



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

	<b>Permanent</b>	<b>Temporary</b>
<b>Full Time</b>		<b>2</b>

**Progress to Date:**

The Project has continued to make significant progress during this reporting period. The Project has still experienced delays in receiving confirmation and approval from the SEUPB on the evaluation tender and some of the Aid For Peace indicators. These delays have not affected the delivery of Project programmes; however, they have meant that external evaluation and monitoring of the Project has yet to begin.

Since January, an Administrative Assistant has been appointed and this has contributed to the smooth running of the Project.

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 can report that up until the end of this reporting period our target of 50 participants has been maintained. The partnership with Mater Dei and the SMA's continues to work well. As of 30th June 2009, all 50 students have continued to participate in the course and have completed their third and fourth modules. In addition to the 50 students doing the course for credit, we have also retained the 33 people who are auditing 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. As reported in the previous Progress Report, uptake by Methodist ministerial students was deferred. Therefore, the Project in consultation with the Director of their formation programme and the Principal of the College designed two events not only to assist in recruiting students but also to give them some practical and challenging reconciliation experiences.

For Catholic students in Mater Dei, we have confirmed that their training placement will take place in October 2010. This programme will involve more than the ten Catholic students originally proposed. 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. During this

reporting period a number of obstacles have been encountered. New procedures for security clearance were introduced and the Lead Partner had to wait 6 weeks for the application to be processed, during which time it was not possible to enter the Prison and deliver the sessions. Furthermore, shortly after security clearance was obtained, prison staff had begun to undertake a 'work to rule' approach in regard to some grievances which they were having. The effect of this meant that the numbers of participants were reduced and in some cases the sessions had to be cancelled. Nonetheless, an additional 14 young people participated in elements of the Identity Project during this reporting period.

During this time, a number of planning meetings were held between the lead partner and Hydebank to review the Project and to devise further sessions. To date, we have involved a total of 37 inmates in the Project. We expect in the new reporting period to offer an even more vigorous programme and to focus on 'sentenced and longer term inmates'. 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. Contact with some Loyalist leaders resulted in the opportunity to deliver a programme on Reconciliation and Identity to a group of 12 young people (6 male and 6 female, all of whom are within the eligible region) over a period of six weeks. Relationships with some prominent leaders in Loyalist and Republican communities have continued to develop and 5 of them have been involved in sharing their stories and perspectives. Creative dialogues with community leaders in the Brandywell, Bishop Street and Fountain areas of Derry were held on three occasions, involving a total of 28 people (from Donegal and L'Derry, all within the eligible region).

Status: Ongoing

**E.** The assessment indicator for the Creative Exploration and Engagement in Inter-Culturalism is 200 participants. A range of events was organised, bringing together people from "indigenous" churches/communities and people from minority ethnic communities (34 organisations). These involved speaking at the Global Visions Conference (2 workshops, 30 people), speaking at Churches (Doagh, Glastry and Portaferry Methodist Churches – 175 people), meeting with the District Superintendents of the Methodist Church in Portadown (15 people), leading a session on Migrant-led churches for the Olive Branch (12 people), delivering the follow up seminar on Insecurity and Identity to Lisburn Community Safety Partnership (15 people), hosting the Embrace AGM *Moving Beyond Welcome* (50 people), and organising the Belfast launch of *What the Bible says about the Stranger* (19 people).

Status: Ongoing

**F.** The delay with gaining approval from the SEUPB to put the Project evaluation out to tender has slowed down some of the anticipated developments for Resource Development and Dissemination. Some progress has been made in documenting the lessons learnt from the Project despite the fact that the Project has not been able to engage the services of an external Evaluator as anticipated.

As mentioned in the previous Progress report, a key lesson learnt by the Project is the importance of finding common interests and concerns that will bring people together from different communities, traditions and cultures. The focus of most of the work remains on generating opportunities for relationships amongst and between people and communities who would not otherwise ordinarily meet. The opportunities need to engage participants on various levels. Therefore, the Project has found that by making use of creative approaches (such as those used in Theatre of the Oppressed drama workshops) participants are able to explore more readily issues around identity which in turn lead to addressing attitudes of sectarianism and racism.

Progress has been made in sharing some of the creative approaches used in Reconciliation and

Integration work. The lead partner facilitated a session on Reconciliation Approaches for Churches Together Lisburn (12 people). An afternoon seminar entitled *Exploring Forgiveness through Drama* was held with 12 Church leaders not only to provide them with a useful experience but also to equip them to use some creative approaches within their own work and ministries.

Relevant materials and information continued to be disseminated through the post to relevant stakeholders and via our website on a regular basis during the reporting period.

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 has continued to meet its time and participant targets. 50 students have now successfully completed their four modules and have maintained high levels of attendance. Students are drawn from the following counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Louth, Monahan, L'Derry – all within the eligible region. The additional 33 students who have continued to audit the course, all come from the eligible region with one exception.

