

What Is Community Dialogue?

We are people from diverse communities. As a group we take no position on party-political issues. We believe that if we want a better future we need to take the time to question ourselves, listen to each other, and seek to understand each other more deeply.

Our Vision

A vibrant, just and inclusive society informed and empowered through dialogue.

Our Mission

To engage people at all levels in open honest dialogue that encourages understanding.

Steps into Dialogue

Community Dialogue received funding under the Special European Union Peace III Programme to deliver 'Steps into Dialogue'. The goal of this project is to use dialogue as a mechanism that enables people affected by the conflict to understand more deeply where they and others are coming from. Through this process, Community Dialogue hopes to ensure that people can move forward to a more peaceful future together.

There are two steps to the project:

Dialogue on the Ground

This provides opportunities to engage in dialogue and discuss contentious issues so that people can deal with those issues and move forward together. The project includes issue based dialogue sessions, workshops to unpack topics at a deeper level, and residential dialogues that allow more time for reflection on issues and feelings raised.

Unravelling the Jargon

This facilitates dialogue on contentious and often complex issues. It does so by producing leaflets and pamphlets that provide a simple overview of those issues together with key questions. These documents are aids to dialogue, providing opportunities for critical thinking, questioning and deepened understanding, assisting people in making informed choices about their future.

If you want to participate in a dialogue or seek further information you can contact us at:

Community Dialogue
LINC Resource Centre
218 York Street, Belfast BT15 1GY

Telephone: 028 90351450
Email: admin@communitydialogue.org
www.communitydialogue.org

David Holloway, Coordinator
Jim O'Neill, Dialogue Development Worker
Yvonne O'Donnell, Administrator

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community 
dialogue



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

 *Steps into*
dialogue
Project

The Peace Process is Over (?)

"A new Future? An opportunity to explore issues that matter to You."

The Peace Process Is Over (?)

Introduction

The Queen's visit to the Republic of Ireland- the first visit by a British monarch for 100 years- symbolised the end of the peace process. Northern Ireland remains segregated, dissidents may be a growing threat, sectarian incidents may be increasing and recession may be biting but the dark years of conflict seem largely behind us. Yes, the peace process is over; or is it?

Some Issues

Let's look at some issues and see what you think?

Sectarian Politics

Our electoral system is based on sectarian division: all MLA's have to label themselves Unionist, Nationalist or 'Other'.

Are the old divisions still more important to us than 'bread and butter' issues?

Segregation

We are more segregated now than in 1998 when the Agreement was signed. Segregation costs each of you about £1,000 per year (£1.5 billion in total). This includes the cost of duplicating services like schools, doctor's surgeries and leisure centres.

Do you think segregation feeds into sectarianism, mistrust and suspicion?

Do you want your children to live segregated lives?

Violent Dissidents and Policing

Policing no longer divides Northern Ireland. The GAA showed this by carrying Constable Kerr's coffin together with the PSNI. Did his killers help bring about this show of unity? Dissident Republicans have killed 4 members of the security forces and badly injured others. While they have targeted Catholics, Catholic applications to the PSNI have not fallen.

What would you do about dissident violence? More police on the ground? Increase the role for MI5? Talk to them?

Commemorations

We will soon face the 100th anniversary of important events:

- 1912: the signing of the Ulster Covenant, the founding of the UVF, the passing of the Third Home Rule Bill;
- 1914: World War I;
- 1916: the Easter Rising and the Somme;
- 1920: the founding of Northern Ireland;
- 1921: the founding of the Irish Free State.

How should we commemorate these? Will the way we commemorate them increase or reduce our divisions? Should State, Republican and Loyalist commemorations be valued equally?

Economic and Social Issues

Were you cold this winter? Are you struggling to keep your car on the road or pay your mortgage? Can you afford trainers for your kids? Do you still have a job? How do we get out of this mess? What are your priorities?

Some Questions

Questions for Nationalist and Republicans

- Do YOU still want a United Ireland? If so, who will pay for it?
- If violence was justified in the past why not now?
- Have Nationalists and Republicans contributed to sectarianism, as many Protestants believe?
- When will YOU champion the expression of Unionist and Loyalist identity and values?
- What is the future for Nationalism and Republicanism?

Questions for Unionists and Loyalists

- Do YOU still think we're heading towards a United Ireland?
- Can YOU celebrate St Patrick's Day and still be a Unionist or Loyalist?
- Would YOU support an all-Ireland soccer team as rugby and cricket supporters do?
- Have Unionists and Loyalists contributed to sectarianism, as many Catholics believe?
- What is the future for Unionism and Loyalism?

Questions for All

- What would YOU do about the sectarianism surrounding Rangers-Celtic games?
- What do YOU think of the end of 50:50 police recruiting?
- Should there be an inquiry into abuse and its alleged cover-up by Catholic priests in Northern Ireland, or into other abuses such as went on in Kinvara?
- Was former Education Minister Catriona Ruane right to end the 11+? If so, what should replace it?
- How would YOU make the Health Service more effective, given that there is less money?
- How many of your friends or neighbours are depressed, addicted to tablets or alcohol? How many have committed suicide? What is wrong with our society? What can YOU do about it?