

COMMUNITY RELATIONS WEEK

Building a United Community

The theme of this year's Community Relations Week is *Building a United Community*. Building a united community is as urgent now as it was when the peace agreement was signed in 1998. We have plenty of examples of our capacity to slip back into animosity and old ways of thinking. There is no room for complacency.

Building good cross-community and inter-cultural relationships is a core foundation of peace here. It is an essential insurance policy, for all of us, against the destruction of our peace.

Community Relations Week is always an opportunity to showcase the great work that goes on quietly all year round to build and sustain relationships. It is a time to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our community and the many imaginative ways in which we are building a shared cultural region. This programme shows the wide variety of events that will take place during the week, organised by voluntary and community groups, District Councils, schools, libraries and other public bodies. Thanks to everyone who is organising or attending events during the week. Your personal commitment to good community relations is changing this place. Your energy and enthusiasm is the fabric of our peace.

Community Relations Week is full of great examples of the united community that is being built all around us right now. By participating in the events we all have a chance to show our support for this work and to recognise and celebrate the shared humanity that underpins it.

Jacqueline Irwin

Chief Executive

Community Relations Council

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