

**THE JUNCTION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	The Junction: Community Relations and Peace Building
Charity registration number	101602
Company registration number	NI632475
Principal office and registered office	10-12 Bishop Street Londonderry BT48 6PW Northern Ireland

The trustees

Ms C Moffett
Mr J O'Neill
Ms R McLaughlin
Ms A Nicholl
Mr B Dougherty
Ms A Murray Cavanagh
Ms C Jones

Independent examiner	Mr K McCauley Claremount Chartered Accountants 43 Clarendon Street Derry BT48 7ER
-----------------------------	--

Structure, governance and management

The Junction: Community Relations and Peace Building is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 15/07/2015.

THE JUNCTION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

(continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives and activities

The Junction was founded in March 2000 by a group of community relations and peace building activists in partnership with Derry City Council, to support community relations and peace building. The organisation was named *The Junction* because of its ambition to be a comprehensive service provider for peace building work. Formerly a Peace Building Centre with a Resource Library, The Junction created a safe and mutually respecting space for groups and organisations to discuss highly sensitive and contentious issues. The Junction continues to build upon its sound foundational work and track record in peace building and community cohesion, with an outreach across Ireland, North and South and further afield.

Our Strategic Aims

The Junction has five core strategic aims, which are informed by an integrative peace-building model.

1. To provide accessible and inclusive community relations education and training with high quality resources and training materials for wide dissemination.
2. To promote and support civic engagement and dialogue around the themes of peace building through local, national and international outreach.
3. To share critical analysis pertaining to community relations and peace building with policy and decision makers.
4. To develop and deliver community relations and peace building 'products' that generate unrestricted income.
5. To build a strong, relevant, and sustainable organisation.

Achievements and Performance

The financial year 2023-2024 has been a year of consolidation for The Junction, as recently appointed core staff members, Kerona McDowell as Financial Administrator and Ruth Gonsalves Moore as CEO settled into their new roles. The small staff team has brought all reporting up to date and are actively leading out on programme delivery and forward planning. The Junction continues to contract and engage a number of Associate Consultants and Affiliate Facilitators for programme delivery, both as part of our core activities and additional contractual tender opportunities.

THE JUNCTION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

A cornerstone of The Junction's work is building the knowledge and skills base of key stakeholders in civic society through the development and delivery of a wide range of training programmes, workshops, and seminars. The Junction continued to work hard to respond to the good relations and peace-building needs of the community and across the community and public sector through 2023/2024.

Through the year we reached out to community groups across Northern Ireland, engaging almost 1000 individuals through our core peace building education and learning work, events and research supported by Strategic Partner funding from DFA, Core and Project funding from CRC and Projects funded and contracted by The Ideas Fund, CCGBC including a wider reach through a number of Shared Learning forums and networks.

Informed by our inclusive and ethical storytelling approaches, and with awareness of the far-reaching impact of person-centred peer approaches, The Junction commenced a dedicated peer enquiry project, supported by The Ideas Fund, around mental well-being support needs in a post conflict society.

The Junction contributed to support statutory policy development through a contract awarded by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to develop their Good Relations Strategy for 2023-2026. The Junction continues to engage associate consultants, trainers and educators, and as a result there continues to be an ongoing demand for our highly informative, Community Education/Learning programmes, and in particular learning around 'partition', and 'Imperialism' and 'Patriarchy' as intersecting themes underlying contemporary peace needs.

It remains important to The Junction that every individual who engages with The Junction is valued, whether embarking on a personal journey of self-discovery and learning, delivering, or receiving training, or indeed wishing to challenge us in any aspect of our work.

Community Relations and Training

Our Community Learning/Training "Re-Imagining Relationship" programme continues to be a key focus of our work, and the community learning work has been 'coupled' with a peer-support approach to Facilitative leaders. As a result, we commenced a new 'Train the Trainers' course informed by the 'Liberation from Patriarchy for Gender Justice' resource (developed through Peace IV), and this initial Training programme was delivered to 14 Facilitative Leaders drawn from across Derry and Strabane, Causeway Coast and Glens and Co. Donegal. It was an important opportunity to engage a number of 'next generation' facilitators and it is informing our work around engagement methodologies and approaches. It also has afforded us time to explore and share peace-building ethics underpinning The Junction Training programmes. Facilitator feedback has affirmed the value of an approach which recognises the role of Facilitative Leaders and enabled peer learning and support, which can go some way to address the ongoing need for updating Training materials as policy and societal context evolves. Facilitator feedback also highlights new learning needs around intersectionality and the need to engage all genders in this work, and especially more men in the conversations around gender justice, and therefore ongoing needs to work collaboratively and cross-sectorally.

