

APR 09



# action!

THE MAGAZINE OF YOUNG CITIZENS IN ACTION.

Get Involved

Taxi Stories

ArtsEkta

Mela Festival

Minorities Statistics

Interesting Facts

NICRAS

Beyond Skin

Chinese Welfare Association

Dragon Boat Festival



multi cultural

we are not alone

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THE MAGAZINE OF YOUNG CITIZENS IN ACTION.

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**Mela Festival.**  
Check out the  
event the Indian  
community put  
on each year.

# editors message

some say he is more myth than man, for him the pen is truly mightier than the sword and his prose can make grown men weep. pray silence for words of wisdom from your editor...

## Hello again readers!

This is Chris Guilfoyle and I'm back as editor. I would like to say that I'm back by popular demand but the truth is no one else wants the job!

The theme of this action magazine is ethnic minorities in Northern Ireland. This is a very current topic since Northern Ireland is still getting used to the number of people from different cultures coming into the country.

We have profiled various organisations working with young people from all ethnic backgrounds, such as NICRAS and Beyond Skin. Also we chatted with members of different communities to hear what they think of Northern Ireland and the troubles they have faced while living here.

We also have information on the latest international festivals taking place this year from different cultures as well as some background on each community (including some lovely pie charts!!).



Outside of the ethnic minorities theme there is information on how you can get involved in volunteering as well as how to get a hold of our brand new DVD.

Lastly for my fans (i.e my granny) there are some more pictures of me but since the magazine is so jam packed with stuff, there wasn't much room so try not to cry too much.

I hope you enjoy this magazine as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Until next time.

Chris

# how to get involved

you know you want to,  
it's a good thing to do,  
so get in touch,  
ah go on...

Young Citizens In Action is the youth department within Voluntary Service Bureau (VSB). The project aims to resource, support and empower young people aged 16-30 to make a valid contribution to their community through volunteering. We can offer you the opportunity to get involved in a range of youth led projects.

**Interested in getting involved? Here is a step by step guide:-**

Contact us at Voluntary Service Bureau by: -

Telephone	028 90200850
Fax	02890200860
Website	<a href="http://www.vsb.org.uk">www.vsb.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.youngcitizens.org.uk">www.youngcitizens.org.uk</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:info@vsb.org.uk">info@vsb.org.uk</a>

We will arrange for you to come into the office for an informal chat and take you through our volunteer registration form. Once the registration form is completed, we will look at what your interests are and match you with a suitable volunteer placement.

Not only can you get involved in Young Citizens In Action projects, we work with over 800 organisations registered with us within the Greater Belfast area, and North Down and Ards. Placements depend upon what you are interested in, the time you have to give and the area of Belfast you would like to volunteer in.

So why not contact us to find out more!



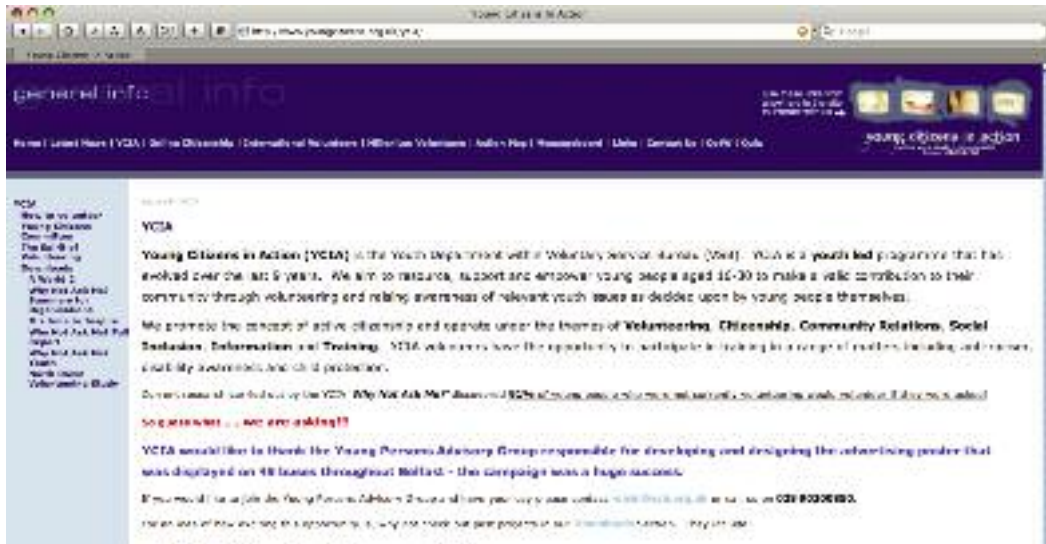
Roisin Timlin  
Senior Project Worker  
[roisin@vsb.org.uk](mailto:roisin@vsb.org.uk)





# website

we're sure you have heard of it? the internet? it's like this big chunk of information you can look at on your computer. we have a website but it may be time for a change...



The young citizens website ([www.youngcitizens.org.uk](http://www.youngcitizens.org.uk)) has been running for 10 years now and is in need of a makeover. Since it's a website for young people, we want young people's views on the website.

We have recently received funding to redesign our website and we want your input into what you think it should be like.

Are there any parts of the website you want expanded?

