



EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCH:

UNDERSTANDING SECTARIANISM AND RACISM

**Funded Programmes for 2010-11
Calling Individuals and Groups**

OPTION ONE



FOR INDIVIDUALS

This course aims to provide participants from faith-based organisations with a safe space to meet over a period of time to get to know each other and to explore these issues together. The facilitators will work to ensure that a safe, non-threatening and comfortable space is provided. Through the training, it is hoped that participants will:

1. Explore their own attitudes towards other groups and traditions

Before looking at wider implications of sectarianism, participants will be encouraged to examine personal attitudes and influences through non-threatening interactive learning and self-reflection.

2. Develop an awareness of how healthy belonging can become negative.

We do not often have the time or energy to treat people uniquely, and so we tend to prejudge them. This is usually a normal human reaction, but it can become destructive if such prejudices are then translated into discrimination. In addition to this, many of us have grown up in Northern Ireland where sectarianism has been the 'norm'. This has resulted in a deep suspicion of the "other" due to our circumstances, fear and lack of first hand knowledge. This part of the programme will include sessions exploring personal awareness of prejudice and how healthy belonging can develop negatively into sectarianism and racism. Participants will also explore different levels of racism (ranging from suspicion and racist jokes to physical attack) and examine where this presently exists in the cluster areas.

3. Explore sectarianism and racism within the cluster area and how it might be addressed.

Participants will discuss and reflect on how sectarianism/racism impacts their area? This part of the programme will encourage reflection on the role of local leaders, councils, community workers and politicians? Discussions will be facilitated around models of good practice and how good practice may be developed. These issues will be explored using a range of tools such as group discussion, invited speakers and interactive learning exercises.

4. Examine the contribution of faith-based groups within the cluster area in addressing sectarian/ racist issues.

How does faith inform our thinking on issues such as sectarianism and Racism? In what ways is peace building promoted through Christianity? This part of the programme will examine how faith-based groups have addressed these issues? Participants will reflect on current models of good practice within churches and faith-based organisations. They will discuss what needs to happen in order to develop a good working model for the future?

COURSE CONTENT:

This course consists of 14 sessions in all, held at times to suite the majority of applicants.

The following themes will be covered:

- a) *Exploring my own identity, culture and sense of belonging*
- b) *Understanding difference*
- c) *Understanding sectarianism*
- d) *Understanding racism*
- e) *Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination*
- f) *Sectarianism and racism in the local community*
- g) *Good practice in addressing sectarianism/racism: the role of faith leaders*
- h) *Good practice in addressing sectarianism/racism: the role of local politicians*
- i) *Developing good practice in the local community: the role of churches*

DETAILS:

An introductory session will be held on

MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2010.

When you apply you will be given the details for this meeting.

Apply now for OPTION 1 using the application form opposite, or see contact details.

OPTION TWO



CREATE

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS FOR CHURCH GROUPS

A team of facilitators is available, free of charge, to come along to run creative workshops for ANY faith based groups, such as prayer groups, bible study groups, women's groups, men's fellowship groups, youth organisations, church leadership teams, etc. So its not just for youth! Everyone can be creative!

The creative workshops will explore issues such as racism and sectarianism in an interesting and enjoyable way. The workshops can easily fit into existing programmes. They can be delivered to a group within one church or to several groups from different churches working together.

Each participating group will be offered two workshops:

WORKSHOP (Part 1):

An introductory workshop about sectarianism and racism

WORKSHOP (Part 2):

A creative workshop where groups will explore their views and experiences of sectarianism or racism creatively.

Groups who want to go further and share their learning, will be offered further support to help them to prepare to present it to a larger workshop with other groups towards the end of the programme. Each individual group can decide whether they want to do this or not.

These workshops will be offered between **June 2010 and March 2010** at a time that suits the groups. Apply now for **OPTION 2** using the application form below, or see contact details.

APPLICATION FORM

(Tick appropriate box)

OPTION 1: I wish to register for the 'TRAINING COURSE'.

Please contact me with details.

OPTION 2: I wish to register a group for the 'CREATIVE WORKSHOPS'.

Please contact me with details.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Please cut out and return this application form to:

Tony Macaulay Associates, 12 Mill Square, Portstewart, BT55 7TB

Alternatively:

Tel: 028 7083 1144 or Email: tony@macaulayassociates.co.uk

OPTION THREE DEDICATED WEBSITE



Visit the dedicated website and join the discussion at:

www.wecantalk.org

(currently under construction)

we CAN talk

Connecting Faith & Community is the CAN (Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey) Peace Partnership Faith Communities Programme, developed in consultation with local faith based organisations, as part of the Peace III Programme.

The programme recognises the role of churches within community and offers support and training to those who want to positively influence relationships within and between communities.

It will also support faith-based organisations, on an individual or collective basis, to explore and address sectarianism and racism within their communities.

[DOWNLOAD DETAILS](#)

connecting
faith &
community

KEY ELEMENTS

LEARN

Approaching sectarianism and racism from a faith perspective

[DOWNLOAD DETAILS](#)

CREATE

Workshops and support for twenty faith based groups

[DOWNLOAD DETAILS](#)

TALK

Web-based forum to discuss good relations issues



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

TONY MACAULAY AT 028 7083 1144 OR TONY@MACAULAYASSOCIATES.CO.UK

The CAN Peace III Partnership has appointed Macaulay Associates Network Ltd to deliver the programme.