In the year 2023 to 2024 three six week courses on Living with Imperial Legacies were delivered in Limavady, Strabane, and Derry/Londonderry. A further three courses on gender justice and patriarchy were delivered under the title "Re-Imagining Human Relationships" in Coleraine, rural North Antrim and Derry/Londonderry. We will be permanently grateful for the research and development carried out by Dr Johnston McMaster on Living with Imperial Legacies and Dr Cathy Higgins on patriarchy and Gender Justice which has informed our training and learning programme.

The Junction made a number of strategic connections through the delivery of this work, connecting with a number of Local Growth Partnerships, and key C/V sector organisations including Droichead project (Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin), West Bann Development Association, Radius Housing, Aontas, Lifestart and Council-based GROs

THE JUNCTION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Civic engagement/dialogue/positive encounter work around Peace-building

Informed by principles core to The Junction's programmes such as Ethical and Shared Remembering and with an understanding of the value of 'storytelling' in alleviating the medium and longer-term impacts on mental well-being of individuals and communities emerging from conflict; the Junction spearheaded a project entitled *Changing The Story I tell Myself*. This work was carried out in partnership with Ulster University and supported by The Ideas Fund. The programme commenced with a series of residencies and thematic workshops leading on to the design of community-led research and enquiry informing the development of a resource for mental well-being. The project engaged a core cohort of 14 individuals and professionals prioritising mental well-being and led to the publication and the in-year launch of the new Toolkit *Changing the Story I Tell Myself* and Creative Film resource (Éimear McCartney's *First Day Out in Months*, by Damian Gorman) towards the end of 2023.

Policy Development for Peace

Building on previous policy development work The Junction submitted and were awarded a contract to undertake the Good Relations Strategy 2023-2026, supporting the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in fulfilling their statutory remit. This programme of work involved an intense period of consultation using a variety of methods (focus groups, one to one interviews, an online survey and a literature review of the policy context), the results of which were analysed and formed a set of recommendations for existing and new projects addressing good relations across the CCGBC District.

Financial review

The net outgoing resources for the year were £39,899 (2023 - £170). The company reserves at the year end were £72,605 (2023 - £112,504) of which £67,242 relates to unrestricted funds and £5,363 relates to restricted funds. The trustees aim to have a reserve covering at least three months expenditure at any given time.

Plans for future periods

The Junction is in its twenty-third year and its work on Ethical and Shared Remembering has been widely regarded as making a significant impact on shaping peace work in Northern Ireland and the border counties. Recent publications addressing pertinent themes will continue to be central to The Junction's work next year and into the future, as we seek to broaden and deepen our engagement, developing the curriculum and the methodologies through which we engage individuals and groups, as well as developing our associate and affiliate facilitator team. The Junction continues to be cognisant of evolving needs in Northern Ireland and the intersecting issues of sectarianism sexism and racism, as well as intersecting equality and human rights issues. We will continue our focus on Ethical and Shared Remembering as we seek to find inclusive ways to remember the Troubles, both here and in other conflicted societies, and equip and support civic society to build inclusive and sustainable peace for future generations.

The Junction is looking forward to working through existing and new partnerships at local and regional levels, in the development of tailored learning programmes around integrative peace-themes (enabling cultural diversity, addressing the recovery of women's voices) through new opportunities including new opportunities afforded by European Peace Plus funding.

THE JUNCTION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PEACE BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We look forward to the dissemination of our new toolkit addressing mental well-being and exploring its roll out across community and educational spaces for the betterment of mental well-being on a post conflict society and to an extension of the *Changing the Story I tell Myself* project.

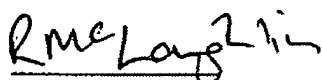
The Board has formally recognised the work of Maureen Hetherington for her many years of dedication to The Junction and support in shaping our existing and planned programmes and we are fortunate to be able to continue to engage Maureen Hetherington as an Associate Consultant through 2023-2024 and into the future; alongside other Associate Consultants and Affiliate Facilitators whose significant knowledge and insights have enriched our impact. Going forward we hope to develop our Associate/Affiliate Facilitator relationship and team, so that it also includes 'next generation' Facilitators. The Board is delighted to have a new team at the helm of The Junction who are actively continuing to build upon and add to previous work and themes, and we look forward to new initiatives and new opportunities they are currently developing.

The Junction is grateful for the ongoing strategic support of our experienced and committed Board members, as we continue to deliver challenging and important work in a professional and ethical manner locally, nationally and internationally.

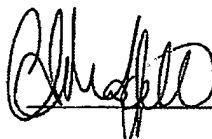
Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 10th December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Roisin McLaughlin
Trustee



Carolyn Anne Moffett
Trustee