Anything you think isn't necessary?

Or, do you have any ideas on new youth related sections that should be added?

We're also looking for input on the look of the website.

If you're a budding artist, why not send us some pictures of what you think it should look like.

If you have any ideas about the website just e-mail them to [roisin@vsb.org.uk](mailto:roisin@vsb.org.uk)

# taxi stories

Check this, a movie written, cast, shot and edited all by young people from many ethnic backgrounds. All to help realise awareness for ethnic diversity and reduce racism.



This project took place in Belfast from October 2008 to January 2009. The young people involved shaped the DVD, decided on the characters and devised their own script. The purpose of the DVD is to increase awareness and respect for Northern Ireland's ethnic diversity, promote good community relations, reduce racism, stereotyping, and to promote inclusiveness and equality to help break down barriers.

Young citizen in action will be launching the DVD on the 6th May 09 at VSB at 11am. If you're free why not come along also if you would like a free copy of the DVD contact roisin on 028 90 200 850 or [roisin@vsb.org.uk](mailto:roisin@vsb.org.uk)



# ArtsEkta

this group was established to promote ethnic arts here in Ireland. check out the work they do.



ArtsEkta is established for the advancement of education and to promote ethnic arts to people from the north and south of Ireland regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion. ArtsEkta unites the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and citizens in a common effort to promote integration and inclusion.

## Vision

An inclusive society which is respectful, embracing and reflective of all people's cultures and backgrounds.

## Mission

ArtsEkta exists to promote and support multicultural arts and artists in the community:

- Sharing the value of unique cultural experiences
- Raising awareness and acceptance of different cultures by fostering respect for people of all backgrounds through workshops, educational programmes and celebratory event

## Values

**Inclusive:** ArtsEkta celebrates the unique qualities and values diversity that exist within our society

**Innovative:** ArtsEkta will approach all work in a professional way ensuring high quality delivery and practice across all areas of the organisation

**Accountable:** ArtsEkta will approach all work in a professional way ensuring high quality delivery and practice across all areas of the organisation

**Committed:** Management committee, staff and volunteers are committed to the ethos of ArtsEkta

**Flexible:** ArtsEkta will respond in an adaptable way which is sensitive to the varying needs of all communities

<http://www.artsektā.org.uk>

## Contact Us

Nisha Tandon, Project Officer  
Pritam Sridhar, Development Assistant (Freelance)  
ArtsEkta Ltd  
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127-137 York Street  
Belfast BT15 1AB

E-Mail: [info@artsektā.org.uk](mailto:info@artsektā.org.uk)  
Phone: 028 9023 1381 or 07736 243 348



ArtsEkta Media Workshop  
learning about the camera  
is just the beginning



# volunteer profiles



what makes people like you volunteer? well, here's your chance to see what they are all about.

**1. Name** - Manvi Singhal

**2. Age** - 18 years

**3. How long have you been living in Northern Ireland?**

Since end of 2000

**4. Where did you live before you came to N. Ireland?**

Muscat, Oman . Before that, New Delhi, India

**5. What types of volunteering are you involved in?**

Arts Ekta, Nursing Home - Activity Therapist's Assistant, (currently work there as a care assistant), School Voluntary Services

**6. What do you feel are the benefits of volunteering?**

Meet peers from a range of social, economic and cultural backgrounds. Broaden breadth of experience and broaden my horizon. Fulfilling and satisfying job where one works in a truly altruistic environment and has the opportunity to contribute in a positive manner to someone's life. Giving back to community.

**7. Do you have any hobbies?**

I enjoy dancing, reading novels and medical articles/journals, playing badminton and procrastinating.

**8. Now that you live in Northern Ireland do you feel that you have come up against any barriers, cultural differences or prejudice?**

Inevitably, I have encountered some minor racism and prejudice in the form of assumptions and even name-calling. However, I was fortunate enough to have any issues with my peers resolved. Recently, everything has been motoring along nicely!

**9. What are your hopes for the future?**

I want to continue giving back to the community and helping people by pursuing Medicine as a career.

**10. Would you encourage your friends to volunteer and if so why?**

Definitely. The reasons I've mentioned above all still stand - a small amount of your time can make a substantial difference to somebody else's day and life.



**1. Name** - Aditya Dhareula

**2. Age** - 22 years

**3. How long have you been living in Northern Ireland?**

Nearly 7 years.

**4. Where did you live before you came to N. Ireland?**

India

**5. What types of volunteering are you involved in?**

Over the years I have been actively involved in organising multi-cultural events in Belfast. Through VSB I have had the opportunity to participate in a movie making project (Wheel Works Project). For this particular project, all the participants were given professional acting training and not only that we were also given a brief training for choreographing and directing the whole film.

**6. What do you feel are the benefits of volunteering?**

Volunteering for VSB has been a great experience because I was able to interact with people from different back grounds and it also taught me the importance of community work.

Through VSB I have had the opportunity of participating in plays and movie making projects which would have been otherwise impossible.

**7. Do you have any hobbies?**

I enjoy dancing, playing chess, flying gliders and cricket.

**8. Now that you live in N. Ireland do you feel that you have come up against any barriers, cultural differences or prejudice?**

No, not really

**9. What are your hopes for the future?**

In future I hope to continue volunteering for VSB and gain valuable experience and I hope to make friends from different back grounds.

