



INCORE
Researching Conflict Internationally
Focused on Peace in Northern Ireland

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Focused on Peace in Northern Ireland**

INCORE – International Conflict Research – is an international centre of excellence for Peace and Conflict study affiliated to the United Nations University in Tokyo. INCORE also serves as the co-ordinating body for peace and conflict related activity across the University of Ulster.

INCORE has developed mutually-productive links with political and civil society in Northern Ireland to promote best practice and quality research into peace and conflict.

Politicians and Community Relations

The Politicians and Community Relations (PCR) project examined the views of Northern Ireland politicians on community relations work in Northern Ireland. A 70 page report on the research findings was published in November 2004. The research was conducted via a questionnaire sent to all Northern Ireland's local and district councilors and MLAs as well as a series of interviews with leading politicians. Indicative findings were presented at a seminar in June attended by community groups and politicians involved in the research. A major conference on the theme of 'Politicians and Community Relations' was held on September 9 2004. The conference featured presentations by all the major parties in Northern Ireland.

Speakers included:

- SDLP Leader Mark Durkan MLA MP
- Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MLA and MP Gregory Campbell
- Sinn Féin Chairman Mitchel McLaughlin
- Ulster Unionist Party MLA Michael Copeland
- Stephen Farry (Alliance Party)

Local International Learning Project - LILP

The Local International Learning Project (LILP) promotes the exchange of knowledge and experience between Northern Irish and international policymakers and practitioners on a range of peace and reconciliation issues. The project involves a continuous programme of workshops, policy/practice fora, conferences, training, international study visits and reports focusing on three main areas:

- Interface Conflict Management - LILP brings policymakers and practitioners together to develop comprehensive, long-term approaches to Northern Ireland's interface areas; to showcase local knowledge and experience internationally; and to learn from international approaches to deeply divided communities.
- Challenging Sectarianism & Racism - denial, avoidance and high levels of sectarianism and racism exist in Northern Ireland. LILP fosters collaborative work to address these complex, related issues and to promote good relations. The project also provides opportunities for Northern Ireland's policymakers and practitioners to learn from international strategies and solutions that address bias, bigotry and racism.
- Peacebuilding - the peace process in Northern Ireland is at a point where it is important to address the root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building and political as well as economic transformation. LILP fosters new, cooperative peacebuilding policy and practice in Northern Ireland, and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience between Northern Irish and international persons engaged in peacebuilding work.



Sinn Féin Chairman Mitchel McLaughlin addresses the Politicians and Community Relations Conference. Seated are (left to right) SDLP Leader Mark Durkan; Robin Wilson (Chair); Gregory Campbell (DUP) and Stephen Farry (Alliance Party)



Northern Ireland Centre for European Co-operation

The Northern Ireland Center for European Co-operation (NICEC) was established in January 2004. The title of the NICEC project is 'Shared Learning: From the Local to the Global and Back Again'. The project entails two core strands:

- Diversity and Conflict Management (DCM)
- Social and Cultural Regeneration (SCR)

NICEC aims to create new networks addressing both these core themes - as well as building upon

existing networks in DCM and SCR. The overall objective is to support reciprocal learning between Northern Ireland and the enlarged European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). NICEC activities have included study tours, workshops and seminars, involving politicians from the Basque Country and former Yugoslavia working alongside Northern Ireland counterparts.



ARK – Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive

ARK- the Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive - is a joint resource of the University of Ulster and Queens University Belfast. ARK provides comprehensive and detailed information on social and political issues in Northern Ireland.

ARK provides a variety of different kinds of information including background facts and figures, survey results, research reports, research summaries, audio-visual material and election results.



CAIN – Conflict Archive on the Internet

The award-winning CAIN website continues to build on its peerless local and global reputation as a resource and guide to the Northern Ireland conflict. In November 2004 the CAIN website received its 27 millionth hit, a milestone attesting to its relevance and value in terms of compiling information on Northern Ireland's conflict and peace process.

The Centre for Voluntary Action Studies (CVAS) continues to work with voluntary groups in Northern Ireland - and assess the role that civil society can play in peace-building here in Northern Ireland.



The Future Ways Program seeks to find practical ways that people can live, learn & work together in a society emerging from conflict. Support is given to people and organizations - from rural communities, public organizations, voluntary and community agencies and elected representatives - to meet and to share dilemmas.

The aim is to open new doors to addressing the legacy of division and mistrust that has characterised relationships and institutions in Northern Ireland.

Shared learning is logically a two-way mutually-beneficial effort. The many prominent visitors we have hosted recently - from Romano Prodi to Bertie Ahern to Nepalese MPs to Lebanese businessmen (to name but a few) - have sought to enrich peace-building in Northern Ireland via the learning they have acquired elsewhere. INCORE sees as at the core of its work in Northern Ireland the idea that peace is to be cherished - and if we in Northern Ireland can share what we have learned and teach others to see the benefits of peace - then this will be given back to Northern Ireland by peacebuilders elsewhere.

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Publications relating to Northern Ireland

- Politicians and Community Relations in Northern Ireland. Gillian Robinson and Frank Foley. INCORE. 2004.
- Two Paths, One Purpose - Voluntary Action in Ireland, North and South. Nicholas Acheson, Brian Harvey, Jimmy Kearney, Arthur Williamson (CVAS). Institute for Public Administration, Dublin. 2004.
- Researching The Troubles: Social Science Perspectives on the Northern Ireland Conflict. Owen Hargie and David Dickson (eds). Mainstream, Edinburgh. 2003
- Integrated Education in Northern Ireland : Participation, Profile and Performance. Tony Gallagher, Alan Smith, Alison Montgomery. UNESCO Centre, Coleraine. 2003.
- Who are the victims?: self-assessed victimhood and the Northern Irish conflict. Ed Cairns, Chris Lewis, John Mallett and Ronnie Wilson, NIO Research and Statistical Series Report (No. 7), Belfast, Northern Ireland Office. 2003
- Special Relationships: Britain, Ireland and the Northern Ireland Problem. Paul Arthur. Blackstaff, Belfast. 2001
- The Irish Parading Tradition: Following the Drum. T.G. Fraser. Macmillan, London. 2001
- Nationalism, Devolution and the Challenge to the United Kingdom State. Arthur Aughey. Pluto Press, London. 2001.
- Reconciliation and Social Inclusion in Rural Areas. Derick Wilson, Karin Eyben and Duncan Morrow. Rural Community Network. 2000.

Please note that this is a sample of notable relevant publications from recent years. For more information, please see <http://www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/publications>



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