



## ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011

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## OVERVIEW

The South Belfast Roundtable was established in January 2004 as a response against the rising trend of racist attacks in South Belfast.

This initiative brought together representatives from minority ethnic groups, local community, church, political leaders, and representatives of key statutory bodies with an interest in addressing racism in South Belfast in a positive and proactive way.

The mission of the Roundtable is to “work in partnership to challenge racism and promote diversity in South Belfast”

It works in three strategic areas;

- Good Relations
- Education and Learning
- Sustainability (strategy and funding)

It aims to;

- facilitate information-sharing and discussions amongst all relevant South Belfast stakeholders – at both formal and less formal levels;
- develop and participate in a strategic educational process in South Belfast that will promote improved mutual understanding, contact, interaction and cohesiveness;
- develop and implement a communications strategy that will effectively tackle, challenge and/or manage racism-related (and potentially crisis) situations in South Belfast;
- work collaboratively with other relevant stakeholders in South Belfast to present positive images of inclusion and diversity through highlighting examples of good anti-racist practice

**The Roundtable** – meets quarterly at the NI Equality Commission

**The Executive Committee** - implements the strategic direction of the work

**Facilitating Organisation South Belfast Partnership** - carries out line management and support functions

## **SOUTH BELFAST ROUNDTABLE ON RACISM Executive and Staff 2010-11**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Eileen Chan Hu	Chinese Welfare Association
Margaret Donaghy	MCRC (Multi Cultural Resource Centre)
Anne Deighan	Belfast City Council Good Relations
Hassan Mansour	Belfast Islamic Centre
Gabi Mornhinweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Brian McFaul	NI Housing Executive

### **STAFF**

Denise Wright	Race Relations Coordinator
Stephanie Mitchell	Integration Project
Catherine O'Keeffe	Finance and Administration

## REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE ROUNDTABLE

### EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

#### **Training Programme in partnership with Good Relations at Belfast City Council.**

The training programme offered free training opportunities across the statutory, community, voluntary and private sectors in Belfast to promote cultural diversity and challenge racism. Both Migration Awareness training and Ending Hate training were offered monthly in partnership with Good Relations at Belfast City Council and demand for places was high.

**Migration Awareness Training** - an interactive session which explores inward and outward migration and the rights of migrant workers in Northern Ireland. It aims to dispel myths and provide practical information on issues relating to migration.

**Ending Hate in Our Communities** - training from The Centre for Prevention of Hate Crime in Maine USA has been adapted to the NI situation. It aims to give participants an understanding of the extent of bias, harassment and hate crimes in their community and the impact of bias and harassment on those targeted, as well as practical skills to help them respond to and prevent hate crime.

The Roundtable has tailored and delivered training on request for a range of community groups, schools and statutory bodies.

### GOOD RELATIONS INITIATIVES

#### **Good Relations Village Focus Group**

This group met tri weekly to monitor tensions in the area and respond accordingly.

#### **Shared History Project**

The project which initially brought together members of the long term communities of the Donegall Pass and The Markets, the established Elderly Chinese Community and members of the newer Polish community to explore "How did we come here?" was extended to a group of young Chinese from mainland China, the Roma and the Belfast Holyland communities and this year to Taughmonagh, Finaghy and Benmore.

The display continues to be widely used across Belfast and beyond.

#### **Work to engage the Roma Community in South Belfast**

The Roundtable was involved in working with Botanic Primary and BELB Education Welfare Officers in relation to the welfare of the Roma children coming to live in South Belfast.

Working with EMBRACE the Roundtable has helped secure some school uniforms and bus fares.

In partnership with Belfast Trust and youth workers from Fitzroy Presbyterian two 4 week Healthy Living Programmes were delivered.

The Race Relations Coordinator worked in partnership with the Multi Cultural Resource Centre on Roma issues and the Roma Community Liaison Officer employed through MCRC was jointly managed with the Roundtable.

The Roundtable was involved in a range of interagency initiatives to bring together representatives from statutory bodies and the local and Roma communities.

### **Belfast Friendship Club: 'a social peg to hang a conversation on'**

The club which met informally one evening each week at Common Grounds Café is open to everyone but offers a particular welcome to newcomers who find themselves in Belfast for any reason.

A number of social events took place and the Toe in the Arts Project delivered dance, felt making, photography and painting workshops.

### **Belfast Inclusion Festival: events by communities for communities**

During the month of June South Belfast Roundtable coordinated a series of events across Belfast. This engaged local communities who were invited to hold an event to promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Local communities, minority ethnic communities, voluntary organisations, charities and local businesses worked in partnership to deliver 52 events across the city which promoted trust and mutual understanding, helping to develop and strengthen relationships in the longer term through the ongoing work within the Roundtable.

Events included multi cultural food festivals, football matches, world café meeting, a 'living' library, a 'small worlds' gathering, dance, music, concerts, storytelling, crafts sessions, puppet making workshops, indoor and outdoor film screenings, exhibitions of photography, showcases of children's artwork, training programmes, clothes swaps and a large scale, interactive chalk drawing created by the public in the city centre. For further details of the programme see: <http://www.belfastinclusionfestival.org>

### **British Council Active Citizens**

A group of 11 participants were recruited for a March exchange trip to the Sudan.

These participants as well as others attended residential training in January 2011 delivered over 2 days at Farcet International by South Belfast Roundtable staff.

A very successful return visit of Sudanese Active Citizens took place in July – they visited a range of initiatives across South Belfast.

## **FUNDING**

Core funding was through OFMDFM Racial Equality Unit and Peace III through Belfast City Council.

Specific projects have been funded through The Arts Council, Belfast Trust and British Council.

Additional funding was sourced through training delivery and facilitation.

## **ROUNDTABLE REVIEW and PLANNING**

In June 2010 a planning day was held at Farcet International where the current work plan for the Roundtable was endorsed and the need for the launch of a new pro diversity/anti racism statement was agreed to be implemented once the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration is in place.

