

communities with the skills to appreciate difference, forge relationships with ‘the other’ and experience the values of diversity and integration.

F. To document the lessons learned from the Project programmes in order to develop practical resources on the methodologies which have been proven to develop the capacities of participants and make positive attitudinal changes across the whole of the Project. These will be disseminated to the key stakeholders in each area.

Project Partners:-

1. Mater Dei Institute of Education
2. Society of Missions to Africa
3. Hydebank Young Offenders Prison
4. The All-Ireland Churches’ Consultative Meeting on Racism
5. Embrace NI

Estimated Job Creation

	Permanent	Temporary
Full Time		2

Progress to Date:

The Project has a great deal of progress to report and has been delivering many of its programmes since September 2008. Although the Project experienced some delays receiving confirmation and approval from the SEUPB on some facets of the Project, we have also been encouraged by the assistance, support and guidance given.

Furthermore, even though we had to recruit an Administrative Assistant during this period, the Project progressed through the effective work of the Project Partnerships and because it was building from some of the base created by previous Peace II and Peace III Extension funding.

Progress will be reported separately in each of the six strands of the Project.

A. As stated in our Aid For Peace document our first assessment indicator was to enrol 50 participants in the three year Catholic/Protestant Undergraduate certificate course in Theology. The Project is delighted to report that from September 2008 we have enrolled our target of 50 people. The partnership with Mater Dei and the SMA has worked especially well and each has played its part in contributing to its success. As of 31st December 2008, all 50 students have continued to participate in the course and have completed their first two modules. In addition to the 50 students doing the course for credit, we have also had 33 people audit the course. Of this total of 83 participants, only one is outside the eligible region.

Status: Ongoing

B. For our ‘Inter-Church’ training placements for Protestant ministerial and Catholic students we specified the indicator of 10 participants from Edgehill College and 10 participants from Mater Dei Institute. Invitations to Methodist ministerial students to undertake placements in Catholic institutions or Parishes did not receive the expected response. Therefore, special meetings were held with the Director of their formation

programme and the Principal of the College to assist in the recruitment of participants. The responses of potential Catholic mentors have been positive and we expect that work with students in the next semester will lead to an uptake in these placements.

For Catholic students in Mater Dei we have tentatively agreed a training programme for the Autumn of 2010. This programme should involve more than the ten Catholic students originally proposed and we are very pleased with this response.

It is expected that 50 percent of participants will be from outside the eligible region.

Status: Ongoing

C. Our total target for our Young Offenders' Identity Project is 60 course participants. To date we have involved 23 inmates in the Project. Regular sessions with a group of young offenders in Hydebank around issues of identity, sectarianism and racism have been going very well. The partnership between the lead partner and Hydebank is strong and working well. We are planning to enhance the programme both to deepen the experience for participants and to increase the number of young people involved. All participants are from within the eligible region.

Status: Ongoing

D. Our target is 50 course participants in the Exploring Identity and Oppression within and between Loyalist and Republican communities. To our surprise a great deal of progress has been made in this strand. In 2 different Loyalist communities we have worked with one group of 10 women and another group of 8 women. All of these are within the eligible region. We have also been building up relationships with some prominent leaders in Loyalist communities as well as some Republican. Plans are in place to continue this work in the new year.

Status: Ongoing

E. The assessment indicator for the Creative Exploration and Engagement in Inter-Culturalism is 200 participants. A number of key events were organised which brought together people from "indigenous" churches/communities and people from minority ethnic communities (a total of 21 organisations). These involved a book launch (26 people from the eligible region), the organisation of a celebration by the Churches for refugees and people seeking asylum (100 people based within the eligible region), and a series of workshops/talks on dealing with difference (a total of 82 people all within the eligible region).

Status: Ongoing

F. For our Resource Development and Dissemination strand we have been hindered in making progress in relation to external qualitative evaluations and monitoring. The Project has not been able to engage the services of an external Evaluator as anticipated. There has been an ongoing delay putting this out to tender due to some clarifications sought internally with SEUPB. Nevertheless, a number of lessons have been learned and some resources have been disseminated.

