



Crosscare is the social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin. It draws its inspiration from the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. This places responsibility on us to work to the highest possible standards and to treat every person who uses our services and who works for or with us with the utmost respect, courtesy and love.

The Crosscare Community Adult Education Programme reflects the principles of the Crosscare organisation by advocating the value and quality of community adult education. It promotes empowerment, equality, leadership and celebration to help us to "Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God". (Micah 6: 8)

CROSSCARE

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Adult Education for Care and Justice

Dr. Ted Fleming, NUI Maynooth

 Until recently adults could not identify a place to go to learn. No longer is community education homeless, no longer the Cinderella of the system. Cinderella has married the Prince, and now lives, maybe not in a castle, but a venue. But Cinderella being part Irish, the first thing the neighbours said was: 'Whose yer wan? Who does she think she is? ... found some fella in a night club, and him with a foot fetish ... and now she's a celebrity.' Moving out of the Cinderella role imposes a whole new set of challenges and opportunities.

For to many adults school was a 'shut-up' experience that prevented questioning, seeing what opportunities lie ahead and which put a ceiling on ambitions and hope. This Crosscare programme is attempting to create opposite stories.

Being an adult educator is about being in charge of history. Being an adult is about being critical of the knowledge we learned in school and elsewhere. Asking questions is our business! This is what I mean by being in charge of history – I mean in charge of the future, not just custodians of the past.

It is about asking politicians where they get their money, their contributions, their support. Politicians must be made answerable equally to all the citizens and not just to those with brown envelopes who can buy influence. Adult educators are future workers, in charge of making relationships, communities, families and workplaces better places to be human, more caring and more just than previously.

Of all the things we might want to learn I want to select just one where there is work to be done by adult education. There is a serious problem with violence in our society.

Education is
not the filling of a
bucket, but the
lighting of a fire.

W.B. Yeats, 1865-1939

The psychological environment of communities is deeply violent. Boys become violent husbands and fathers. Girls, somehow, form relationships with violent men. The cycle of violence is repeated, generation after generation. Violence and intimidation as a method of tackling social issues need to be seen as counter productive.

There is violence against women; against children; there is violence on the street; young man against young man; there is the violence of a political nature just as evident in Dublin as in any other part of Ireland. Young men in particular, seemed to be very violent. In adult education we come across the results of this harsh world. People are not able to learn, feel undermined, lack confidence, are left behind and not able to voice their contribution. They have been 'shut-up'.

I'm proposing that one of the most important agendas possible in Ireland today is to address the pervasive nature of violence in relationships, families, communities, and workplaces. Educators do have a role in helping people see that violence is not any kind of an intelligent response to problems. If we are willing to teach people to develop job skills, or do personal development then it seems to me to be a clear step forward to say that it is a worthwhile project to teach people non-violent ways of behaving, relating and of rearing children.



Dr. Ted Fleming with some members of the CENC

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CROSSCARE COMMUNITY SERVICES

 **onor Hickey, the Director of Crosscare, in consultation with staff and other stakeholders has recently restructured the organisation of Crosscare. Consequently, there is a new Crosscare Community Service under the watchful eye of Yvonne Fleming, the new Senior Manager appointed during the summer of 2008.**

Apart from the Community Education Network of Crosscare (CENC) this new Service also includes the following programmes:


- ❖ Housing and Welfare Information
- ❖ Migrant Project
- ❖ Carer-Support Programme
- ❖ Travellers Inclusion Programme
- ❖ Disability Awareness Programme
- ❖ Drug and Alcohol Programme



◀ *Yvonne Fleming the new Senior manager of Crosscare's Community Services*

May I take this opportunity to wish Yvonne the very best in her new role and I know we all look forward to continued exciting developments within Crosscare.

