

Community Recovery Fund – Open Call	Project Description
ACSONI Amount Awarded: £17,900	ACSONI are now no longer in a position to fulfil this training. Council officers are in the process of reclaiming the first payment.
Annadale Community Centre Amount Awarded: £18,400 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project responds to increased hate speech and division following the 2024 public disorder in South Belfast. It aims to rebuild social trust and cohesion through inclusive community engagement.</p> <p>A part-time Community Engagement Officer has been hired to lead outreach and programme delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities include leadership training, volunteer management, and inclusive programme design due to commence in January 2026. Media literacy workshops will target misinformation about migrants and refugees for both youth and adults. ACC are currently securing a facilitator to deliver this training. <p>The initiative fosters mutual understanding between host and migrant communities through shared activities. The goal is to create a safer, more inclusive community where diversity is embraced and respected.</p>
Voicing the Void Amount Awarded: £19,600 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project addresses the aftermath of 2024's public disorder in Belfast, focusing on hate crime, racism, and community division.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It uses trauma-informed restorative storytelling to foster empathy, inclusion, and healing across newcomer and host communities. Four 10-week storytelling courses will engage 36–40 participants, including refugees, asylum seekers, and local residents. The first two of these courses have been completed. Participants will earn accredited OCN qualifications and develop leadership, advocacy, and public speaking skills.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities include storytelling workshops, resilience training, creative media production, and public events. • Outreach will be delivered through school sessions, community events, and digital campaigns. • The project is co-designed with partners like PBNI, ArtsEkta, Queen's University, and the PSNI. <p>It promotes integration by empowering marginalised voices and challenging harmful narratives. Public events and media outputs will raise awareness and promote upstanding behaviour against hate.</p>
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum Amount Awarded: £11,900 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project addresses the needs of minority ethnic residents in North Belfast, particularly in Cliftonville and Lower Oldpark, following the 2024 public disorder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It aims to reduce hate crime, build trust with statutory services, and promote integration through structured engagement. • Key issues identified include barriers to accessing services, low trust in authorities, and widespread misinformation about Muslim communities. • The programme includes thematic workshops on housing, benefits, education, healthcare, and hate crime reporting, with interpreters and direct agency engagement. • History and myth-busting sessions will challenge stereotypes and foster cross-community understanding. • Accredited hate crime and hate speech training will be delivered to residents and service providers, empowering them as peer leaders. • Visual signposting materials in multiple languages will be co-produced and distributed to improve access to key services. • The project is delivered in partnership with the Northern Ireland Muslim Culture Association (NIMCA), ensuring grassroots involvement. • Activities will be hosted at Cliftonville Community Centre and Girdwood, with a focus on dialogue, inclusion, and cultural awareness.

<p>Upper Andersonstown Community Forum Amount Awarded: £7,150 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025</p>	<p>The project responds to increased hate crime and racial tension in Belfast, particularly targeting the Syrian Muslim community but not (exclusively) after the 2024 public disorder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a partnership with “Happy Life Together N.I.” (HLTNI), a Syrian family support group, to promote integration, safety, and cultural understanding. • The project will provide HLTNI with office space and access to meeting rooms for 9 months at Tullymore Community Centre. • Activities include cultural awareness workshops, Syrian cooking sessions, and discussions on hate crime legislation and Section 75. • A Level 1 OCN-accredited Community Safety Awareness course will be delivered to 10 participants, enhancing their confidence in engaging with statutory services. • Youth and community groups will participate in joint workshops to build relationships and understanding with the Syrian community. • Evaluation will be conducted through surveys and feedback, with political representatives invited to key events to reinforce community support.
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<p>Dreamscheme NI Amount Awarded: £8,160 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025</p>	<p>The project targets young people in South Belfast, especially those from Belvoir and Milltown estates, affected by the 2024 public disorder and exhibiting racist attitudes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It partners with Breda Academy, a diverse school with over 40 nationalities, to support newcomer pupils and foster inclusion. • Activities include one-to-one mentoring, small group workshops, and after-school youth cafés to build empathy and challenge prejudice. • The programme addresses social exclusion, bullying, and emotional distress among migrant-background students. • It promotes integration between Protestant/Loyalist youth and newcomers through relationship-based interventions. • Youth leadership is developed through training in communication and project delivery, empowering participants to co-lead sessions. • The project is co-designed with school staff and young people, ensuring responsiveness to real needs and experiences.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with community safety officers and youth services ensure alignment with broader anti-hate crime efforts. • The initiative aims to reduce future disorder, rebuild social trust, and create a more inclusive, resilient school and community environment.