One key lesson across all the Project strands is that the most helpful way to bring people together from different communities, traditions and cultures is by finding common interests and concerns that are shared. The Project has learned that the focus of a great deal of its

work should be on creating opportunities for relationships amongst and between people and communities who would not otherwise ordinarily meet. These opportunities need to be relevant to participants and contain enough scope for exploring issues around identity which in turn will lead towards addressing attitudes of sectarianism and racism.

During this reporting period, there have been three main vehicles for disseminating resources. One has been making use of our website both to post resources as well as indicate useful links. Secondly, the Belfast launch of the *Directory of Migrant-Led Churches and Chaplaincies* provided a timely and effective resource for Inter-Church and Inter-cultural work. Thirdly, the development and distribution of the DVD for the Lisburn Community Safety Partnership allowed the Project to share some of its principles and learning. The Directory covered areas outside of the eligible region but also included all of the eligible region.

Status: Ongoing

2. Outputs:

- A. Fifty people trained (most likely from Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Down, Louth and Monaghan but open to participants from the other counties in the eligible area) in an inter-denominational, undergraduate certificate in theology (Catholic and Protestant) awarded by Dublin City University over a three year period.
- B. Ten Methodist ministerial students placed in Catholic institutions/parishes (Donegal, Louth, Sligo) as part of their formation programme and to place ten Catholic students in Protestant institutions/congregations (Antrim, Down, Tyrone) as part of their degree programme (over a three year period). Placements may include Fermanagh, Derry and/or Leitrim but it is likely that they will be undertaken in the counties mentioned above.
- C. At least 60 young offenders in Northern Ireland provided with the tools to explore and appreciate their own identity and to address issues of difference in regard to sectarianism and racism.
- D. Forty to 50 loyalists and republicans (from Louth, Armagh, Monaghan and Down) enabled to engage in dialogue (in a structured and creative way) centred around their identity and issues of oppression and injustice and to generate opportunities for sustainable relationships.
- E. Indigenous churches/communities and people from minority ethnic communities equipped with the skills to appreciate difference, forge relationships with 'the other' and experience the values of diversity and integration.
- F. Documentary evidence of the lessons learned from the Project programmes in order to develop practical resources on the methodologies which have been proven to develop the capacities of participants and make positive attitudinal changes across the whole of the Project. These will be disseminated to the key stakeholders in each area.

Progress to Date:

A. The three year Catholic/Protestant Undergraduate Certificate Course in Theology met its time target and was launched in 2008. To date 50 people have joined the Exploring Theology course and have successfully completed their first two modules. Students are

drawn from the following counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Louth, Monahan, L'Derry – all within the eligible region. An additional 33 students are auditing the course, only one of whom comes from outside the eligible region.

B. Work on the Inter-Church Training Placements for Protestant ministerial and Catholic students also began on time in September. On 22nd September, 15 Methodist ministerial students were invited to participate in a Catholic training placement as part of their formation programme. None have taken up the offer for this academic year, though there was an openness to explore the possibility for the following year. Agreements have been secured from potential Catholic mentors for training in Leitrim, Down and Louth.

Planning for up to 20 Catholic students to have training in a Protestant context as part of their degree programme has been undertaken. We expect that this will be delivered in the Autumn 2010.

C. The Young Offenders' Identity Project also began in September and has run up until the end of this recording period. The Programme runs most Friday mornings for two and a half hours. In total, 23 young offenders in Hydebank Prison have participated in some element of the 'My Identity' programme. The nature of the prison environment means that attendance can at times be haphazard for reasons of prisoners being released, security concerns, court cases, prison visits, etc.; however, the programme has maintained good momentum.

D. Exploring Identity and Oppression within and between Loyalist and Republican Communities was also initiated in September. 11 Loyalist leaders from Antrim, Armagh and Down along with 6 Republican leaders from Antrim, Down and Louth have participated in some jointly held events in Belfast and Lisburn in October and November. Two different groups of Loyalist women from different parts of Belfast participated in a series of workshops. One group of 10 women participated in 5 two hour workshops in October on Difference and Identity; a group of 8 women participated in 4 two hour workshops on Conflict and Identity.