THE AXING OF THE NCCRI

 **he "Creating Intercultural Communities Conference" was held in the Grand Hotel, Malahide in North Dublin on October 21st, 2008. The conference was attended by 250 delegates including members of the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) from various countries around Europe. The attendance comprised representatives of Irish adult educators, policy makers and community and voluntary organisations. The introductory and welcoming speeches were delivered by Marian Duffy, President of AONTAS and Sean Haughey TD, Minister for Lifelong Learning.**

Speaking at the opening, the Minister said, "the adult education sector is taking an active role in helping to shape an intercultural education strategy which fully acknowledges that we are living in an era of lifelong learning in a richly diverse Ireland". He stressed the importance of successful integration of newcomers into the community saying that "our commitment to assisting the many cultures, now in Ireland, to integrate into their local communities is clear. It is important for the continued development of our country, particularly in these challenging economic times, that all of our people have the opportunity to participate fully in their communities. I am especially grateful to the adult and community education sector for the key role it plays in meeting the needs of our new communities and in understanding new cultural experiences." He also took the time to wish all involved with the conference success for the future and said that the conference "will provide participants with opportunities to learn from one another, to share experiences and develop new ideas and thinking which will feed into their future work".



◀ *Mr. Philip Watt, director of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)*

After the introductory speeches, Philip Watt, Director of the NCCRI, stood to speak. In what was a shocking announcement, Mr. Watt told the conference delegates that, in the budget of 2008 and without prior warning, the government had axed the NCCRI. The sense of shock among the delegates was palpable. It seems extraordinary, notwithstanding the words of the minister, that after ten years of addressing racism and supporting corporate organisations and community groups, the NCCRI has been simply abolished. It is paradoxical that those of us in adult and community education, attending the conference to improve our participation in the building of intercultural communities, suddenly find that the

sector is, once again, weakened and undervalued. It is ironic that, while the main focus of the conference was the very important objective of the integration of minorities, the delegates are being marginalised.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Philip Watt, Kensika Monshengwo and staff of NCCRI for providing such a valuable service and for the delivery of excellent training programmes. I do hope that all your expertise garnered over the past ten years will not be lost to the sector for long.

CREATING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

 **he European Commission designated 2008 as the *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue* resulting from immigration across its member states.**

"The decision to focus on intercultural dialogue reflects the growing diversity within the EU as a consequence of inward migration" (*Conference Brochure*). The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) the National Coordinating body in Ireland identified Education as one of the important strands for creating intercultural communities in Ireland. AONTAS, as part of its aims for 2008, is building on this dialogue by looking at how Adult and Community Education is contributing to the creation of intercultural communities.

The Keynote Speaker



◀ *Mr. Bashy Quraishy (right) with one of the conference delegates*

The keynote speaker was Bashy Quraishy, Chair of the Advisory Council of the European Network against Racism (ENAR) and Chair of the Jewish Muslim Cooperation Platform, Brussels. Mr. Quraishy delivered an excellent paper on the role that Adult Education plays from a minority perspective and, taking a critical reflection stance, posed some opening questions:

- ❖ What do we understand with the concept of Inter-culturalism?
- ❖ What are the socio-economic conditions of minorities in Europe?
- ❖ What are the effects of discrimination and lack of opportunities?
- ❖ What role do the media and politicians play in creating prejudice?

In his concluding comments, Mr. Quraishy stated that "the educator can successfully enter where politicians, media and the public have no access, namely the mind and soul of a minority individual. This is where the first step to mutual integration starts. A Europe that takes care of its defenceless minorities is badly needed. It is necessary that Europe is multicultural, otherwise it will cease to exist".

The Workshops

The workshops covered a wide range of topics examining the fit of adult and community education and how it could influence policy development. The depth and breadth of the workshops is evident from the list below.

