

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR EMERGING COMMUNITY LEADERS

- **Are you currently engaged in making a positive difference within your local community or area?**
- **Are you part of a new generation of community leaders who became active since 1998?**
- **Are you interested in learning more about ‘dealing with the past’ issues in Northern Ireland and internationally?**

INCORE at the University of Ulster, Intercomm Ireland, Belfast, and the Peace and Reconciliation Group, Derry/Londonderry are currently accepting applications for community leaders to participate in an exciting project called ‘Journeys Out’. The Journeys Out Project aims to engage a new generation of community leaders in the debate about ‘dealing with the past’, to explore these issues within their local communities and to learn more from international experiences of ‘dealing with the past’ following conflict.

During 2009-2010, the project will work with 20 emerging community leaders from a variety of backgrounds and experiences over the course of 12-months to explore the legacy of the conflict and how local communities can make a contribution to the on-going debate on how to ‘deal with the past’.

Involvement in the project will require a significant commitment on the part of the participants. However, the rewards will also be considerable.

If selected, you will have an opportunity to:

- Receive **training** in facilitation skills, community research, prejudice-awareness and dealing with the past issues, among others (with opportunities for accreditation);
- Be supported by project partners to undertake **community research** and deliver workshop(s) on conflict-related themes;
- Participate in an **international study visit** to explore community responses to dealing with the past following conflict;
- **Engage, and learn from, other emerging community leaders** making positive contributions within their local areas;
- **Gain access to key policymakers and practitioners** working on dealing with the past issues through policy seminars;
- Have your experience of community leadership acknowledged by being **interviewed** for inclusion in a protected web-based archive held by the University of Ulster;
- Obtain University of Ulster **accreditation** for participation in the project, if you wish (on completion of assignments).

In order to qualify for participation, applicants must:

- Have become actively involved in community relations or community development work on either a paid or voluntary basis since 1998 (i.e. post Belfast/Good Friday Agreement);
- Have significant experience of community leadership in one of the following areas targeted by the project:
 - North / West / East Belfast
 - Derry/Londonderry
 - Strabane
 - Ballymena
- Be willing to commit, on a voluntary basis, up to 18 days of their time between April 2009 and February 2010 to undertake a range of project activities;
- Be available during working hours and have permission to participate in the project by employers, if necessary;
- Be willing and able to travel locally and to take part in a 5-7 day international study visit on 'dealing with the past' in early 2010;
- Be interested in, and willing to work on a cross-community basis with participants from a range of backgrounds, areas and experiences.

Interested in Applying?

If you interested in participating in this important new project, more information and application forms are available from:

Conor Maskey, Intercomm, 290-292 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 5AA

conor@intercommbelfast.com, or 028 90352165

or

Michael Doherty, Peace and Reconciliation Group, 16 Bishop Street, Derry/Londonderry, BT48 6PW Michael@peaceprg.co.uk, or 028 7136 9206

or

Janet Farren, INCORE, University of Ulster, Aberfoyle House, Northland Road, Derry/Londonderry, BT48 7JL je.farren@ulster.ac.uk, or 028 71375575

Details and Application forms can also be downloaded at **www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/policy/jo/**

Closing Date for Applications is 5pm on Friday, 20th of March 2009. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with the project partners on the 30/31 of March 2009 before final selection of applicants is made.

The process of selecting participants will address the need for a diversity of political/religious affiliation and ethnicity, and a balance of gender representation. Those from minority ethnic groups, currently engaged in community relations/development are actively encouraged to apply.



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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Project Description

The purpose of the Journeys Out project is to advance 'bottom-up' approaches to dealing with the past in Northern Ireland and the Border Region by:

- Building the capacity of community leaders to engage in the debate about dealing with the past on an inter-community basis;
- Assisting local communities in identifying and addressing their needs in terms of dealing with the past; and
- Acting as a complement and resource to the 'top-down' dealing with the past initiatives instigated in Northern Ireland in recent times.

Project Partners

Building on the success of a pilot project undertaken in 2007-08, the Journeys Out project is delivered by INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), based at the University of Ulster, in partnership with the Peace and Reconciliation Group, Derry/Londonderry, Intercomm Ireland, based in Belfast, and the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Co. Wicklow.

Participants

The project will select 20 participants who are active within their communities to engage in a year-long programme of activities aimed at exploring bottom-up approaches to dealing with the legacy of conflict, both locally and internationally. These community leaders will be drawn from a number of target areas within Northern Ireland to ensure a diversity of experiences and allow for new connections to be made and networks to be formed. In recognition of the increasing diversity of our communities, the project will also seek to engage participants from – or working with – minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland, bring a new dimension and richness to the debate around 'dealing with the past'.

Activities

Selected participants must be available to undertake **all** of the following activities, which will take place between April 2009 – February 2010.

- Attend a half-day public project launch event (April 2009);
- Undertaking five **training days** which will include modules on facilitation skills, dealing with the past (locally and internationally), sectarianism and racism, and community research skills (between May 2009 – January 2010, full day sessions) with optional accreditation available;
- Complete of a **review** of current activities / issues related to 'dealing with the past' (such as memorials, commemoration events, museums, support-structures) within local area (with the support of the Partner organisations) and the co-delivery of a **community workshop** aimed at exploring local issues related to the legacy of the conflict; (between October- December 2009)
- Participate in an **international study visit** to South Africa to learn from international approaches to dealing with the past (five days in South Africa during February 2010);
- Be **video interviewed** for inclusion in a protected, web-based archive of community leaders' experiences of addressing the legacy of the conflict;
- Participate in a **seminar with policymakers** tasked with addressing the legacy of the conflict;
- Contribute to the design and delivery of a module on community responses to dealing with the past at the **INCORE International Summer School** in 2011.

The above activities will involve each participant agreeing (in writing) to commit a minimum of 18 days (including time away from home during the international study visit) to the project between April 2009 – February 2010. All of the activities listed below are free of charge to participants and meals, travel and accommodation costs will be covered for project activities. **No payments will be made to the participants or their employers for their time spent on the project.**