E. Work on Creative Exploration and Engagement in Inter-Culturalism has developed well during this recording period, involving 208 people from 21 organisations. The Project delivered a number of talks and workshops with groups on appreciating difference, forging relationships with the 'other' and experiencing the values of diversity and immigration. These included Dungannon Churches' Forum (September - 15 people), an Inter-denominational Church group in Lurgan and Portadown (October - 17 people), Rhythm and Voice (3 events – October/December - 20 people from various Churches and minority ethnic communities), the Olive Branch (November - an Inter-Church group of 12 women from Armagh, Antrim, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone who are leaders of Church Women's Organisation) and Lisburn Community Safety Partnership on insecurity and identity (December -18 people).

Two significant events were held in September. In partnership with the All Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism, the Project hosted the Belfast launch of the *Directory on Migrant-led Churches and Chaplaincies* which was attended by a wide range of local and foreign born Church people (26 people from Antrim, Armagh, Down, Louth and Monaghan). In partnership with Embrace, the Project contributed to the organisation of an event involving various Churches (from Antrim and Down) and approximately 100 people from all over the world seeking asylum in Northern Ireland living in Belfast.

F. For Resource Development and Dissemination, the Project has been compiling some of the lessons and successful approaches learnt from its initiatives. It is planned that this learning will be shared with Church and Community leaders by involving them directly in some of the programmes. Engaging leaders directly in delivering some facets of the Project will give them first-hand experiences to equip participants with transferable skills. This training approach will also allow them to see the relevance and potential of some of the creative methods used in the workshops/sessions.

3. Results:

- A. Course participants given the skills, experience and confidence necessary to undertake practical work over the long-term within their communities and ministries towards reconciliation, integration and a shared society.
- B. A legacy ensured of significant inter-church and cross-community relationships by equipping young leaders in reconciliation and integration work with the attitudes, skills and motivation to promote and extend this work into their communities and churches.
- C. Sustainable relationships generated while providing the tools and confidence that will foster greater understanding, reconciliation and integration across the Region amongst marginalised groups.
- D. Models of good practice and practical resources produced that can be used across the Region and beyond (by theological colleges, Christian churches and a range of voluntary and community groups) that will contribute to the building of positive relationships at the local level, improving trust and tolerance.

Progress to Date:

It is not possible within the present span of time to report that participants have acquired and put to use practical skills for working over the long term on Reconciliation and Integration; nevertheless, positive steps in this direction have been identified.

A total of 83 students have been engaged in this work by virtue of pursuing the Exploring Theology course in a diverse and challenging environment. By the end of the second module, it is clear that people have grown in confidence and are engaging well together. The next 2 modules will build on this foundation and the Project is planning an event in May to extend further this work.

Ongoing contact with the Protestant ministerial students has maintained the focus and need for challenging students to understand better the Catholic tradition and to build up relationships with the Catholic community. Much of the ground work for the training placements has been put in place and even the work of doing this alone has helped to emphasise the need for it. The Project has been working with the Director of Ministry and the College Principal to plan a programme of engagement with Reconciliation for the next recording period. Catholic students in Mater Dei will be recruited over the next recording period to participate in the Autumn training placement.

The work on the Young Offenders' Identity Project is done in partnership with a teacher in Hydebank. In addition, the Project has had inputs from people from minority ethnic backgrounds as well as those engaged in Reconciliation work. The focus of this Project has been on exploring the identity of young people and guiding them to learn about 'the other' (people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds). The sessions in Hydebank

have been building the capacity of participants most of whom come from communities which experience marginalisation and violence. Even though the nature of prison entails a regular changeover of students, the Project has seemed to have had a strong impact on all of the 23 participants. They have gained valuable experience in addressing issues of identity and being challenged by difference.

