



**2018/2019**  
ANNUAL REPORT



## WHAT WE DO

Co-operation Ireland is an all-island peace-building organisation. We work to build a shared and cohesive society by addressing legacy issues of the conflict and facilitating contact and collaboration between people from different backgrounds across these islands.

Under our current strategic plan, our programmes are primarily targeted at young people and marginalised communities which have experienced the worse impacts of the conflict.

## YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Co-operation Ireland delivers a range of youth programmes which facilitate young people from different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to meet, work together and build positive relationships. Our programmes aim to prepare young people for living in a shared society by widening social networks, challenging negative attitudes and behaviours, and developing skills for working with others from diverse backgrounds.

In 2018/19 we delivered 13 Youth Projects with 1,136 young people taking part. Programme themes included positive youth development, youth leadership, shared history and preparation for further education and employment.

## ALL-ISLAND CO-OPERATION

Co-operation Ireland continues to support co-operation for mutual benefit between Northern Ireland and the Republic and works to facilitate strategic leadership for the building of good relations and collaboration across these islands. Our flagship Local Authority Programme supports exchange of learning and practical experience around shared objectives, with seminars taking place across Ireland throughout the last year.

## MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

We support marginalised communities to take the lead in their own development and to capitalise on the opportunities for social and economic renewal created by the peace process. Our programmes aim to build leadership capacity and to encourage greater openness to networking and collaboration, including on a cross-community basis.

In 2018/19, almost 500 participants took part in three programmes targeting new and emerging leaders and previously disengaged groups. The reach of these programmes has expanded considerably over the past number of years and now includes communities from across Northern Ireland, including several areas of Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus, North Antrim, Lurgan, Lisburn, and mid-Ulster.

## WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WE MAKE?

Involvement in our 2018/19 youth projects helped participants to build links with other communities, improve their understanding for other traditions, and develop the skills and attitudes necessary for living and working in a shared society.

**94.8%**

of participants reported new links/friendships with others from a different community background.

**63.4%**

of participants demonstrated improved understanding of other traditions.

**86.2%**

of participants indicated better ability to work with others from different backgrounds.

**68.4%**

of participants socialised more frequently with young people from a different community background. Young people also developed improved personal and social skills which will benefit them as they progress to further education and employment, including communication, teamwork, and leadership.

**79.1%**

of participants were more confident about working with others in a team.

**62.4%**

of participants were more confident about being the leader of a team.

**61%** of participants were more confident about speaking in front of a group.

Our community programmes helped to build the capacity of local leaders and facilitated networking and exchange of learning between communities emerging from conflict across Northern Ireland. Community capacity and networking programmes were delivered in 26 areas across during 2018/19.

**1535**

People from communities across Ireland and Northern Ireland took part in training and development initiatives 2018/19, gaining skills for local development and good relations.

Participants across the various programmes developed a range of skills for leadership and community involvement, including negotiation, dealing with conflict, action planning, preparing funding applications, and running effective meetings. Groups and individuals broadened their networks by developing new links and contacts with fellow participants and outside agencies, with some beginning to support each other's work by sharing practical knowledge and expertise.





**Dr. Christopher Moran**  
Chairman



**Peter Sheridan**  
Chief Executive

## JOINT CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

As we mark Co-operation Ireland's 40th anniversary we look back on four decades of hard work and accomplishment.

Before there was any mention of a ceasefire, let alone a peace process, Dr Brendan O'Regan foresaw that the future of Ireland would only be peaceful if relationships between north and south, and the people of the island, were strengthened and united in friendship.

This work continued throughout some difficult times, but a foundation was laid and when light appeared at the end of the conflict tunnel that network of friendship was engaged to assist the ongoing efforts to secure an end to The Troubles.

The talent of our staff and their belief in our work helped to position the charity as a genuine impartial voice within Ireland. A rare commodity.

It is this hard-won reputation that has seen our facilitation role with the British and Irish governments continue as Brexit dominates discourse.

Elsewhere, our work on the streets of Derry/Londonderry, Belfast, Dublin and Cork has lit a fire of ambition in working class communities and reaped impressive rewards.

