

# DARE to Lead Change

(Dialogues About Race and Ethnicity)

Ezine no 1 Summer 2018



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**W**elcome to our first DARE to Lead Change Ezine. We aim to build, improve and sustain positive relationships through training and dialogue with local people and their neighbours from different cultures and countries. Over the last eight months we have been very busy getting the project and staff team up and running. We are delighted to report that over this time we have trained 12 people from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups to become Community and Cultural Champions and we have engaged with over 125 organisations. Read more about our outputs to date and our official launch event at Windsor Park, find out about our **Free** training and catch up on what we got up to at our first Café Culture event focused on Women and Employability.

We would love to hear from you and get your feedback on our first ezine and why not join us and be part of our conversations and dialogues on race and ethnicity.

*Our best wishes*

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**The DARE Team**



## CAFÉ CULTURE EVENT Women – Daring to break down barriers

DARE's first Café Culture event was held on 20th June 2018 at Work West's Social Economy Village. The first event was an all women's café culture which included conversations about the culture of employment, education/training and civic leadership, while addressing barriers and opportunities. The event was well attended with over 40 participants from Black & Minority Ethnic groups, women from local and Irish traveller communities. The results of this first event will inform our strategic goals for the DARE project as well as the discussions at our next Intercommunity Interest Forum to be held in the North West in August.



# DARE to LEAD CHANGE



## Launch of DARE to Lead Change at IFA Headquarters at Windsor Park

DARE to Lead Change (Dialogues about Race and Ethnicity) was launched at the Intercommunity Dialogue Event on Tuesday 13th March at IFA Headquarters, Windsor Park, Belfast. This project is led by Bryson Intercultural, in partnership with TIDES Training and Consultancy. It is funded by the EU's PEACE IV programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The aim of DARE is to build, improve and sustain positive relationships with local people and their neighbours from different cultures and countries.

Windsor Park proved to be a wonderful venue. Pictured (above) at the Launch and Daring to Lead Change is Adrian Bird from the Resurgam Trust in Lisburn, Mansoreh, Abolhassasni (originally from Iran) and Eileen Rooney (an Activist and from the Irish Traveller community).

Jo Marley, Director of Bryson Intercultural spoke at the event – she said, *“Bryson is delighted to launch Dialogues about Race and Ethnicity (DARE). Our ambition is to promote peace and reconciliation by engaging different cultural, ethnic and religious communities in a sustained and meaningful dialogue that will change our shared knowledge and perceptions of each other. We will use training and mentoring to equip local people*

*and Black and Minority Ethnic individuals to become Cultural and Community Champions. They will work alongside each other and DARE to lead different intercommunity conversations on a large, medium and small scale. Over the life of the project we aim to engage with over 2,000 people across Northern Ireland and the border counties.”*



Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said:

*“This project will help address many of the negative attitudes that exist in relation to race and ethnicity. It will challenge stereotypes, break down barriers and bring people together. Reflecting the core aims of the EU’s PEACE IV Programme it has been designed to encourage meaningful contact between people from different communities.”*

Other speakers included (Right) Dr Michael Wardlow from the Equality Commission, Michael Boyd from Irish Football Association, Liza Wilkinson from TIDES Training and Consultancy, Mary Montague - Mediator and Restorative Practice Specialist), Eileen Rooney and Bridget McCann (Activists and members of the Irish Traveller Community) followed by wonderful music from Beyond Skin.



Salwa, (above) originally from Yemen, has made her home here and recently completed the DARE to Lead Change training to become a Cultural and Community Champion:

*“I like the will of the people in Northern Ireland. They are working to build their society and I feel that I have this opportunity to share in building the society that I have chosen to live in. This is the place I can prove myself and reach my goals. Working well with the community will empower me more. For me, I like to be part of this wonderful active team, because I believe in their vision and challenges.”*

Match funding for the project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Community and Rural Development in Ireland.

The project offers local people in communities, schools and the workplace an opportunity to participate in dialogues about race and ethnicity. Interested people are encouraged to get involved and avail of free training on Good Relations and Understanding Diversity.

If you know of any community organisations, schools or workplaces that would be interested in free training please let us know.



Since the project started in October 2017 we have achieved the following Outputs:

- Formed a steering group of **13** members and growing.
- Held two Intercommunity Interest Forum events attracting over **60** people.
- Official launch of DARE to Lead Change project attracting over **80** people.
- **12** people from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups have completed the training to become Community and Cultural Champions. Co-facilitation has begun in some local communities.
- **10** Community Groups and Organisations have taken part in the Good Relations Training.
- Over **70** individual members of the general public have completed Good Relations & Civic Leadership training.
- Over **100** members of the public have taken part in Diversity training.
- DARE to Lead Change Project has engaged with over **125** organisations to date.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the DARE to Lead Change project or wishes to access the free training can contact Ross Fletcher, Bryson Intercultural, Tel: 028 90325 5835 or [rfletcher@brysongroup.org](mailto:rfletcher@brysongroup.org) [www.brysonintercultural.org/dare](http://www.brysonintercultural.org/dare)



# Second Intercommunity Forum event takes place in Belfast



Bryson Intercultural was delighted to organise the second DARE to Lead Change Forum. The Forum was held during May in Belfast and 15 organisations from both North and South of the Border attended.

This event provided a great opportunity to share knowledge and experience to date and focused on providing an update on the DARE to Lead Change training with a discussing on themes for future meetings and Café style events.



## FEEDBACK

*“As a result of the DARE workplace training a cross community diversity, identity and good relations programme will be delivered between local schools. Thank you all as without the initial training I wouldn’t have had the confidence to move forward with my idea.”*

*“Overall it is the greatest, most fun, relaxed and meaningful course I have ever attended. I wish it could be longer and I want to say thank you so much”.*

Go to our website to find out more about free training for your community group, school or workplace covering topics on Understanding Diversity and Good Relations.

Want to be part of our conversations and dialogues on race and ethnicity? Find out how you can get involved via our website and contacts below.

### Upcoming events and training

3rd Intercommunity Interest Forum taking place on Friday 17th August at Strabane Library.

Join us on Culture Night in Belfast (Friday 21st September) at Costa Coffee Castle Place for an Ethnic exchange over coffee, chat & culture.

[www.brysonintercultural.org/dare](http://www.brysonintercultural.org/dare)

To find out more go to:  
[www.brysonintercultural.org/dare](http://www.brysonintercultural.org/dare)



Follow us on twitter: @dare2leadchange

### Key contacts:

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