The delicate work with Loyalist and Republican leaders, especially those who have been involved or are still connected with Paramilitary groups, has fostered greater understanding and encouraging possibilities for developing upon this. The two workshop series for women in Loyalist communities had a considerable impact on them. The group of 10 women who participated in the workshops on Difference and Identity had the opportunity to meet with 4 people from minority ethnic backgrounds. The creative way in which they explore their own identity proved challenging and successful in developing a wider view of themselves. The creative workshops on Conflict and Identity with the group of 8 women enabled them to consider their own ways of dealing with conflict and offered them an insight into how to make conflict a transformative experience.

Creative Exploration and Engagement in Inter-Culturalism has created the potential for sustainable relationships to be generated that will foster greater understanding of difference and appreciation of diversity. The work with Dungannon Churches' Forum centred on Embracing Diversity and provided participants with information and tools for engaging with new residents, as well as establishing minority ethnic communities. The inter-denominational Church group in Lurgan and Portadown focused on practical ways to connect with people who are new to the community. The Rhythm and Voice workshops brought together a range of people from different Church and Ethnic backgrounds around common interests. The half day Olive Branch session focussed on actual experiences of people who have either migrated or sought asylum in Northern Ireland, giving new insights and perspectives to participants. The event with Lisburn Community Safety Partnership on Insecurity and Identity brought together people from a number of professions to explore how one's identity can impinge on delivering services and relating to others. The creative programme enabled participants not only to reflect on their own approaches and perspectives but also to gain insights into new ones.

The work undertaken by the Partnerships with the AICCMR and Embrace have created opportunities for significant Inter-church and cross community relationships to be developed. Connections between the Project and minority ethnic communities across the Region are strong.

The nature and range of all the Project activities provide a sound basis for identifying and generating models of good practice and practical resources. The *Directory of Migrant-Led Churches and Chaplaincies* is a useful resource for inter-church and inter-cultural engagement and has been disseminated widely. Our website has been enhanced to promote useful resources in Reconciliation and Integration work.

4. Impacts:

- A. An overall normalising of inter-church, cross-community and inter-cultural relationships through the implementation of strategic models of collaboration focused on creating the framework conditions for building peace, fostering reconciliation, facilitating integration and contributing meaningfully to a shared society.
- B. The ultimate impact of the Project should be as a significant contributor to reconciliation and integration between and within communities. By fostering relationships amongst

local church and community leaders and equipping them with the skills to facilitate and advance reconciliation, the Project should leave a sustainable legacy of trained leaders who will broaden and deepen the work of building peace. The work with young offenders and marginalised groups should inspire people often excluded from peace building processes to incorporate the values of reconciliation and integration and encourage them to address pressing issues within their sphere of influence. Overall, the work should equip people practically to see difference and conflict as opportunities for modelling and creating healthy relationships and will give leaders confidence in addressing difficult issues and inspiring sound cross-community, inter-cultural relations.

- C. The emphasis on relationships should ultimately create the framework conditions for a healthy, stable and connected society in which people come to appreciate difference and embrace the diversity of traditions, cultures and views within the Region and beyond.

The Indicators are subject to amendment to incorporate “Aid for Peace” Indicators

Progress to Date:

For any significant progress to be made in the process of Reconciliation, there is a need for relationships to be built. In some cases, relationship-building is the first priority. Focusing on reconciliation in the first instance can discourage people from engaging in the process, either because they fear what they may have to confront or they are unsure about what the process may entail. Encounters and relationships provide the framework and the context for mutual understanding and respect to emerge and for reconciliation to be undertaken.

The Project has been working well in responding to these needs and has continued to address and explore perceptions of difference at many levels and in various areas. Its key contribution has been to create opportunities for relationships to occur and develop, to provide a common cause upon which people from different communities/traditions can focus, and to allow the space for people to hear the stories and perspectives of ‘the other’.

The Project activities have centred around education and training, practical interactions and resource development. In general, activities have been designed to bring people together in order to highlight the humanity in each person while being engaged collectively in meaningful work and conversations within a safe environment. Contact with a wide range of Church and community groups has provided many opportunities already to share principles, leadership skills and possibilities for Reconciliation and Integration. Sectarian and Racist attitudes have been challenged directly through Project activities and indirectly through information and reflective resources. The Project has built up a solid basis for both replicating its effective approaches with new groups as well as moving into more depth with participants in groups that it will be working with on an ongoing basis.