The LEGASI programme, designed to build capacity within the Loyalist community, saw three participants seek office in the recent local council elections. Two were subsequently elected, with one missing out.

Elsewhere, a participant in the WICT programme who had confidence issues in the past not only found herself elected to the local authority by voters, but chosen by her new colleagues as Mayor of Fermanagh and South Tyrone council.

As Brexit uncertainty continues to affect the Northern Ireland economy the financial situation in the south continues to improve. To that end our strategy to increase programme delivery and fundraising in the Republic of Ireland will see a dedicated staff member hired during this financial year to help boost our footprint in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway.

Good governance has always been a hallmark of Co-operation Ireland and our board has been a huge support to us in everything we do, underpinning all of our successes over the last year.

We want to welcome Baroness Margaret Ritchie of Downpatrick, Sir David Wootton and former PSNI Chief Constable Dr Sir George Hamilton onto our board who have replaced Mark Durkan and Tom Hartley after both stepped down.

Margaret is well known as a former MP and leader of the SDLP, while David is a former Lord Mayor of London and brings a great deal of experience to the charity.

For Co-operation Ireland, the next 12 months will be challenging but also exciting as new opportunities appear. We are committed to continuing our vital work at home and with other societies across the globe, to bring people from deeply divided societies together and encourage them to work toward building stronger and more inclusive societies.

We thank everyone - especially our core funders, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Executive Office, all our donors and everyone who helped us deliver our vital work.



## BREXIT PRINCIPLES

**The Brexit referendum in 2016 was the most significant political development to impact the island of Ireland since the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement vote in 1998.**

Co-operation Ireland was aware that the community was divided on the issue, and so our board agreed that the organisation would remain neutral but adhere to the following principles.

1. The importance of strengthening and deepening British/Irish relationships
2. Protecting the Peace Process
3. Maintaining the common travel area
4. Minimising the impact on the border – keeping the border as invisible as possible
5. Avoiding economic isolation in the border region.



## CEO'S WORK

**Our neutrality has not impacted on our ability to influence the ongoing debate on the issue however.**

Using his vast experience from his role as former PSNI Assistant Chief Constable and more recent peacebuilding involvement Peter Sheridan has been tasked by both the Irish and British governments to conduct tours of the border area for visiting politicians.

In April, Peter was also invited by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD to chair a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and an invited audience of business people and academics to discuss the ongoing issue of the border which has become a central issue in the United Kingdom leaving the EU.

Co-operation Ireland's unique position within Ireland will continue to see the charity play a central role in developments.





# PROGRAMMES







## YOUNG ADVOCATES

Young Advocates is a programme designed to develop the next generation of leaders in the City of Belfast and is being operated in conjunction with Belfast City Council.

Set to last for three years, the programme is designed to give young people a say at the heart of local government.

Young Advocates is a programme designed to give young people who would not normally have an opportunity to address their concerns to councillors and officials in Belfast City Council a chance to address social issues they feel affect them most.

The aim of the programme is to build skills and confidence so the participants can lobby on behalf of issues they believe are critical to young people in the city, and influence positive change.

Young Leaders

# 80



Participants



# 800

### CROSS BORDER PROJECT

## YOUTH VOICES ON BREXIT

The Youth Voices on Brexit project is working with 100 college students from four locations (Donegal, Derry, Limavady and Banbridge) across the North - a geographical reach few other programmes can manage.

Concentrated on the Border Region, the programme will work to build media and journalism skills to better allow the young people to articulate their hopes for the future when the UK withdraws from the EU.

The young people were given an opportunity to share these opinions during a three-day workshop that took place in August in Limavady. These discussions will then inform a final showcase event.

Co-operation Ireland are working in conjunction with the Nerve Centre in Derry/Londonderry and the Southern Regional College, Banbridge.

# 100

STUDENTS

# 4

LOCATIONS

## RETIRED BORDER PERSONNEL

Former members of the Irish Defence Forces Óglaigh na hEireann, An Garda Síochána and Customs and Excise Officers who served on the border during the conflict will be the focus of the EU- PEACE IV funded Retired Border Personnel programme.

The aim of the programme is to support ex-service personnel in Donegal and to assist them to deal with legacy issues arising from their service.