NI Food to Go Amount Awarded: £16,400 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project responds to hate crimes targeting migrant-owned food businesses in South Belfast during August 2024, aiming to rebuild trust and cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will deliver nine multicultural food and cultural events across Belfast over nine months, starting January 2026. • Events will showcase cuisines, music, and traditions from newcomer communities alongside local Belfast culture. • The programme is coordinated by the NI Food to Go Association, representing 1,200 food businesses, one-third of which are ethnic minority-owned. • Events will be held in both affected areas and neutral city centre venues to promote inclusivity and safety including St George's market. • The project includes skills development and entrepreneurship support for migrant food businesses, in partnership with Belfast Met and the Council's Enterprise Team. • Activities will feature cookery demos, taster sessions, workshops, and cultural performances linked to Belfast's UNESCO City of Music status. • Communications will be multilingual and community-driven to ensure broad engagement and accessibility.
West Belfast Partnership Board Amount Awarded: £16,000 Potential Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project addresses rising racial tensions and hate crimes in West Belfast, particularly affecting newcomer and asylum-seeking families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It aims to build integration and social cohesion between newcomer and host communities through community-led initiatives. • Activities include co-designed training programmes, a "Community Neighbourhood Guide," and a "Good Neighbour Agreement" tailored to five Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will engage 50 participants (10 per area) from both minority ethnic and local communities, including youth and emerging leaders.
Northern Ireland Somali Association Amount Awarded: £11,385 Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project supports refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia but also from Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, and other communities in Belfast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It responds to the fear and disruption caused by the 2024 race-related violence, which led to the suspension of community services and increased anxiety. The initiative includes 10 workshops covering racism awareness, supporting children, online safety, legal rights, and bystander intervention. A final cultural community event will bring together migrant and local residents to promote understanding through food and storytelling. Workshops will be delivered in English, Somali, and Arabic to ensure accessibility and cultural relevance. <p>The project is community-led and co-designed with members who have lived experience, ensuring it meets real needs. It aims to empower individuals with practical tools to respond to racism, report hate crimes, and support others. The programme strengthens intergenerational support by working with both parents and young people.</p>
Market Development Association Amount Awarded: £16,000 Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project addresses racial tensions and lack of integration in the Market area of Belfast, where diverse communities live side by side but with limited interaction. It aims to reduce hate crime and promote social cohesion through two strands: a local multicultural programme and a citywide partnership training initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strand 1 includes a 6-week multicultural cooking course where participants share traditional meals, fostering dialogue and cultural exchange. This strand also includes anti-racism and political economy training, encouraging participants to explore racism at personal, cultural, and structural levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand 2 involves seven partner organisations from across Belfast in an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) course. • The ABCD approach focuses on community strengths and assets, empowering residents to lead inclusive development and challenge discriminatory narratives. • The project is supported by the Belfast Community Research & Innovation Network (BCRIN), which includes partners from diverse neighbourhoods and Queen's University. The 7 partners have undertaken this training with positive outcomes reported as a result.
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Rosario Youth Club Amount Awarded: £17,268.44 Completion Date: 31 August 2025	<p>The project targets young people aged 14–17 in the Ballynafeigh/Ormeau area, which has a high number of newcomer and minority ethnic residents affected by racism and hate crime. It aims to reduce future disorder and rebuild social trust through a shared programme of youth work activities focused on inclusion and good relations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered in partnership with St Malachy's Youth Centre, the programme will engage 24 young people identified as vulnerable to exploitation and involvement in unrest. • Activities include groupwork sessions, cultural celebration events, art creation, pro-social outings, and a residential experience. • Young participants will become community inclusion ambassadors and co-create a community inclusion charter to promote long-term cohesion. • The programme will explore the causes, impact, and consequences of hate crime, racism, and discrimination through structured workshops. • It promotes empathy, critical thinking, and experiential learning to challenge misinformation and encourage understanding across cultures. • Monthly cultural events and art sessions will celebrate diversity and foster positive relationships within the community. • The project includes training in leadership, advocacy, and teamwork, empowering young people to influence peers and contribute to policy.
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<p>Féile an Phobail Amount Awarded: £18,500 Completion Date: 31 August 2025</p>	<p>The project responds to the 2024 public disorder in Belfast by addressing its root causes—social division, racism, and community disconnection—through inclusive, community-led programming. It aims to rebuild trust and cohesion by engaging children, youth, and the wider community across political, cultural, and religious backgrounds in arts, cultural, sporting, and educational activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key components include community connection workshops, anti-racism education campaigns, storytelling and cultural events, and youth exchange programmes to foster empathy and understanding. • A Diversity Ambassadors Programme will train and mentor young people, especially from minority ethnic backgrounds, to become community leaders and role models. • The project includes cultural orientation workshops, mentorship schemes, and collaborative community projects like public art and gardens to promote integration and shared achievement. • It uses innovative methods such as dialogue circles, youth-led debates, and community mapping to explore and challenge hate speech, stereotypes, and misinformation. • Activities are designed to be inclusive and accessible, with continuous feedback and adaptation to ensure relevance and impact across diverse communities.
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