**10. Would you encourage your friends to volunteer and if so why?**

Yes, I would like to encourage more of my friends to volunteer because it's a great experience and I would like more people to try it.





**1. Name:** Kousalyaa Somasundram

**2. Age:** 20

**3. How long have you been living in Northern Ireland?**  
7 years

**4. Where did you live before you came to N. Ireland?**  
Sri Lanka

**5. What types of volunteering are you involved in?**

Currently

- 'ArtsEkta' - Performing dance
- British Red Cross

Previously

- Volunteered in events – E.g. Belfast Mela, Diwali, Chinese new Year
- Volunteered in a Charity café – Common Grounds
- Volunteered in NICEM – (Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities)

**6. What do you feel are the benefits of volunteering?**

Through volunteering you can gain experiences in a range of fields. Especially it gave me a lot of opportunity to improve a range of skills in:-

- Communication
- Socialising
- Leadership
- Team work

**7. Do you have any hobbies?**

Singing, dancing, and painting

**8. Now that you live in Northern Ireland do you feel that you have come up against any barriers, cultural differences or prejudice?**

I did experience some in the past, but Belfast is now becoming a multi cultural city where everyone is learning to accept and celebrate diversity.

**9. What are your hopes for the future?**

I hope Northern Ireland as a whole welcomes different cultures and celebrates diversity together. Every individual should be taught to accept difference and this should be integrated from the early childhood throughout their life.

**10. Would you encourage your friends to volunteer and if so why?**

Definitely, only through volunteering and working with others I became confident in speaking out my views and opinions. Moreover, I believe those experiences do play a vital role in developing personal skills.

“ ”

I am a photographer originally from South Africa.

I left there in 2007 to explore my horizons and widen my perceptions through photography and art.

Arriving in Northern Ireland in spring 2008 I contacted Voluntary Service Bureau, Belfast, which turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made.

This opened up many opportunities for me to use my photography and people skills which includes volunteers as the official photographer for the Ards Guitar Festival and Northern Ireland's multicultural band 'the motion project' with the community arts charity 'Beyond Skin'. Due to a very active schedule with Beyond Skin I found myself emersed within the community and cultural relations sectors working with many ethnic communities. As an ethnic minority in Northern Ireland, cultural relations are an area I wish to explore through my photography to assist positive change and understanding.

In February 2009 i launched my first exhibition in Northern Ireland for international womens day in partnership with the Equality Commission. I would recommend volunteering to anyone, not only is it rewarding helping within the community but the opportunities it presents are priceless.

Skye Bompas

volunteer profile  
Skye Bompas, 23



# mela festival

belfast's own 'meeting' of cultures.  
have you been to a mela? read this  
and maybe we'll see you at the  
next one...

## What is a Mela?

Melas originate from the Indian sub continent. The word Mela comes from the sanskrit "to meet" and is related to "milana" the verb to tune. It is commonly used to describe a large gathering of people celebrating artistic, religious or political events - a fair or a festival.

In the same way that many fairs or holidays in Europe would begin on the feast days of saints. Melas in south Asia have their origins in religious gatherings such as Diwali, Eid or Vaisakhi.

Celebrations form an immeasurably important part of the sub-continent's fabric. Melas are feasts of sights, smells, sounds and tastes and will often feature bazaars, folk troupes, traditional and contemporary music and dance.

From the desert Melas of Rajasthan to the Baisakhi Melas of Bangladesh, Melas are held throughout South Asia. Audiences can vary in size from a few hundred to a few million; the Kumbh Mela held in four locations every twelve years attracts 2.5 million people.