It is intended that the programme will also be extended to include former members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (and Reserve), and British Army, including the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Funded projects under the Action Plan will see the promotion of positive relations characterised by respect and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland. The total budget for the programme is €60k.

## PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

Described as the 'Oscars of the Community Sector', Pride of Place is an all Ireland community programme founded to celebrate the unsung work of community groups that selflessly strive to make local neighbourhoods a better place to live in, work in or visit.

Organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place awards sees the country's local authorities, on both sides of the border, nominate outstanding projects that contribute to civic pride.

The 2018 awards were held in Cork City Hall with over 1000 people travelling to the ceremony. The 2019 awards will be held in Kilkenny.

# 106

COMMUNITIES



# 10000 PEOPLE

# 60k

FUNDING

# 3

service branches





## MORGAN STANLEY



Co-operation Ireland was proud to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Morgan Stanley 'Banking on the Future' programme in May.

'Banking on the Future' brings students from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and London together for two days in Canary Wharf where they are given a unique insight into the workings of the bank. Almost 250 students have taken part over ten years.

Co-operation Ireland Chairman and entrepreneur Dr Christopher Moran delivered the keynote address at the end of the two-day programme.

*"Co-operation Ireland is working to strengthen relationships in three areas – Between London and Dublin, Dublin and Belfast, and between communities within Northern Ireland - and there is no programme that better reflects our ambitions than Banking on the Future."*

Banking on the future is jointly coordinated by Morgan Stanley employees Caroline McLaughlin and William Daly from Net Éire – the bank's forum for Irish employees

Morgan  
Stanley

## AMAZING THE SPACE

**Amazing the Space is a youth-led peace-building initiative empowering young people both locally and internationally to become ambassadors for peace in their communities.**

From the programme's inception in 2016 over 400 schools across Northern Ireland have created peace pledges articulating young people's commitment towards a more peaceful society for themselves and their peers.

This year's event took place on March 29 2019 in the city it was founded by Rev Dr David Latimer – Derry/Londonderry - when over 300 schoolchildren and young people gathered in the Foyle Arena to publicly commit themselves to building peace in their communities.



## LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRAMME

**As one of Co-operation Ireland's flagship cross-border programmes, the All-Island Local Authority Programme promotes shared learning and best practice by facilitating cooperation between local authorities on the island of Ireland.**

An Garda Síochána Commissioner Drew Harris and Police Service of Northern Ireland Chief Constable George Hamilton were guests of honour at Co-operation Ireland's annual Local Authority Programme seminar in Dublin's Stephen's Green Hibernian Club on Thursday, June 20.

Ireland's two highest ranking police officers attended the event to address chief executives from local councils across the island.

The All-Island Local Authority Forum is made up ten Council Chief Executives, five from the County and City Management Association (CCMA) and five from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, Northern Ireland (SOLACE).



## YOUTH PACT

**YouthPact is a cross border-partnership that provides various training at geographical areas of all delivery partners in order to enhance their deliverable goals.**

Made up of four regional organisations: Co-operation Ireland (CI) (Lead Partner); Ulster University (UU); National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and Pobal, the programme started in 2018.

The programme has been awarded €1.16m by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB) to work as a Quality and Impact Body for EU PEACE IV Children & Young People's Programme.

In 2019 research carried out by YouthPact into youth programmes designed to help disadvantaged young people who continue to be affected by the legacy of the conflict was published. It will be used to inform future cross border anti-sectarianism projects.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Ireland.

RESEARCH BOOKS  
PUBLISHED



4  
ORGANISATIONS



## TOGETHER APART



Co-operation Ireland created Together Apart to provide young people with a platform to get their voices heard in the ongoing debate around the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Between October 2017 and November 2018, we worked with over 60 young people from six groups across the island to explore their views around Brexit and to develop practical proposals to address their concerns and priorities.

The project saw the young people visit Stormont, Dáil Éireann, Brussels and Westminster where they were given an opportunity to engage directly with elected representatives on their hopes and fears.

In Brussels the young people directly addressed the powerful Task Force on Article 50.

participants



Tackling contentious issues

## BRAID PROJECT

The Ballymena BRAID project (*Building Relationships and Interactive Dialogue*) is a partnership between Co-operation Ireland and three Ballymena groups - The Carson Project, Dunclug Youth Forum and Doury Road Development Group.

