

HTANI Report to Charity Commission 1/10/24 to 30/9/25

HTANI's stated objectives are to enhance the professional development of history teachers through the organisation of events and the production and dissemination of educational resources. It also seeks to provide opportunities for its members to network on a cross-community basis locally, across the Irish border and internationally.

During the above period HTANI continued to build partnerships with local, UK and international organisations, particularly to provide in-service training opportunities for Northern Irish teachers.

Work on *Voices of 68* and *Voices of 74* progressed in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University and the Ulster Museum. *Voices of 74*, an exploration of the Ulster Workers' Strike through oral testimony was launched at the museum in October 2024 and, subsequently, HTANI members worked with Professor Chris Reynolds of NT to convert project interviews into teaching materials for secondary school classrooms. Our teachers trialled what emerged and, once amended, an in-service training workshop was held in May 2025 for twenty student and practising teachers at Ulster University, Coleraine.

Through HTANI's membership of *Euroclio*, the network of history teacher organisations in Europe, the Association, took on a central role in disseminating an EU funded project, *Monument(al) Challenges, a part of the Contested Histories Initiative*. The project is developing teaching resources and a teacher tool-kit to help young people engage with conflict, contested cultural heritage, colonialism and slavery. The materials concentrate on disputes over statues, street-names and other historical legacies in public spaces. The project has researched over 500 cases from 120 countries. Two HTANI members travelled to The Hague to attend a Training the Trainers workshop and then returned to conduct a course for 21 teachers / trainee teachers in Derry/Londonderry in April 2025. As well as exploring the theory of place-based learning, teachers engaged in fieldwork which examined contested examples in the Derry area. See <https://euroclio.eu/2025/05/14/monumental-challenges-in-focus-report-from-northern-ireland>

HTANI were also approached by the *Musee de la Shoah* in Paris to work alongside the Education Authority (EA) to support their programme of Holocaust Education in Northern Ireland. The programme seeks to use the Holocaust as a starting point to examine other areas of contestation. Members worked online with project team members to prepare for in-service training workshops for teachers involved in Shared Education, in November 2025 and May 2026.

The Beyond Borders Project is a collaborative research initiative between the *Imperial War Museum* (IWM) and the universities of Edinburgh and Swansea looking at the impact of the Second World War on national identity across the four home nations, and through the context of empire. HTANI teachers participated in an exploratory forum in January 2025 to ascertain the specific curricular structures in Northern Ireland relating to this field. Based on the outcomes in-service training will follow.

The *Lethe Project* (Learning the Invisible History of Europe) is a collaboration across several European universities including Dublin City University. It aims to develop a digital tool for students and teachers to explore the role that diverse cultures and social groups have had on the evolution of the European Union. The focus is on enquiry, critical historical thinking, object-based learning, multi-perspectivity and multiculturalism. HTANI teachers were asked to provide a critique of draft resources.

In addition to the above collaborative CPD opportunities provided for teachers HTANI ran two online seminars during the period featuring two of the leading international figures in the field of history education. In February, Professor Keith Barton, Indiana University, spoke on the theme of *History's purpose in a time of political pressure and curriculum reform* and in April Professor Arthur Chapman, University College London, addressed members on *Putting Story to Work in History Education*. Both events were run in conjunction with our cross-border colleagues, the History Teachers' Association of Ireland and each attracted over 40 participants.

During 2024-25 HTANI's communications structures were considerably enhanced through a revamp of both its website and its social media presence. The association continued to support international research students and link them to local history teachers' networks.

Dr Alan McCully, President HTANI