## Stalls and other Activities

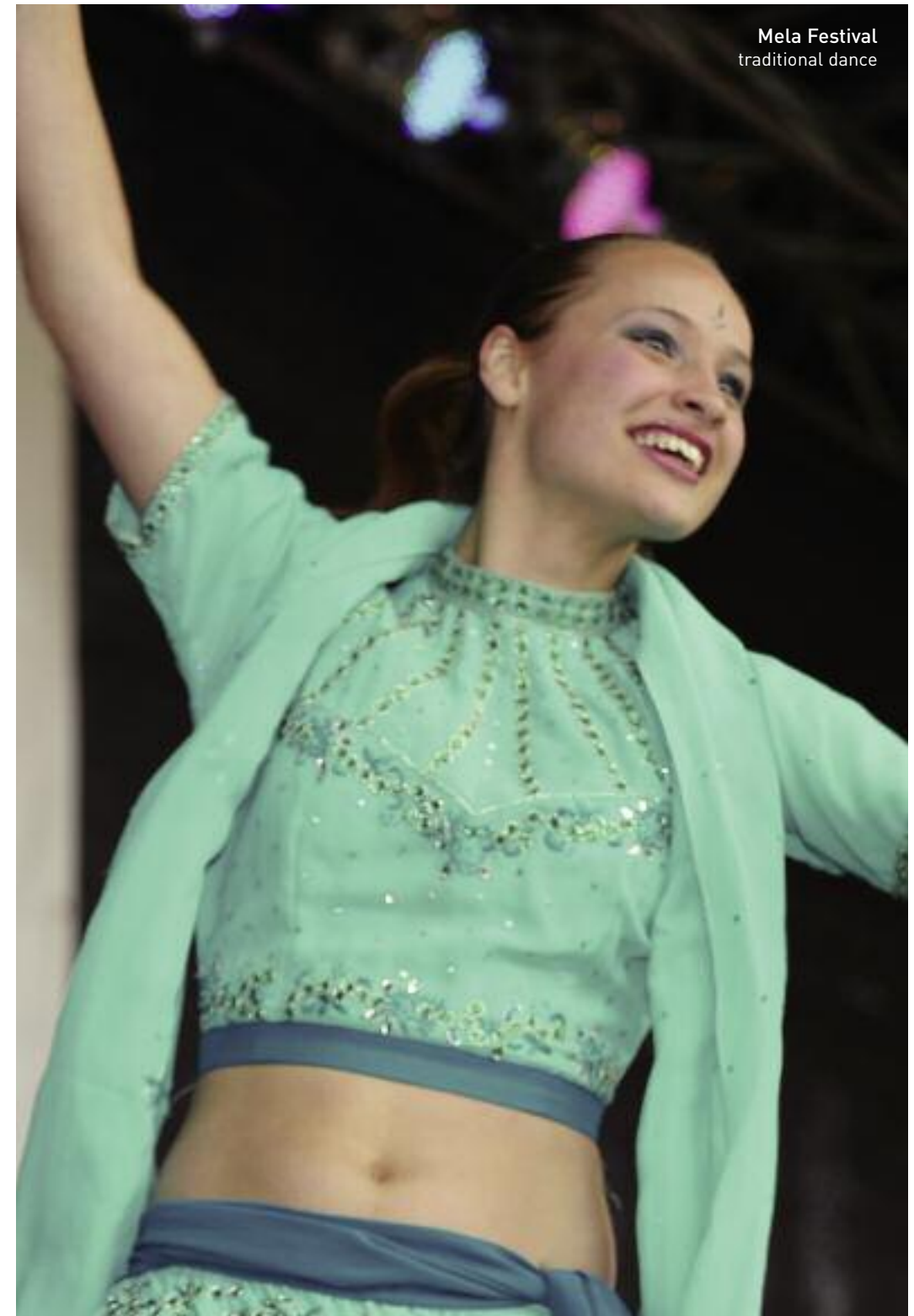
The Belfast Mela is more than music and dance. There are plenty of ways to delve into and enjoy ethnic inspired activities including all day arts and crafts workshops, face painting, henna tattooing, walkabout street theatre and entertainments plus a very special children's area located away from the main park.

Keeping in tune with Health and Wellbeing we will also be providing Indian head massages, BMI checks, Yoga workshops and aromatherapy treatments.

Local community groups and statutory organizations will also be present providing advocacy stands throughout the park. The food bazaar is the only one out of all the Mela's in the UK to display an international array of cuisines. From Indian to Chinese to Thai to Japanese to French to Caribbean to Traditional English there is sure to be something to tickle your taste buds!

<http://www.belfastmela.org.uk>

**Next festival 30 August 2009!**



Mela Festival  
traditional dance



# interesting facts

i didn't know that. did you know that? well you learn something new...

## Backgrounds of Ethnic Minorities Living in Northern Ireland

The ethnic minority groups come to Belfast because there is a better chance of finding a job. Also they come over to study. While working they would send money over to their families. However, the growth of ethnic minorities is not solely due to immigration, but is partly the result of an expansion of already recognised ethnic minority groups. A person who is born in Northern Ireland and holds the same values and characteristics as the majority of people already living here may also choose to hold an ethnic minority identity.

### Irish Traveller

- Irish Travellers have roots in Northern Ireland as far back as the 12th century.
- Almost 60% of Belfast's Irish Traveller population live in West Belfast.
- Their language is known as Gammon or Cant.

### Pakistani

- Northern Ireland's Pakistani community was established over 60 years ago, the largest of which is in the Upper Bann.

### Black Caribbean/ African/Other Black

- There are over 1000 people living in Northern Ireland from a Black ethnic background.

### Chinese

- Northern Ireland's largest ethnic population is the South Belfast Chinese community.
- The majority of the Chinese community currently living in Belfast were born in Northern Ireland.

- Most of the Chinese came here from Hong Kong. When they come over they open up restaurants to make money.
- The first Chinese restaurant opened in 1962 in Belfast.

### Other Ethnic groups

- Most are students or nurses and can include people from Europe, the Philippines and Latin America.

### Bangladeshi

- South Belfast and Strangford have the largest communities with 260 members living in Northern Ireland in total.
- Most Bangladeshis are from the Sylhet District and are also known as Bengalis or Sylhetis.

### Other Asian

- This can include people from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Laos with over 25% living in South Belfast.
- Asian are associated with the Mela festival that happens every year in northern Ireland.

