



WOKING IN PROGRESS

MAY 2018

Vision:

NICRE's vision is of a society where human rights are respected and guaranteed; a society that is fair and inclusive where there is racial equality and justice for all.

Mission:

NICRE's vision is to work within a human rights framework to promote racial equality and good race relations through capacity, partnership and alliance building.

Aim:

To promote good race relations and to endeavour the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of human rights and racial equality.

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RACISM MEETING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

NICRE hosted the event for Ms. Tendayi Achiume, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other intolerance, and her team on 10 May 2018 at the Parliament Buildings with 20 civil society organisations.

We had 17 BME groups and 3 local human rights organisations which raised their issues and concerns within 3 minutes oral statement on different thematic issues. Ms. Achiume encouraged us to send a formal submission to her after this dialogue. Details were in our press release.

(<https://www.facebook.com/nicre.org/posts/1640755339327184>)

This official country visit UK, including Northern Ireland, caught the national headline in newspaper and TV. We just put a link that you could access the news below.

https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&channel=mac_bm&source=hp&ei=fs8GW7PgAYfQkwWvmIPgCQ&q=UN+Special+Rapporteur+on+racism+2018+UK+visit&oq=UN+Special+Rapporteur+on+racism+2018+UK+visit&gs_l=psy-ab.3..33i160k1.2510.27642.0.29842.59.40.5.13.13.0.401.5523.4j29j3j0j1.38.0..2..0...1c.1.64.127.GN3ukiHo4BM

BREXIT

Irish Citizenship Campaign

NICRE produced a briefing paper outlining our issue, concern and recommendation for change. As result, we met politicians, North and South, to lobbying their support for full Irish citizenship to all ethnic minority people who are working and living in Northern Ireland for at least 5 continuous years, whether they are British or other nationalities, EEA or non-EEA migrants, asylum seekers or refugees.

The Independent Senator Gerard Craughwell raised our issue at the Seanad Special Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European on 23 March 2017 on Common Travel Area with Department of Justice and Equality. And a subsequent question raised in the commencement matter in June 2017. We continue

the lobbying work when the legal text on border is agreed by the European Union and the British government.

Both the Secretary and the Chair raised the same issue at the first and the most recent one at the All Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit. Last year, we wrote to both the Taoiseach and the Minister of Justice and Equality on our campaign. We got an email reply from the official saying that the Government has no plan to change the current law to accommodate our situation as the current focus of Brexit is on EU migrants' citizen rights and the border. We will continue lobbying for change of the current law and practice.

BREXIT & Ethnic Minority Project

We got a small grant from the Social Justice programme of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. The project had two inter-linked components of capacity building programme, namely the BME Leadership Training and Reaching out Seminars. These trainings and seminars were in the context of Brexit and Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2025.

The programme of the Brexit & Racial Equality Strategy BME Leadership Training was running every Friday from 22 September to 24 November 2017 which is as follows:

Seminar 1: Brexit and Racial Equality – human rights & equality framework

Speaker: Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner

Seminar 2: Employment and employability – the case for migrants

Speaker: John O'Neill, retired employment lawyer of Thompson NI, law firm for trade unions

Seminar 3: Health and Social Wellbeing of Black and Minority Ethnic Community – issues and policy

Speaker: Elaine O'Doherty, Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement Manager
Public Health Agency

Seminar 4: Minority rights: Language, Culture and Religion

Speaker: Patrick Yu, Secretary of NI Council for Racial Equality

Seminar 5: Access to public and private housing – issues and policy of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Speaker: Liz Griffith, Law Centre NI

Seminar 6: Immigration, Brexit and Irish Citizenship

Speaker: Lumturi Podrimaj, Chair of NI Council for Racial Equality

Seminar 7: Education and under-achievement of Black and Minority Ethnic Community – issues and policy

Speaker: Deborah Howe, Senior Policy Officer
Equality Commission of Northern Ireland

Seminar 8: Discrimination and the reform of Race law

Speaker: Roisin Mallon, Senior Policy Officer
Equality Commission of Northern Ireland

Seminar 9: Hate Crime and the reform of current legislation

Speakers: Alyson Kilpatrick, BL, former Human Rights Advisor
Northern Ireland Policing Board

Seminar 10: Mechanism to monitor the implementation of Action Plan and Race Champion

Speaker: Patrick Yu, Secretary of NI Council for Racial Equality

The Reaching Out Seminars on Brexit and EU Citizen Rights were organised with our local partners in Dungannon Library (9 September 2017), Omagh (4 October 2017), Bangor YMCA (9 October 2017) and Belfast (20 March 2018). The Reaching Out Seminars in Derry/Londonderry was on the topic of Border, Jobs, Security & Rights at UNISON (18 April 2018).

The final Reaching Out Seminar was a formal conference under our Annual Human Rights & Equality Conference with the title: **Brexit & the Good Friday Agreement** which was held in UNISON on 20 April.

Due to underspend as result of free accommodation used for seminars and events, including refreshment, CFNI approved to spend the rest of the grant in NICRE related expenses and programmes.

ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY CONFERENCE

The first inaugural event of the Northern Ireland Council for Racial Equality was organised on 6 April 2017 with the theme “Brexit & Human Rights Protection”. The conference had registered over 80 participants from statutory, voluntary, trade union, community and BME sector. We had lined up with the following speakers who continue support racial equality. They included Professor Rory O’Connell, Chief Commissioner Les Allamby, Evelyn Collins, CBE, Patricia McKeown, Professor Gordon Anthony, Declan O’Dempsey and Lumturi Podrimaj.

In 2018, we organised the 2nd Human Rights & Equality Conference on 20 April 2018 with the theme “Brexit & Good Friday Agreement” and registered nearly 100 participants from statutory, voluntary, trade union, community and BME sector. We had lined up with the following speakers Professor Dagmar Schiek, Chief Commissioner Les Allamby, Professor Rory O’Connell, Patricia McKeown, Professor Bernard Ryan, Dr. Anthony Soares and Professor Christopher McCrudden.

ALL PARTY GROUP ON ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITY

Due to no functioning Executive in Northern Ireland, MLAs agreed to on hold to re-establish the group. Only until recently, they agreed to re-establish the group. A meeting was set up to discuss the issues and procedure to re-establish the group on 25 April 2018. A subsequent formal AGM was called on 10 May in which elected Michaela Boyle, Sinn Fein as the Chair; Christopher Stalford as the vice-Chair, DUP; and Robbie Butler, UUP as the Secretary. It will call for future meeting to appoint the Treasurer.

CONSULTATION AND MEETING

NICRE attended the following meetings and events with consultation element:

- 13 Mar 2017: Cabinet Office Race Audit Consultation meeting at Castle Buildings, TEO
- 10 Jul 2017: Department of Justice Smartphone App consultation at NICRE
- 7 Sep 2017: Consumer Council meeting on consumer rights for BME community at NICRE
- 24 Oct 2017: Lord Justice Gillian event on the future Civil & Family Court Review
- 17 Nov 2017: NI Guardian ad Litem “21 Years of Representing Children and Young People – What have we learned and What can we do better?” International Conference at Hilton Hotel
- 22 Nov 2017: Attending Law Centre event on “Civil & Family Court Review” at Law Centre
- 4 Dec 2017: Attending the Traveller Movement UK Brexit event “How to safeguard Irish Citizen Rights at Westminster Parliament buildings
- 5 Dec 2017: Attending Equality Commission event on “Key Inequalities in Employment in NI”
- 7 Dec 2017: Attending Sinn Fein Brexit Seminar at the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings
Attending the Executive Office and the Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, “The Everyday Lives of Asylum and Refugees” Report launch at Canada Room, Queen’s University of Belfast
- 11 Dec 2017: Attending Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Annual Statement at the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings

- 12 Dec 2017: Attending Equality Coalition launch of the Research Report on Section 75 at UNISON
- 19 Dec 2017: Attending the European Commission NI Office Christmas reception at Titanic
- 6 Feb 2018: Attending Department for Communities “Putting Gender at the heart of policy” Conference in celebrating of the centenary Women Suffrage at Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings
- 20 Feb 2018: Meeting the Independent Anti-terrorist Law Reviewer, Max Hill QC and NI adviser Alyson Kilpatrick at NICRE
- 8 Mar 2018: Meeting Linsey Farrell, Head of Urban Villages, Racial Equality & Communities in Transition and her team on the progress of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 so far.
- 22 Mar 2018: Meeting Eoin Mullan & Sinead Brown of the Racial Equality Legislative Team of the TEO on the terms of reference of the Team and the timetable for the review.
- 26 Mar 2018: Meeting Brendan McGuigan, Chief Inspector of the Criminal Justice Inspectorate NI and his team on the follow-up actions of the recent published Hate Crime report.
- 16 Apr 2018: Speaking at the 25th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence event “Roundtable on Racism and Hate Crime” at Westminster Committee Room.
- 17 Apr 2018: Attending Quaker service 20 years of GFA launch ‘My Story’ at the Long Gallery, Parliament Building.
- 24 Apr 2018: Attending Ethnic Minority Police Association “Hate Crime Awareness Day” at Wellington Park Hotel.
- 9 May 2018: Attending Europe Day reception at the Titanic Hotel.

NICRE is the member of the following work group or group attending regular meetings:

Department of Justice Domestic and Sexual Violence Tasks and Finish Group and the Communication Sub-group

Human Rights Consortium Brexit & Human Rights Working Group

Equality Coalition

NICRE PLANNING DAY

The Board organised the first member meeting to develop the future of NICRE with the external consultancy support from Sheila Rogers who was the former Acting Chief Executive of the Commission for Racial Equality in England, Wales and Scotland, on 28 October 2017. Through the process we developed the first draft of our vision and mission, as well as our strategic objectives and functions of NICRE. Based on these information, we developed the first draft of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

The draft Strategic Plan will be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting by the members.

TRANSITIONAL COMMITTEE FOR 2017-2018

Chair: Lumturi Podrimaj (BME Women's Network)
Vice-Chair: Raied Al-Wazzan (Belfast Islamic Centre)
Secretary: Patrick Yu (Individual member)
Treasurer: Tilak Raj Puri

Other members:

Javaid Naveed (NI Muslim Family Association)
Dr. Satyavir Singhal (Indian Community Centre)
Ashok Sharma (Hindu Council of Ireland)

If you have any query on this report, please contact Patrick Yu, Secretary, at patrick@nicre.org or contact him at 07710 767235

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