- ❖ Engaging isolated men and the role of Adult and Community Education
- ❖ Cultural Competency Training and the Irish Health Service
- ❖ Senior Learners and Intercultural exchange
- ❖ Women's Groups Putting Intercultural Dialogue in Action
- ❖ Ireland indigenous minority and the role of adult learning for intercultural dialogue
- ❖ A town of many nations: A Collaborative Intercultural Assessment of a Town's Needs

- ❖ An International Model of Intercultural Learning
- ❖ Media Awareness and Intercultural Learning



◀ *Kensika of NCCRI and Dr. Ronit Lentin*

The closing session, chaired by Kensika Monshengwo, NCCRI Training and Resource Officer, focused on the role of Adult and Community Education in promoting Intercultural Dialogue.

Panel contributors consisted of Salome Mbugua Henry, Director of AkiDWA. Bryan Mukandi, Journalist and Social Commentator, Dr. Ronit Lentin, Director of the MPhil in Ethnic and Racial Studies, Trinity College and Zbyszek Zalinski, RTE Journalist.

SOLAS, QAF, CROSSCARE AND AONTAS

Aontas, in collaboration with groups engaged in Women's Community Education, developed a Quality Assurance Framework otherwise known as the 'QAF'. Subsequently, other Women's Community Education groups were invited to train in this process and to use the QAF within their own workplace. In so doing, the tool could continue to be tried and tested while having a 'batch' of trained facilitators in the actual process itself.

Marie Keegan with Helena Powell took part in the training. SOLAS, a small Community Women's Education centre, located in a three bedroom flat in Ballymun, allowed themselves to go through the QAF process to have their work evaluated by two external people. Helena, a freelance consultant, was unable to complete the journey due to other work commitments, however, SOLAS, with Marie, continued to the end. It can only be said that the journey was one of utter openness, affirmation of how the work impacts on the local community, acknowledgement of actions needing attention and most of celebration. For both Marie and Helena, it was a tremendous honour to work with such dedicated staff and Board, who were open and willing to learn and unwavering in their commitment both to the project and most of all to their participants.



SOLAS at their celebratory lunch in Crosscare

To be invited to partake in this process, to engage with other groups in the learning of the process and to work closely with SOLAS to rollout the QAF has been an

excellent model of collaboration, shared experience and learning from the personal to the collective. Thanks is indeed due to AONTAS for initiating the QAF, to Natasha Bailey our Facilitator, SOLAS for allowing themselves to partake and to Helena for being willing to go through the process to the extent that time allowed her. To each and everyone of you. Well Done!

FAITH IN ACTION



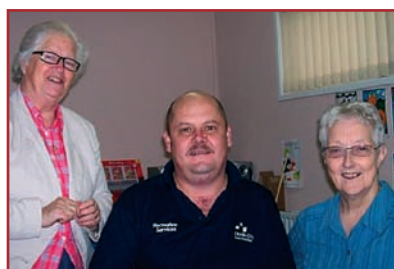
In keeping with the many changes occurring in Crosscare, we recently launched its "Faith in Action" Vision statement for 2008 – 2028. Over these twenty years, Crosscare will focus on:

1. Innovation — Developing our capacity to meet emerging needs
2. Outreach — Locating our services where the need is greatest
3. Mobilise — harnessing our potential to create lasting social gain.

This launch opened with a mass in the Pro-Cathedral celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, followed by lunch.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Dominick Street Community Centre



Just recently I had the privilege of meeting with Derek Buckley, the new manager of the Dominick Street Community Centre and Sr. Betty. Within such a short space of time, Derek has many new programmes running from the Centre. At an introductory meeting Sr. Eilis Coe working in Hardwicke Street Women's Centre met with Derek and myself to share events taking place in a neighbouring Community Centre. Miriam Gogarty of St. Finians Craft Group also visited the Centre to share her expertise in working with local people around craft.

The Haven, Basin Lane



During the summer Sr. Anne Marie Costelloe of the Haven in Basin Lane joined the CENC. I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting the Principal, Rita Wynn and her deputy Noreen Flynn to speak about the current activities emanating from the Network and how the Network could be a support to Sr. Anne Marie in her new role. Already Sr. Anne Marie has contributed to our 'Come and See' approach as she kindly hosted our October meeting. We all look forward to seeing new developments coming from the Haven.