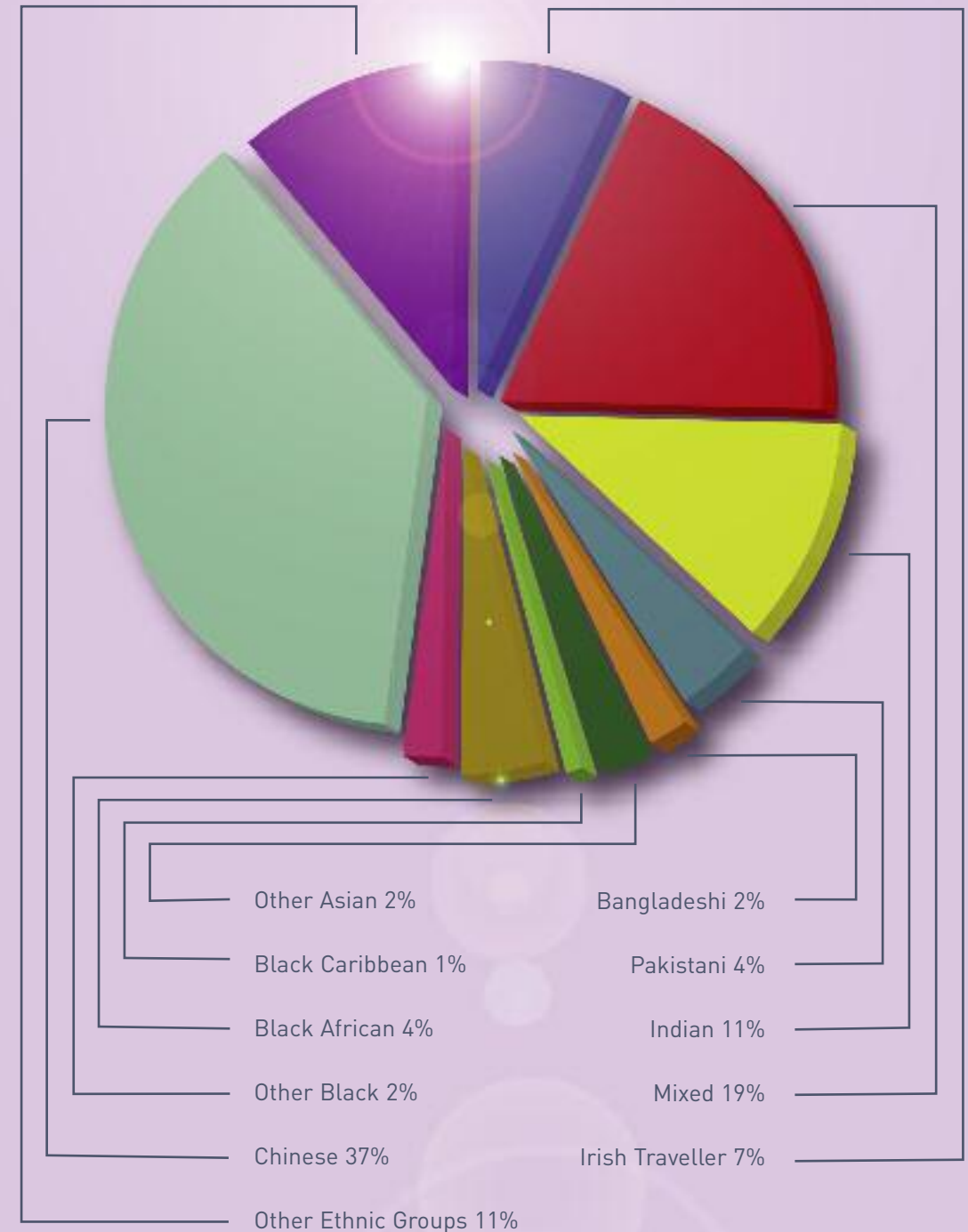
### Mixed

- This is the second largest ethnic minority group living in Northern Ireland; the first is Chinese.

### Indian

- There are 1579 Indian people living in Northern Ireland and they are from different linguistic and religious backgrounds.
- Most of the original Indian families who settled in Northern Ireland in the 1920s came from two main areas in Northern India; Punjab and Gujarat.

Ethnic Minority Groups in Belfast based on the 2001 Census



# nicras

did you know asylum seekers or refugees living in northern ireland have their own organisation to represent their interests?



## Who Are NICRAS?

NICRAS (Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers) is a Refugee Community Organisation (RCO) which was established in 2002 and is still the only organisation representing the interests of Refugees and Asylum Seekers which is also led by them. The aims of NICRAS are to support the integration process, campaigning and raising awareness, informing on changes in the immigration law, to organize social and fundraising events and to respond to the changing needs of its members.

## Who Can Become A Member Of NICRAS?

Anyone who is an Asylum Seeker or Refugee living in Northern Ireland can become a full member. There is provision for associate membership for other interested individuals.

## Would You Like To Get Involved With NICRAS?

NICRAS welcomes involvement from Asylum Seekers, Refugees and others who support its aims.

The Volunteering Project at NICRAS has been funded by The Department for Social Development under the Community Volunteering Scheme.

## Current Projects/Activities

Accessing educational funding  
Advice for Refugees  
Awareness raising  
Cultural events  
Drop In  
Networking and campaigning  
Newsletter  
Refugee week events  
Social events  
Summer activities  
Support on detention issues  
Volunteering

NICRAS works in partnership with several other organisations to achieve its aims and maintain its projects and activities.