The project, funded by The Executive Office, identified community leaders who were supported in a range of activities to help drive further cross community engagement. In March 2019, history was made in Ballymena when the BRAID Project hosted the first ever joint concert of the PSNI Pipes and Drums Band with the Band of An Garda Síochána

The partners explored contentious issues of marching bands culture, legacy of the conflict and the political environment.



## ENTWINED HISTORIES

Entwined Histories is a schools based cross community exploration of significant anniversaries and themes emerging from the Decade of Centenaries being marked across Ireland.

The programme's main aim is to assist in education, dialogue and reflection on the conflicting narratives that have developed around the events of 1912-1922, challenging myths and providing new perspectives of the past.

Entwined Histories Project Part 9 was entitled 'The Road to Partition, 1918 and beyond', and the actual programme to which the participants took part was carried out in September and October 2018.

Participants were students aged 13 and 14 years old. There were 70 students involved in the project from four schools. These were Ashfield Girls High School (20), Blessed Trinity College (15), Lagan College (18), and Wallace High School (17).

SCHOOLS



participants



## NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

NCS is a UK-wide youth scheme that has impacted almost half a million people since its formation in 2011.

Designed for 15-17 year olds living in Northern Ireland, the aim is to make extraordinary friendships, build skills for life and work and create unforgettable memories. Co-operation Ireland is responsible for delivering the programme in Northern Ireland and Secretary of State Julian Smith visited our offices for the first appointment of his tenure in August to meet some of the young people involved in the programme.

His colleague, Nick Hurd MP, spoke at the NCS Summer Graduation ceremony in The MAC, Belfast, Where he said that although it was a nationwide programme, they set it up with Northern Ireland in mind.

"It makes me incredibly proud because as you mentioned many years ago I was a minister in government that led the team that created NCS and this opportunity for thousands and thousands of young people who have been on it.

*"And when we sat round in that room all those years ago the one place we wanted it to work most was Northern Ireland and here you are, and it makes me so, so proud and you can be incredibly proud of what you achieved."*



participants





## LEGASI



Co-operation Ireland's LEGaSi project was developed with the principal aim of facilitating people within Protestant Unionist Loyalist (PUL) areas to strengthen their communities.

The project ended in 2019 having operated for over five years with people aged approximately 25-45 years who had been identified as potential influencers within their communities.

Among the successes were engagement with Dáil Éireann over ongoing issues within the PUL community, and the establishment of 'Listening Ear' – a service offering help with mental health issues, suicide prevention, drug and alcohol awareness and debt and welfare advice in the Rathcoole estate in north Belfast.

LEGaSi participant Brian Kerr said, "Listening Ear is about learning more about the problems our community faces and developing skills so that if someone decides they want to stop taking drugs or need help with mental health problems, we can assist them in getting the help they need."

## OPEN DOORS

The Open Doors project has been designed to support the integration of ex-prisoners and their families into wider society, enabling them to work with a broader range of service providers.

Open Doors is a joint partnership project between Co-operation Ireland, Charter NI, Teach Na Failte, Ex-Prisoners Interpretive Centre and The Plough Historical and Cultural Group.

In May 2019 the Open Doors participants organised a conference that sought to address issues of ageing amongst the ex-prisoner community. The event, held in the Dunsilly Hotel, featured the Commissioner for Older People as guest speaker.

There are 12 staff assigned to this project consisting of a project manager, support officer, three area coordinators and seven outreach and advocacy officers. Open Doors is a regional project funded by Peace IV and will run over a three-year period from April 1 2018 – 30 Sept 2021.



## PARTNER GROUPS



## CIRCLE OF LEARNING

Circle of Learning brings together groups from Ards, Mid Ulster, Lurgan and Derry/Londonderry over a series of events, site visits, residencies, social action projects and networking meetings.

The four regional hubs support the work of 12 smaller groups across a range of interests including community groups, youth groups, men's health, cultural associations and women's groups.

In 2019 Taoiseach Leo Varadkar made an official visit to the Lurgan Hub. The Taoiseach spent time talking to participants and learning more about a legacy project being carried out in the centre.

