project.

Building Positive Relations

The Building Positive Relations project is managed by Ashton Community Trust and involves a partnership between the Coiste Network, Veterans for Peace, Irish Immigration Advisors and Belfast Conflict Resolution Centre. This is a regional project and involves coordinating partners in Dundalk, Newry, Letterkenny, Derry, Leitrim, Monaghan and Belfast. The project aims to build positive relations and awareness of conflict related harms and the impact on ex-prisoners. The project increases awareness and provides education and information in the form of workshops and conferences exploring the three core themes of Anti-Sectarianism, Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism.

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BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS – YEAR 1





Launch of BPR project, Balmoral hotel

Engagement

We have developed a wide range of workshops and events on the theme of anti-racism, anti-sectarianism, cultural awareness and peace-building across the regions. Coordinators have been pro-active in providing supporting and engaging participants in events. We also organised and rolled out the Sustainable Leadership Programme in conjunction with the Open Doors Project. Welfare advice and counselling support is provided across the regions to project participants and the local community.

Project Launch – Speakers included Gina McIntyre from SEUPB, Avila Kilmurray founder of Women’s Coalition, Michael Culbert, Coiste Director

Conference: Addressing Poverty, Building Peace –contributions from Daniel Holder, PPR Director, Eilish Rooney, TJI Ulster University

Conference: Prosecuting the Peace – presentations from Professor Kieran McEvoy, Professor Peter Shirlow, Mark Thompson (RFJ)

Information

*‘A very important topic, great presentations, not only highlighting the issue of poverty but offering solutions, so relevant and it needs to be discussed more and more.’
(Conference attendee)*

Workshops on the theme of Anti-Sectarianism, Anti- Racism, Cultural Diversity:

- Unpacking Sectarianism, Belfast & Derry 26/03/19 & 09/05/19
- Understanding Cultural Awareness, Derry 10/05/19
- Understanding Shared Cultural History- The Potato Famine and Migration, Belfast 30/05/19
- Past & Contemporary Experiences of Migration, Belfast & Monaghan/ Leitrim 1/06/19 & 21/09/19
- Cultural Awareness, Letterkenny 28/06/19
- Utilising Comedy and Culture to Help Build Positive Relations, Derry 30/07/19
- Sharing Histories and Experiences, Newry/ Dundalk 5/10/19



Eamon Phoenix presentation with Belfast group

Education

We engaged a wide range of academic and experienced practitioners in the field of peace building and diversity to educate and inform participants.

‘I have learned a lot from the Building Positive Relations Project, in particular the anti –sectarianism workshop which gave me a better understanding of what my parents and grandparents went through. We all must ensure that sectarianism is a thing of the past so that we all will have better and safer futures.’