## Lunch-Time Drop In

NICRAS holds a weekly lunch-time Drop In: Thursday 12.00 - 02.00 at the One Vision Offices.

## Volunteering With NICRAS

NICRAS is able to arrange volunteer placements for Asylum Seekers and Refugees both within NICRAS and with other organisations.

NICRAS can also offer volunteer placements for individuals from other backgrounds. Volunteers are welcome from all communities.

Contact Moira McCombe for further information at [Nicras@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Nicras@hotmail.co.uk)





# beyond skin



Beyond Skin was established in 2004 and aims to address the racism, sectarianism and prejudice in Northern Ireland through the universal language of music and art. These art forms can transcend religious and cultural borders. Since then, the cultural make-up of Northern Ireland has changed dramatically, which in turn has produced many problems. 'Beyond Skin' works to tackle these problems; and to use the arts as its main vehicle.



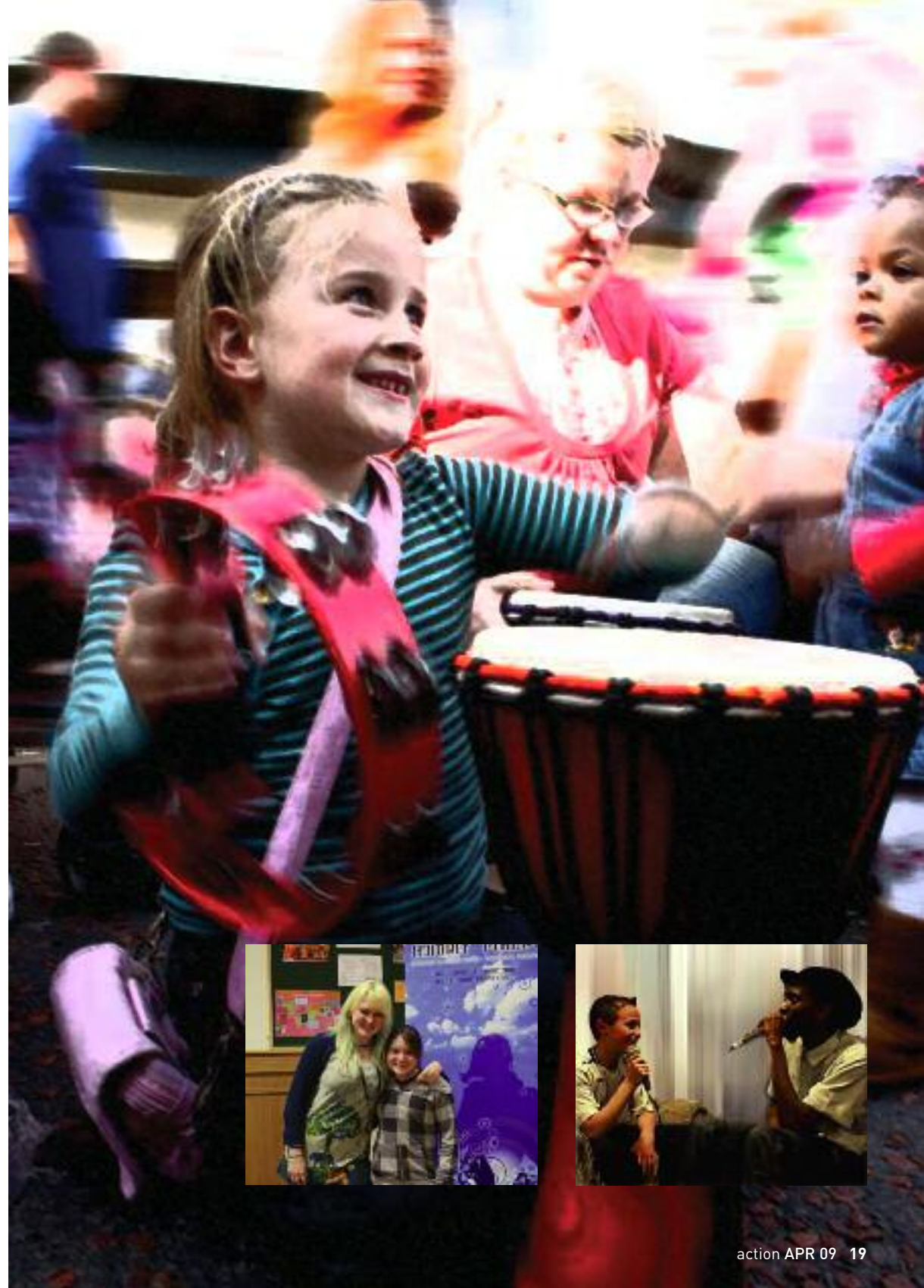
Belfast Carnival Centre  
11-47 Boyd Street,  
Belfast,  
BT13 2GU

Web: [www.beyondskin.net](http://www.beyondskin.net)  
Email: [info@beyondskin.net](mailto:info@beyondskin.net)



## Key objectives:

- To address racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland through multicultural arts
- To promote positive attributes reflected from a society made up of different cultures
- To promote multicultural arts for the benefit of the inhabitants of Northern Ireland
- To promote racial harmony and the exchange of cultural ideas and relations through the medium of the arts
- To contribute to maintaining a peaceful society in Northern Ireland
- To increase social awareness of different cultures within Northern Ireland







# Chinese Welfare Association

## securing the future of the Chinese community

In 1986 the Chinese Chamber of Commerce (CCC) set up the Chinese Welfare Association (CWA) under the Action for Community Employment (ACE) Scheme of the Training and Employment Agency. The broad aims of CWA were to assist the local Chinese community to identify its needs and to meet these needs either directly or by assisting to bridge the gap between the needs of members of the Chinese community in Northern Ireland and the available services in the areas of health, education, law and welfare.