In May, the lead partner, Mater Dei and the SMA's organised a special event on Reconciliation for course participants and others. It was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May and was entitled *No Sitting on the Fence: Reconciliation in Scripture and on the Streets*. The event attracted 112 people and featured an inter-church dialogue with Rev Ken Newell and Fr Gerry Reynolds.

**B.** The Inter-Church Training Placements for Protestant ministerial and Catholic students focused on involving the Methodist ministerial students in two reconciliation events. In March, 15 Methodist ministerial students participated in a reconciliation weekend. On the Friday evening, the students encountered a former Loyalist and a former Republican paramilitary leader as well as a Protestant

minister who has been actively involved in reconciliation work. On the Saturday, students participated in Theatre of the Oppressed activities designed to explore the issues and realities raised during the Friday sessions. In May, the same ministerial students were brought to the Redemptorist Clonard Monastery to meet with Fr Gerry Reynolds and learn about the work of the Catholic Church. This was followed by a tour around the Falls area and supper in the Irish Cultural Centre.

**C.** As stated above, the Young Offenders' Identity Project has faced a number of obstacles during this reporting period owing to circumstances beyond the Project's control. The Programme did operate a number of sessions on Friday mornings for two and a half hours and attracted an additional 14 young people. Even allowing for the disruptions, the Project is still on schedule to meet its outcome and output targets. Furthermore, time that would have been devoted to delivering sessions was able to be utilised for planning and the development of ideas and approaches.

**D.** Exploring Identity and Oppression within and between Loyalist and Republican Communities has continued to develop and is ahead of schedule. The work with the 12 young people over 6 weeks addressed attitudes related to Sectarianism and Racism and explored issues related to Identity and Culture. 5 leaders (4 Loyalist and 1 Republican) were invited to take part in sharing their stories to 2 different groups of Church leaders. These experiences allowed them to present and assess their own experiences and perceptions on Peace and Reconciliation. The 3 gatherings of community leaders in Derry offered some challenging opportunities for people to engage in dialogue and work together on a shared project. These experiences all contributed to creating opportunities for cross-community relationships and for positive attitudinal change.

**E.** Work on Creative Exploration and Engagement in Inter-Culturalism involved 346 people from 34 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 the Global Visions Conference (February - 60 people), speaking at 3 Churches (February and March – 175 people), meeting the District Superintendents (March -12 people), the Insecurity and Identity seminar (March – 15 people) and the experiences of 2 migrant-led churches for the Olive Branch (April – 12 people). With our partner Embrace, we participated in the event *Moving Beyond Welcome: Perspectives from Migrant Churches* (May- 50 people), and in partnership with the All Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism, the Project hosted the Belfast launch of *What the Bible says about the Stranger* (June -19 people).

**F.** For Resource Development and Dissemination, the delay with gaining approval to put the Project evaluation out to tender has slowed down some of the anticipated developments. The Project has been sharing some of the lessons and successful approaches learnt from its initiatives with Church and Community leaders by involving them directly in some of the programmes. The session on Reconciliation Approaches that was delivered to Churches Together Lisburn provided a useful forum for dissemination and training (March – 12 people). Furthermore, the seminar *Exploring Forgiveness through Drama* engaged a variety of Church leaders in practical training with creative techniques (April – 12 people). These first-hand experiences help to equip participants and allow them to see the relevance and potential of some of the creative approaches 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:**

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 do not normally meet. In the short time that the Project has been running, it is clear that many of the participants have acquired and put to use practical skills for working on Reconciliation and Integration.

The 50 students who have been engaged in the Exploring Theology course have deepened their relationships in a diverse and challenging environment. After the completion of the fourth module, the lead partner along with Mater Dei and the SMA's organised a half day inter-church dialogue on Reconciliation. 112 people attended and even though the event was open to the public, nearly half of participants were students on the course.

The Project learned in the first reporting period that more ground work was needed for the training placements for Protestant ministerial students. The 2 events which were organised in response to this (the Reconciliation weekend and the study visit to Clonard Monastery/Falls Road) created reassurances and have led to 5 students approaching the Project to discuss placement opportunities for the next academic year.

The work on the Young Offenders' Identity Project has been restricted during the reporting period; nonetheless, participants have had the opportunity to explore identity and learn about 'the other' (people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds). The sessions in Hydebank have continued to build the capacity of participants, and they have gained valuable experience in addressing issues around Sectarianism and Racism.

The work with Loyalist and Republican communities has helped to lay the foundation for important cross-community interactions and experiences. Greater understanding and appreciation have been fostered and there is an openness and willingness to continue in this process. The Project has learned that there is a shared challenge in both communities to connect with younger people, especially those who have engaged in 'anti-social behaviour'. This challenge is also an opportunity for the communities to see the similar needs each has; and then to meet together to explore ways in which to address them.