The programme succeeding in mentoring small disparate groups to bring them to a level where they were confident to liaise with other similar voluntary groups and also engage in cross community work. Each group took control of a social action project which helped to further boost confidence and teach valuable practical skills.



## WOMEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

WICT seeks to develop leadership within deprived communities in a bid to build community cohesion.

Phase I of this Programme ran in Drumgask, Lurgan, from September 2018 – December 2018 and was delivered during seven workshops and three residencies.

A total of 11 women took part and topics covered were: Personal Development; Leadership and Mentoring; Citizenship; Women & Peacebuilding; and Women in the Justice System. The group also completed an ILM qualification in Leadership.

Phase II ran from January – March 2019 and the participants were given a choice as to how they wanted to proceed. Child protection training and Adult Awareness training were identified as areas of development and these are now progressing. Additional training opportunities are also being sought.

One participant praised the course. "This programme helped me bigtime – it helped my confidence, helped me think differently and now I listen to other's point of view. It used to be just me but now I consider other opinions."







## SMALL GRANTS

Co-operation Ireland on behalf of the Department for Communities distributed over £1 million in small capital grant funding to small and medium sized community groups across Northern Ireland in 2018/19.

The Small Capital Grants programme was designed to foster collaboration between groups, with the awards (maximum £5000) being conditional on working with partners within the voluntary and community sector.

In October 2019 a second round of funding (£800,000) was agreed with Co-operation Ireland again responsible for distribution.

## FAIR CHANCE

Co-operation Ireland's Fair Chance programme is a good relations focused project working with 30 young people aged 14-17 from both PUL and CNR communities in East Belfast in partnership with Williwowed Parish, The Short Strand Community Forum and Youth Initiatives.

The project focused on breaking down the barriers that exist between CNR and PUL communities and helping young people consolidate positive relationships with their peers from a different community, through good relations focused workshops, away from home experiences including cross-border visits to Cork and engagement opportunities with local community leaders and political representatives.

The final phase of the programme challenges young people to work together to plan and implement community engagement events that bring their communities together, placing young people as leaders of change in their communities by demonstrating the positive role young people can place in bringing segregated communities together.



## YOUTH NETWORK FOR PEACE

Youth Network for Peace is a Social Action Project lead by Co-operation Ireland with young people from the BRAID Project in association with Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Fom na noige, Youth Work Ireland Louth and Monaghan and Youth Action NI.

This exciting cross border youth programme welcomed 60 young people on a summer of confidence and skills building events.

The young people from all four areas have been focusing on delivering community change in a number of youth led projects including charity fundraising, raising awareness of the rights of Traveller youth in Louth, supporting and highlighting homeless outreach in Belfast and tackling the stigma of poor mental health in Monaghan.

All the young people on the programme have had an amazing journey as highlighted by John (17) from Louth; "I've been on this programme since the start of the year and it's been very good so far. I have definitely made friends for life as a result of this programme".

A celebration to mark the closing of the social action projects took place in Tayto Park, County Meath in October.



## COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

The Communities in Transition (CIT) Project aims to support eight geographic areas where there has been a history of paramilitary activity and coercive control to transition into communities where paramilitary activity no longer plays a role.

This project is designed to support ambitious initiatives that will build the capacity of individuals and groups to affect positive change for themselves and their communities. Co-operation Ireland will deliver the community based facet of the programme.

In 2019 Phase Two of the participatory design process took place. The purpose of this phase was to involve the community in the development of projects or interventions that they feel are most needed in their areas. A series of workshops took place throughout January and February 2019 around seven transition themes.

Throughout March 2019 Feedback Events in each of the CIT areas were held and the programmes are now moving towards delivery.





## BUILDING BRIDGES



The Building Bridges Scholarship Programme was introduced to give financially disadvantaged students in Derry/Londonderry the opportunity to study at elite US universities without the burden of being unable to pay for it.

Students from the city, who are accepted to study and who are in receipt of a full needs-based scholarship from Yale, can apply for the additional merit-based scholarship, which means they can concentrate wholly on their studies and not have to work during term time.

