



The initial data collection for this project will be conducted via **surveys, interviews and focus groups**. Following this, members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and District Councillors will be invited to explore the preliminary results at a **Seminar** in June 2004. A **Conference** to be held in September 2004 will include international experts in the field, Assembly Members and District Councillors, as well as CR policy makers and representatives of the community and voluntary sector. A report will also be widely disseminated.

The Politicians and Community Relations project has been funded by the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation within Measure 2:1, Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace, via the European Directorate of the Community Relations Council.

#### Contact:

Frank Foley  
Research Associate  
INCORE, University of Ulster  
Aberfoyle House, Northland Road  
Londonderry, BT48 7JA



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



Project supported by the  
**EU Programme  
for Peace and Reconciliation**



Tel: +44 (0) 28 7137 5516  
Email: [fa.foley@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:fa.foley@ulster.ac.uk)  
[www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/pcr](http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/pcr)



## **POLITICIANS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

INCORE has commenced a new project on Politicians and Community Relations. The aim of this project is to acquire a greater understanding of the perspectives of Northern Ireland's politicians on Community Relations (CR) work, in order to provide a knowledge base for the formulation of a more cohesive and agreed approach to the future of such work on the part of politicians, CR practitioners and policy makers.

**Reflecting a range of views** - 'Community relations' means different things to different people. This project will ask Northern Ireland's politicians, how do *you* define community relations? Analysing the implications of their various responses to this question, the project will also describe the kinds of CR work that politicians are prepared to support, and outline the kinds of work that they are reluctant to participate in.

**An uncertain context** - How do politicians perceive the apparent lack of progress in establishing better community relations in Northern Ireland over the last decade? Do they see a need for greater political support for the activity taking place at grassroots level?

**Ways forward** - Exploring a broad range of issues with public representatives, policy makers and CR practitioners, this project will present options for the future role of politicians in the challenging task of improving community relations in Northern Ireland.