2. LETTER OF OFFER CONDITIONS

	OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
CONDITIONS AS PER LETTER OF OFFER	COMPLETED?	Relevant Supporting Doc Attached?
Pre payment & Post Payment	Yes /No	Yes/No

No additional ones set for this project		
--	--	--

Please provide an update on how the Letter of Offer Conditions outlined above are being met or how you are working towards meeting these? (Please attach relevant supporting documentation)

3. PUBLICITY COMMUNICATION

Please detail the information and/or publicity activities undertaken by your project during this reporting period. Remember to attach to this report any relevant publicity documents such as advertisements, press releases, flyers, invitations to events etc.

Please refer specifically to progress against the actions outlined in your Communications Plan.

PUBLICITY METHOD	Date(s) (from and to if ran over period of time)	Description	Info or publicity? (Indicate)	Cost
Brochure	19/05/08	Exploring Theology Certificate Course Brochure	Info and Publicity	€810.70
Launch	15/09/08	Launch of Exploring Theology course	Publicity	£400.00
Leaflet	25/11/08	Olive Branch leaflet	Info	£89.20
Publication, launch, email invites and press release	Nov/Dec 08	<i>Directory of Migrant-Led Churches and Chaplaincies</i>	Info	£282.47
Website	Sept-Dec 08	Pages devoted to publicising the Project and providing information and resources	Info and Publicity	n/a
Emails	Sept – Dec 08	Regular contact with Project Partners and Key Stakeholders on various programmes	Info and Publicity	n/a

4. EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Q5. YOU MUST COMPLETE the summary expenditure table (actual and forecast) attached.

Q5. (a) Please give a brief explanation/rationale on any (RETROSPECTIVE) variances from the agreed budget and actual expenditure to date.

1. Summary of Claims

CLAIMS	Claims end of Quarter	2008 / 2009	Status
	Claim No:		
2008 Q4	Advance	36,000	Paid
2008 Q4	3	984.90	Paid
2008 Q4	4	11,206.88	Paid
2009 Q1	5	11,786.16	Paid
2009 Q1	7	2,698.00	Paid
Amount Approved by Verification Team		26,675.94	
Amount Budgeted to claim at this stage		28,041.00	
Difference Carried over		1,365.06	

CLAIMS	Claims end of Quarter	2008 / 2009	Status
	Claim No:		
2009 Q2	8	6,672.00	verified
2009 Q2	6	15,104.22	verified
2009 Q2	9	32,900.00	verified
Amount Approved by Verification Team		54,676.22	
Amount Budgeted to claim		53,133.00	
Difference Carried over		1,365.06	
Amount Expected		54,498.06	
Difference		178.16	
Cumulative Budget Planned by this stage		81,174.00	

2. Budget Agreed with SEUPB

Quarter	2008 Q4	2009 Q1	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2009 Q4
Expenditure Planned	13,627.00	14,414.00	53,133.00	18,151.00	48,034.00
Cumulative planned expenditure	13,627.00	28,041.00	81,174.00	99,325.00	147,359.00
Date Claim Expected			30th Oct 09	31 st Jan '09	31 st April '10
Amount of Claim Expected			54,676.22	£18,151	£40,145
Advance Payback to be built in	-	-	-	4,000.00	4,000.00

The difference between what was budgeted and what was claimed is simply a matter of some

Edgehill Theological College
000451

documentation which was outstanding that has since been recovered and will be submitted in a subsequent claim.

NOTE: ANY ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO YOUR AGREED BUDGET MUST BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY IN WRITING and IN ADVANCE TO THE JTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Lead Partner: EDGEHILL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE			
Signed:	SCOTT BOLDT	Date:	23/07/ 09
Name (caps):	DR SCOTT BOLDT	Position:	Programme Director

JTS OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Is the project progressing satisfactorily?

Are there any significant changes/issues which need to be addressed?

Are you content to authorise release of payment subject to verification?

Signed

Name: _____

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
(Case Officer)