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ADULT EDUCATION FOR CARE AND JUSTICE

A society is about how we want to live together, about care, justice, love and forming communities that work in democratic ways. We do need to learn how to be just and caring, how to bring about systems that are not

only the most efficient but that are the most fair and democratic. We need to learn history so as not to repeat it; poetry so as to express our feelings and community studies so we can live together.

Adult educators do this when we encourage people to become aware of community and social problems and to act together to solve them. This involves fostering critical reflection on social conditions, practices, institutions, systems and uncritical ways of thinking. The role of the adult educator is to develop true

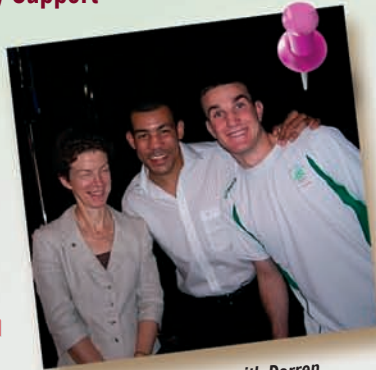
communities of collaborative and critical debate leading to social action so that justice and care are the highest values.

Adult education and its learning is an antidote to 'shut-up' stories, the opposite and the sure way of overcoming the violations. This is taking care of the future, by creating opposite stories. I think the people in these programmes know this in a particular way already. This is the future being taken care of!

Noticeboard

Dublin Bus Community Support Programme 2008

Attending the Dublin Bus Awards with Joe Murdoff, I was delighted to see so many of the groups on the CENC receiving their awards — awards well deserved for each of the programmes. The award ceremony also presented a great opportunity to link in with our elected representatives and sporting celebrities. ■



▲ Sr. Anne O'Dwyer with Darren Sutherland and Kenny Egan



▲ Marie with Pat Carey TD



▲ From left, Mark Hogan, HACE, Marie Keegan, Crosscare, Joe Murdoff, MAIN and Yvonne McCarthy, HACE



▲ Anne O'Dwyer, Loreto Centre and Deirdre Lawlor, Domestic Violence Service



▲ Rowena Galvin and Marion O'Hara, Lifestart, Mulhuddart



▲ Marie with Yvonne McCarthy and Brian Lenehan TD

▼ Joe Murdoff

▼ J.P. Trainor

The launch of Own Goals and Penalties by MAIN

Since our last Newsletter MAIN had their launch of "Own Goals and Penalties" at the Mansion House. I have to confess it was a great honour for me to be in attendance. I had only started to work in Crosscare at the time that Joe Murdoff approached Anna Dangerfield for support in establishing MAIN. Two years hence and there is MAIN launching their Research document "Own Goals and Penalties".

It has to be noted that J.P. Trainer working alongside Joe, has developed his own Personal Development course suitable to those men which MAIN serve. J.P. calls the course "Stepping Stones" as it symbolises participants making progress at their own pace and not in a hierarchical fashion. This course is not only unique but extremely effective and consequently groups on the CENC are actively engaging J.P. to run "Stepping Stones" in their own centres for their local men. ■



▲ Niamh O'Reilly, Niamh Farren, AONTAS, Dave Connolly Director DICP



▲ The Main Men of MAIN

The Network Day — All Hallows

This year's Network Day in All Hallows was a great success featuring three different workshops presented by Dr. Ted Fleming of the Community and Adult Education Dept in NUI Maynooth, Mr. John Doherty of Beehive School in Firhouse and Rachel Dempsey, using Development Education through music. In keeping with the workings of the CENC, the day moved from the personal, to the professional, to the peer. ■



▲ Enjoying John Doherty's workshop during the network day



▲ Some of the CENC members at the close of the Network Day