

Grassroots Peacebuilding in NI: Supporting Intercommunity Practice and Activism

- 1 Carson Project, Ballymena** **Building Inter community engagement and activism**

Inter and Intra community engagement on a range of social, legacy and political issues will be undertaken through workshops, meetings, site visits, events and via a Cross-community Forum for Ballymena and its neighbouring villages. The beneficiaries will be from working class PUL and CNR communities in the area. CP has built its capacity and challenged some negative perceptions of their group as ex-prisoners/ex-combatants. They are showing leadership within and across local communities and have learned from other places/groups. They are keen to engage with the CNR community in Ballymena, including the CNR constituency groups and those with dissident voices. The focus of this grant will be in Ballymena which is important as there is little inter-community engagement.
- 2 Creggan Enterprises, Derry** **Focus project - young women**

The project will engage younger women (25/40) in one to one mentoring support as well as offering group activities with a view to forming a Women's Forum in Year 3. CE already works with older women in the Unheard Voices project and is about to begin a new Community Dialogue programme. Both initiatives offer additional support for this project. There is a need to support younger women in this fractured community - the Unheard Voices project has made huge progress in addressing issues relating to the impact of conflict on its participants and has given them support, voice, exposure and empowerment. It is hoped this programme will help younger women to safely challenge what is happening in their areas.
- 3 Ealu, Dungannon** **Civic Dialogue and women in peacebuilding**

This project will develop the strands of work started in the pilot programme and will add a new Woman's Group peacebuilding project and further develop their social economy capacity. The 4 proposed strands of work will involve workshops, training, site visits, dialogue, oral history work, social economy projects and service delivery. Targets have been identified for each strand and new people attend the centre on a regular basis and the group has an open-door policy. The work will strengthen relationships and build capacity and broker strong relationships with some statutory bodies. Ealú also engages with other groups working on similar issues.
- 4 Impact Network NI, Randalstown** **Loyalist Ladies in Leadership**

An engagement programme for marginalised PUL women from a range of backgrounds /constituencies in the identified areas who have not engaged with peacebuilding work will be delivered over 3 years. There is a focus on building relationships and enhancing engagement of women at both local and wider level.
- 5 Leafair Community Association, Derry** **Safe Youth**

The project will involve direct engagement and bespoke programmes for young people vulnerable to attack or recruitment to paramilitary groups; direct challenge to the culture of support for armed actions and/or support for attacks on young people; direct challenge to groups that issue threats or recruit young people. LCA will host public events to challenge and debate community safety and attacks on young people. The focus of "SAFE YOUTH" is on protecting young people and creating pathways for vulnerable young people to create new life-changing opportunities. Local conditions have resulted in an upsurge in armed actions in Derry and an increase in tensions between some groups.
- 6 Newry Felons Association, Newry** **Changing Lives/Building Bridges**

The group offers advice, support, training, mental health services and inter-community engagement opportunities to ex-prisoners and their families/friends in the Newry and Mourne area. This project will offer a range of new training courses, skills development, political education classes and inter-community dialogue/debates with loyalist and other PUL and republican groups, organise events and activities, study

SIPA funded groups - public

visits, and explore how to provide therapeutic supports and a social economy project in Barcroft estate in Newry.

- 7 North Belfast Interface Network Upper North Belfast confidence building forum**
A part-time worker will support and develop a new People's Forum across interfaces in this Upper North Belfast Area. A Planning Group of 15 people is in place and answering to a larger group of 62 people who have come through the NBIN organised 'Challenging Conversations' 9-week course and who are keen to build on their learning by participating in a cross-community peacebuilding collective. The focus is to give 'voice' to local people, promote activism and advocacy on a range of issues impacting the areas, and engage agencies and politicians to hold them to account.
- 8 North West Migrants Forum, Derry Building young people advocacy**
This is a campaign to raise awareness of the impact of the Common Travel Area restrictions on migrants. The project will develop the skills and confidence of young people to advocate, mobilize and campaign on a policy issue of concern to them. The project will work with schools and existing community groups. NWMF has an active user group of young people in the Derry/Strabane areas from both host communities (Catholic and Protestant) as well as close links with minority groups in Letterkenny. Emigration policy is not a devolved matter and is Westminster-led and most people are unaware of the impact of the CTA and the constrained situation that many migrants find themselves in.
- 9 Queenspark Womens Group, Belfast Women Connect Project**
A cross-community and cross-border project for women will be delivered over the 3 years which takes a focussed approach to peacebuilding and legacy issues, women's voice, community activism and advocacy/lobbying. The project aims to develop leadership and motivation in the participants and make connections across and within communities.
- 10 Turas na nDaoine, Lisnaskea Womens Group**
This project will develop a new cross-community Women's Group in this rural area of Erne East. The project will have a dedicated drop-in centre for the project, will be led by women and engage in a range of training, discussions, study visits and networking. The aim is for new leadership and voice to emerge.
- 11 Ulidia Training, Ballymoney Loyal-T**
This project will target 4 groups of 15/20 young people vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment or the attention of the Youth Justice System. The project will engage vulnerable young people, invest in awareness-raising of their culture and identity, show them the impact on their lives as a result of coming to the attention of the Justice system, provide training and support, and expose them to other cultures/identities through cross-community engagement, study visits and boot camps.
- 12 Sperrin Cultural Awareness Programme Support Programme for Reference Group**
SCAA is the lead organisation for the "Reference Group" established in June 2018 to bring together key leaders within communities moving away from conflict. Members work in contentious areas, within difficult circumstances or with transitioning constituencies. The group is unique in that it brings together individuals from a range of Loyalist and Republican backgrounds, including mainstream and disaffected factions. The support will allow the group to work together on a range of peacebuilding and conflict-related issues over the next three years, with a particular emphasis on engaging women and young people.