### The CWA Mission Statement and Core Aims are as follows:

#### Mission Statement

- To secure the future of the Chinese community in Northern Ireland within a framework of racial equality and enable all sections of the community to fully participate in both the development of the community and the wider society.

#### Core Aims

- Enabling and supporting community development and developing the community infrastructure within the Chinese community



- Providing or securing services which meet the health and social needs arising out of the disadvantaged position of the Chinese community
- Enabling children and young people to realise their full potential as active citizens within both the Chinese and wider community
- Developing greater cultural awareness within both the Chinese and wider community and working towards elimination of racism and discrimination
- Securing the resources and facilities needed to achieve the core aims of the organisation

Initially the organisation had very limited resources and its provision was Belfast based. In the 1990's the organisation has developed into other parts of Northern Ireland including Craigavon, Derry, Ballymena and Bangor. Overall provision has been developed into the following three main operational service areas which are supported by central management and administration:

- Community Development;
- Children and Youth;
- Direct Services including Welfare Rights, Race Relations and Training and Interpretation.

At the time of the 1996 Development Plan the organisation employed 15 staff and the organisation was still highly dependent on the ACE scheme. By the time of the review, the organisation was directly employing 17 staff, funded by a broad-based funding package.

### CWA has a wide range of service users including:

- Individuals from the Chinese community;
- Self help and single issue groups from the Chinese community;
- The Chinese Community Forum;
- The Chinese community in Northern Ireland;
- Voluntary and statutory organisations;
- The wider community in Northern Ireland.





# dragon boat festival

## Up and coming event!!!

The Dragon Boat Festival, also known as the Duanwu Festival (in Mandarin Chinese pronunciation) or Tuen Ng Festival (in Cantonese Chinese pronunciation) is a Chinese traditional and statutory holiday and is the next Major Chinese Festival of the year. In 2009, it falls on May 28.

It is a public holiday in mainland China and Taiwan, where it is called the "Duanwu Jie" and a public holiday in Hong Kong and Macau, where it is called the "Tuen Ng Jit". In English it is also referred to as "Dragon Boat Festival", after one of the traditional activities for the holiday.

The Duanwu Festival occurs on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendar, giving rise to the alternative name of Double Fifth. The focus of the celebrations includes eating zongzi, which are large rice wraps, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.

The Duanwu Festival has also been celebrated in other East Asian nations. In English it is referred to as "Dragon Boat Festival", after one of the traditional activities for the holiday. This name has no equivalent in Chinese. Its literal translation in Chinese (longzhou jie) could refer to any dragon boating competition.



A more accurate literal translation of "Duanwu" in English might be "Solar Maximus Festival".

The significance of the two terms used to refer to the festival, "duan wu" and "duan yang" (both double character expressions), have to be properly understood in order to appreciate the true significance of this annual festival; namely the summer solstice or longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere.

The Duanwu Festival is believed to have originated in ancient China. There are a number of theories about its origins. There are a number of folk traditions, beliefs and explanatory myths connected to the observance. Today, the best, most widely known legend relates to the death by suicide of Qu Yuan, a Confucius scholar and minister to the King of Chu, in 278 BC an era in Chinese history that is referred to as the Warring States period. Scholars wrote literary works, including poetry. Qu Yuan is commonly referred to as a "poet" and a "statesperson", however he is more properly considered as a ministerial Confucius scholar.

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

# contacts

## Local Black and Minority Ethnic Community Groups

**African & Caribbean Association of Foyle**  
- [www.acafni.org](http://www.acafni.org)

**All Cultures Together in Education (ACTE)**  
- [malouane@hotmail.com](mailto:malouane@hotmail.com)

**Al Nisa - Muslim Women Group**  
- [www.al-nisa.org.uk](http://www.al-nisa.org.uk)

**An Munia Tober (formerly BTSG/BTEDG)**  
- [www.anmuniatober.org](http://www.anmuniatober.org) - 02890438265

**Ballymoney Ethnic Minority Support Association**  
- [lee.ballymoneycra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lee.ballymoneycra@hotmail.co.uk)  
- 02827665068

**Bangor Malayalee Association**  
- [vabraham@btinternet.com](mailto:vabraham@btinternet.com)

**Belfast Islamic Centre**  
- [www.belfastislamiccentre.org.uk](http://www.belfastislamiccentre.org.uk)  
- 02890664465

**Chinese Welfare Association**  
- <http://www.cwa-ni.org/> - 90288277

**Cookstown Migrant Worker Support Project**  
- [migrantworker@cwssan.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:migrantworker@cwssan.wanadoo.co.uk)  
- 02886 763322