The cross-community Building Bridges Scholarship Programme opened to students who were applying to begin study at Yale in September 2018.

Co-operation Ireland manages the Building Bridges programmes, with the support of Yale University and a consortium of interested academics and business representatives in Derry-Londonderry.

In 2019 the programme was extended to Belfast with students being offered the chance to visit the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) from 2020. YYGS is an academic summer enrichment program for outstanding high school students from around the world.

Each summer, students from over 125 countries participate in one of five interdisciplinary, two week sessions at Yale's historic campus and places will be made available for gifted students from Northern Ireland through Building Bridges.



## FOYLE AMBASSADORS

The Foyle Ambassadors programme, operated by the Loughs Agency and Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the Department for Foreign Affairs, is designed to discover the social, economic and environmental importance of the River Foyle, from source to sea, while at the same time providing young people with opportunities to engage and build relationships across the city, region and political divide.

This is done through a range of adventure activities such as boating, surfing and canoeing; environmental projects such as cleans ups and personal development sessions.

'Co-operation Ireland are delighted to have been a partner in the Foyle Ambassador programme,' said CEO Peter Sheridan. 'Too often Lough Foyle is associated with the sadness of people taking their own lives or with the river environment being used for drug dealing or other criminality but today we now have almost 100 young people who see the lough as a place to explore its wildlife and the opportunity it provides for recreation and conservation'

In 2019 the programme was expanded to Carlingford Lough.



## CATCH – CHALLENGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING HORIZONS

CATCH is a youth and personal development programme for young men based within Ardoyne, North Belfast and a mix gender group from Strabane, County Tyrone.

In Belfast we partner with Ardoyne Youth Club, working closely with a group of young men over the course of six months. The project provides space each week for the group of young people to meet and to explore issues relevant to them.

In addition, a number of guest speakers were invited to challenge the group in terms of identity, choices, influences, decision-making, politics and education as well as behaviour.

The Strabane project saw participants achieve qualifications in youth leadership and work with other groups to foster community relations.

CATCH in Strabane and Ardoyne was funded by the Northern Ireland Office, with a second strand, funded by The Executive Office, operating a good relations programme in schools across Northern Ireland.



## CROSS BORDER YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Co-operation Ireland launched our cross border Youth Leadership Project in 2017, working with Finglas Youth Service and Finglas Resource Centre, Cork Sports Partnership, Dublin Sports Partnership, South Belfast Community Resources in Sandy Row and Foyle Youth Ambassadors.

In 2019 Facilitated sessions were provided locally in partnership to develop the young people's confidence and leadership skills and explore their potential to make positive change in their community. Sports was used as a methodology where the young people were accredited for running sporting and team building activities for younger children in their community.

Young people in Finglas, Dublin, were partnered with a youth club in Sandy Row in Belfast with the two groups preparing community videos telling the story of their local area to exchange with each other before crossing the border to meet in person.

A graduation even was held in Dublin City Hall in May 2019 that united the young people in celebration of their shared learning.

The programme was part funded by Gas Networks Ireland.







## FUTURE

**2020 will see Co-operation Ireland continue to develop new programmes across Ireland. Already we have entered a partnership with Derry and Strabane District Council for the 'Ministry of Youth' project that will give young people access to elected representatives and local authority managers to reflect their views on local issues.**

Derry/Londonderry will be the target of a number of new programmes given the destabilisation in the city that has been seen in the last 12 months.

In addition to the Ministry of Youth, we will establish the 'Creggan Voices' project to also provide an outlet for young people in the area that has seen an increasing amount of violence in recent months.

Elsewhere, The Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade funded Marginalised Communities programme will continue into 2020. This vital funding ensures communities can develop conflict resolution strategies and good relations programmes.

Erasmus+, the EU programme that facilitates training sessions across Europe, will be expanded next year and offered to community workers and Co-operation Ireland programme participants after the success of 2019's programme which saw partners travel to The Netherlands, Denmark, Austria and Berlin for developmental training along with Co-operational Ireland staff members.

