Update: July 2010

Since the last update to the Guide to Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland in March 2010, a number of recent additions have been made to the site.

In the Causes of the Conflict section, a number of pertinent and topical additions have been made to a number of sub-headings. In Flags, Emblems and Parading, the most recent annual report of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission has been added for 2009, which includes useful statistics on the number and type of parade, including those which have proved contentious. In the same section, the Public Displays of Flags and Emblems in Northern Ireland: Survey 2006-2009, funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, by the Institute of Irish Studies, QUB, has been included.

Highlighting the dynamic nature of the on-going debate around victims/survivors in Northern Ireland, the Consequences of the Conflict section of the Guide has added the highly significant and historic Report of the Saville Inquiry, which marks the culmination of years of investigation into the killing of civilians in Derry/Londonderry in 1972. This section on Victims also includes a newly released (June 2010) Advice to Government from the Victims and Survivors Commission on dealing with the past issues.

In the sub-section on Deprivation & Disadvantage, the newly released The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure for 2010 have been included. These new measures represent an update on the previous 2005 measures and contain a wealth of information on deprivation by geographical area in Northern Ireland.

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, as part of its role as lead partner on the Prisons to Peace project, supported by the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme, have developed a learning resource for post-primary schools to explore the experiences and lessons learned by political ex-prisoners. This learning resource was launched in June 2010.

In the section on State-Building, sub-section on the Review of Public Administration, a timely update on the stalling in the development of the RPA in relation to the reduction in local councils has been included. In a more positive development, the newly devolved Department of Justice website has been highlighted – a development of the Hillsborough Agreement of February 2010.

Within the substantial section on Political, Social and Economic Transformation, a range of new resources have become available and have been included in this update of the Guide. Within the sub-section on the Shared Future Policies (to be known as the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Policy), a link is provided to the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission’s Good Relations Action Plan for the 2010-2011 period.

In the sub-section on the Role of Civil Society, the new UK-wide report entitled “Making Good Society”, developed by the Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland, with relevance to Northern Ireland has been included.

As usual, there are additions to the sub-section on Community Relations including a new paper written by Brian Harvey on Overcoming division in rural communities focusing on the experience of the ‘border’ for communities living on either side. In addition, a Challenge Paper entitled “Ensuring the Good Relations Work in our Schools Counts: a strategy to meet our needs for the 21st Century” developed by the Good Relations Forum in 2010 is included.

Thank you for your continued interest in INCORE/Community Foundation’s Guide to Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland.

We welcome all of your suggestions and feedback. Please contact: g.kelly@ulster.ac.uk

GK, 6 July 2010.