**Cooltura - Polish Community Centre and Youth Club**  
- [alamakota@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alamakota@hotmail.co.uk)

**Craigavon Travellers Support Committee**  
- [craigavon.travellers@btopenworld.com](mailto:craigavon.travellers@btopenworld.com)  
- 38342089

**Filipino Communities in Northern Ireland**  
- [www.filipino-ni.com](http://www.filipino-ni.com)

**Indian Community Centre**  
- [www.iccbelfast.com](http://www.iccbelfast.com) - 90249746

**Japanese Society**  
- [www.japansociety-ni.org.uk](http://www.japansociety-ni.org.uk)

**Latinoamerica Unida**  
- [www.latinoamericaunida.org.uk](http://www.latinoamericaunida.org.uk) - 90319963

**Migrant Workers Support Network**  
- [www.mwsn.org](http://www.mwsn.org) - 028 877 29002

**Mandarin Speakers Association**  
- [www.mandarinspeakers.org](http://www.mandarinspeakers.org) - 90687793

**NICEM - Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities**  
- [www.nicem.org.uk](http://www.nicem.org.uk)

**NICRAS - Northern Ireland Community for Refugees and Asylum Seekers**  
- [www.nicras.org.uk](http://www.nicras.org.uk) - 90246699

**NIMFA - Northern Ireland Muslim Family Association**  
- [www.nimfa.org](http://www.nimfa.org)

**NI-TECA (Turkish Community)**  
- [www.ni-teca.org.uk](http://www.ni-teca.org.uk)

**North West migrant support services (Polish)**  
- [www.nwpolskisupport.org](http://www.nwpolskisupport.org)

**Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group**  
- [www.omaghcommunityhouse.com](http://www.omaghcommunityhouse.com)  
- 028 8224 9750

**Polish Association NI**  
- <http://www.polskibelast.pl/> - 07840695181  
(Polish Newspaper - Glosik: [www.glosik.eu](http://www.glosik.eu))

**STEP South Tyrone Empowerment Project**  
- [www.stepni.org](http://www.stepni.org) - 028 87729002

**Wah Hep Chinese Community Association**  
- [pauilyamwahhep@yahoo.com](mailto:pauilyamwahhep@yahoo.com) - 38341431

**Women of the World**  
- [mt.ellis@btopenworld.com](mailto:mt.ellis@btopenworld.com)

**World Wide Women - North Down**  
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# glossary

There may be words or expressions that we use in the magazine that are new to you. They are important words to understand and so you can look up their meaning in this Glossary.

## Asylum

If you have come to live in Northern Ireland and don't want to return to your old home country for a number of different reasons, you may be an asylum seeker. You sometimes have to wait a very long time before the government decides if you can stay here as a refugee, or if you have to leave.

## Children's Rights/ UNCRRC

Children have all the same rights as an adult. However, they have certain extra ones that our Government has to ensure are protected and upheld. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRRC) is a piece of law that can be used by people to decide whether or not children and young people are being treated fairly.

## Culture

This is a word often used to describe our traditions and beliefs and practices. Everyone has a culture that they relate to.

## Cultural Diversity

Means that we recognise and learn to appreciate the differences and similarities in each other.

## Discriminate

When someone discriminates against you, it means that they have decided to think about you or behave towards you unfairly only because of things they think they know about you, like your age or your gender or your skin colour or your faith.

## Ethnicity

Everyone has an ethnic background and this is based on our sharing of many things, for example the same history, language, beliefs and culture.

## Faith

A belief system which exists throughout the world, for example, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Taoism.

## Identity

The word we use to describe our own uniqueness, made up of different aspects of ourselves.

## Minority Ethnic Community

This is a term that we use to refer to those of us who make up the membership of small communities in Northern Ireland. Our communities are in a minority when they are compared to either or both of the two Christian groups that make up the majority community who live in Northern Ireland.

## Multiple Heritage Background

If you have parents, grandparents or other close family members who have different ethnicities and cultures, then you can be described as having a multiple heritage background. Some use other words like mixed race or even half-caste, but we do not like these terms.

## Racism/Anti-Semitism/Islamophobia

These are terms that we used to describe unacceptable behaviour or language that is aimed at some of us because of our ethnicity, our culture or our faith. The first word is used to discriminate against many people, often based on their skin colour; the second is aimed specifically at Jews; and when the third is used it shows prejudice against Muslims.

## Prejudice

Describes the way we make assumptions about people when we think first about their culture or ethnicity and if we rely on stereotypes. That means that prejudices are usually based on a lack of understanding so beliefs based on prejudices are often untrue.

## Refugee

If you are an asylum seeker and the Government decides that it is not safe for you to go back to your old country, then you become a refugee and have the right to stay in Northern Ireland forever.

## Stereotypes

Are a bit like prejudices. They are very simplistic but very dangerous ways of reducing people to being a bit like cartoons, and which exaggerate or invent negative parts of someone's character.

Taken from Save the Children booklet 'Think of Me, Think of you'.

living and working together







Voluntary Service Bureau exists to support, encourage and promote citizenship and participation through voluntary activity. Young Citizens In Action is a Voluntary Service Bureau initiative supported by:

Community Fund      Youth Council for Northern Ireland      CVS  
Peace II Programme administered through Community Foundation