The work undertaken through the Partnerships with the AICCMR and Embrace has 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. These connections were highlighted during the crisis involving the Roma families in South Belfast. The Project was able to contribute to that situation positively and had a role in linking Church and community leaders together. That particular situation had the effect of reminding Church and community leaders of the significance of inter-cultural, inter-church and cross-community work. The variety of talks and workshops given over this reporting period have contributed to participants being guided and equipped to engage in integration activities.

The Project activities over this reporting period have provided the opportunity to extend the creative approaches to a wider range of participants. The sessions have been encouraging in affirming the usefulness of the techniques employed and the relevance of the resources which have been used. Our website has promoted useful resources in Reconciliation and Integration work. Resources such as the *Directory of Migrant-Led Churches and Chaplaincies*, as well as *What the Bible says about the Stranger* have been disseminated widely and are proving a useful resource for inter-church and inter-cultural 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:**

The Reconciliation Project has worked on the basis that creating relationships between people and groups who have not had the opportunity or who have chosen not to engage with the ‘other’ is crucial for providing for the framework and the context for mutual understanding and respect to emerge and for reconciliation to be undertaken. The Project continues to create relationship-building opportunities, to provide a common cause upon which people from different communities/traditions can focus, and to allow the space for people to meet, dialogue and be challenged. The adoption of creative approaches has been used both to draw in and engage people in mutual understanding and respect between and within communities and traditions.

The Project has addressed and explored perceptions of difference at many levels and in various areas. This is happening at institutional and community levels as well as on a personal basis. It seems that for any significant progress to be made in the process of reconciliation, a primary focus must be on building relationships. Relationship building is at the heart of the Project. The focus of all the activities of the Project is on initiating, maintaining and/or building relationships.

Cultural and attitudinal change is inextricably linked to the objectives and targets of the Project. The Project contributes to positive change by equipping and resourcing people to address sectarianism and racism in personal and practical ways. The work with more marginalised groups offers them opportunities to explore identity and to learn about the perspective and culture of others. By enabling people to forge relationships with ‘the other’, the framework conditions for sustainable and positive cultural and attitudinal change are being developed and fostered in all these areas.

It should be noted that in the background and design of Project activities, care has been taken to ensure that the structures and partnerships of the Project reflect the principles used in their delivery. In other words, reconciliation work is not simply what happens in the moment of specific activities or sessions but is reflected in how those activities are planned, organised and reviewed and, critically, in who is involved. Wherever possible, the Project has worked on a relational, ecumenical basis and was driven by an ethos of partnership and collaboration.

## 2. LETTER OF OFFER CONDITIONS

	OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
<b>CONDITIONS AS PER LETTER OF OFFER</b>	<b>COMPLETE D?</b>	<b>Relevant Supporting Doc Attached?</b>
<b>Pre payment &amp; Post Payment</b>	<b>Yes /No</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>No additional ones set for this project</b>		

**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
Flier	28/04/09	Advertisement for <i>Exploring Forgiveness through Drama</i>	Publicity	£83.96
Flier and invitation	31/05/09	Advertising for inter-church dialogue event <i>No sitting on the fence: Reconciliation in the Scripture and on the Streets</i>	Publicity	£45.00
Dissemination	Jan – June 09	Posting resources (e.g. <i>Directory of Migrant-led Churches</i> )	Info and Publicity	£67.94
Launch and press release	12/06/09	Belfast launch of <i>What the Bible says about the Stranger</i>	Publicity	£350.00

Website	Jan- June 09	Pages devoted to publicising the Project and providing information and resources	Info and Publicity	n/a
Emails	Jan- June 09	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
<b>Amount Approved by Verification Team</b>		<b>26,675.94</b>	
<b>Amount Budgeted to claim at this stage</b>		<b>28,041.00</b>	
<b>Difference Carried over</b>		<b>1,365.06</b>	

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
<b>Amount Approved by Verification Team</b>		<b>54,676.22</b>	
<b>Amount Budgeted to claim</b>		<b>53,133.00</b>	
<b>Difference Carried over</b>		<b>1,365.06</b>	
<b>Amount Expected</b>		<b>54,498.06</b>	
<b>Difference</b>		<b>178.16</b>	
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
<b>Expenditure Planned</b>	<b>13,627.00</b>	<b>14,414.00</b>	<b>53,133.00</b>	<b>18,151.00</b>	<b>48,034.00</b>
<b>Cumulative planned expenditure</b>	13,627.00	28,041.00	81,174.00	99,325.00	147,359.00
<b>Date Claim Expected</b>			30th Oct 09	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan '09	31st April'10
<b>Amount of Claim Expected</b>			54,676.22	£18,151	£40,145
<b>Advance Payback to be built in</b>	-	-	-	4,000.00	4,000.00

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

**Annex 1. JTS OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**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)**