## CO-OPERATION IRELAND INTERNATIONAL



**Co-operation Ireland's learning over 40 years puts us in a position to help other areas of the world develop their own peace processes and where we are asked to help, we do what we can to share our knowledge.**

In February 2019 Our Programme Delivery facilitators Barry Fennell and Dr Alan Largey travelled to South Korea to take part in a Global Peace Foundation conference on developing a peaceful future on the Korean Peninsula.

Our partnership with the Global Peace Foundation has evolved and developed from 2012 and continues to enable us to share our learning and experience of peace building and practical cooperation in other locations outside of Ireland.

In October 2019 Co-operation Ireland CEO Peter Sheridan travelled to Cambridge University to discuss ongoing attempts to deal with the issue of the partition of Cyprus, and what lessons from the Northern Irish Peace Process could be of use.



## CONFLICT ZONES



## FUNDRAISING





# LEGAL DINNER

The 22nd Annual Co-operation Ireland Legal Dinner was held at a new venue in London, the Waldorf Hilton on Thursday May 2, 2019 and was attended by around 400 guests from the UK, Ireland and the US.

The event, which was chaired by Mary Heaney and James Stewart, was a great success and raised funds for the Co-operation Ireland Youth Leadership Programme.

This year's event had a particular focus on the work we carry out in Derry/Londonderry with young people, using donations to identify the leaders of the future.



## CITY DINNER

The salubrious surroundings of London's famous Mansion House hosted Co-operation Ireland's 2019 City Dinner where Minister of State for Europe and the Americas Sir Alan Duncan was the keynote speaker along with Irish Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy.

Both men spoke of the strong relations between Dublin and London and vowed to support Co-operation Ireland's work in maintaining and strengthening these bonds in the future.

Opening remarks were made by former London Lord Mayor Sir David Wootton, who in 2018 joined the board of Co-operation Ireland.

# BIKE BOSTON NYC

Co-operation Ireland's relationship with epic cycle events is legendary and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement we hosted a bike challenge from Boston to New York City in May.

Without the input of the Irish Diaspora a peace agreement in Ireland wouldn't have been possible, and the continuing support of our friends in the United States allows Co-operation Ireland to increase the number of programmes we deliver.

The fundraising challenge was our most successful sporting event since the famous Maracyles came to an end in 2014 and was a fitting way to mark 40 years of peacebuilding.



## PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT FOOTBALL CELEBRATION

President of Ireland and Co-operation Ireland Joint Patron Michael D Higgins was guest of honour in Dublin's historic Mansion House in November 2018 at a dinner held for the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland football teams ahead of their friendly in the Aviva Stadium.

Co-operation Ireland were chosen as charity partner for the game, and 24 hours before the players took to the field managers Michael O'Neill and Martin O'Neill came to the Mansion House to speak about their friendship and praise the work of our charity.

President Higgins spoke of his long-standing connection to football on the island and spoke of his hopes for the future of peacebuilding across Ireland.







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**Irial Finan**

*Executive Vice President, The Coca-Cola Company and President of Bottling Investments and Supply Chain*

**Sean Gaffey**

*Senior Financial Advisor/First Vice President, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management*

**Donard Gaynor**

*President Donald P. Gaynor*

**Liam Lynch**

*Founder and Managing Partner at Studio.VC; Owner, Irish Central*

**Ian McLernon**

*President and CEO, Remy Cointreau Americas*

**James Morrissey**

*Founder and CEO, East Houston Holdings*

**John Sharkey**

*Chairman and CEO Kane Saunders & Smart*

**Peter Sheridan**

*Chief Executive, Co-operation Ireland*





# FINANCE

The following figures show the operating income and expenditure for the Dublin and Belfast companies, extracted from the annual accounts audited by KPMG.

## Income and Expenditure Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Dublin €K 2018	Belfast £K 2018	Dublin €K 2017	Belfast £K 2017
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations	962	1,643	509	1,526
Other Income	75	495	240	451
	<u>1,037</u>	<u>2,138</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>1,977</u>
	Dublin €K 2018	Belfast £K 2018	Dublin €K 2017	Belfast £K 2017
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Programme Costs	943	2,082	690	1,935
Administration	62	27	59	42
	<u>1,005</u>	<u>2,109</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>1,977</u>
Surplus	32	29	0	0

Results are after transfers between companies and adjustment for deferred income.







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**2018/2019**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**