

P/A
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Press Release

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Major Peace Money Allocation

Over 150 organisations involved in social, economic and cultural activity learned today (Tuesday July 2nd) that their work has received a major boost through financial support from the European Union's 'peace package'.

(see Notes to Editors 1)

The news that they are each to share in over £4 million of funding came at a mid day press conference in Belfast called by seven agencies - collectively termed Intermediary funding Bodies (IFBs) - charged with distributing some £60 of the £230 million available from the overall 'peace package',

Today's announcement saw money earmarked for projects concerned with

- training,
- employment,
- rural regeneration,
- cross border business and cultural links,
- community development,
- community relations, and
- youthwork.

European Commission staff mingled with representatives from both grant giving and grant recipient organisations at the Lagan Watersports Centre,





chosen as the venue to make this announcement as the centre itself attracted a grant for its innovative work with young people.

Speaking at today's event an IFB spokesperson commented 'We are delighted that the money announced today is being directed at so many groups engaged in such a wide cross section of social, economic and cultural activity.'

She continued 'The common denominator among those funded is that they are making a positive contribution to various aspects of the development of a wholesome and healthy fabric here. That is what the money was intended for and that is where it is going.'

The spokesperson concluded 'While a large number of grants are in the pipeline there remains a considerable portion of this peace and reconciliation funding available. We urge anyone who thinks that their activity might be eligible for assistance to contact one of our organisations.'

- Ends -

All members of the print and broadcast media are invited to attend this press conference announcement at 12.15 pm in the Lagan Watersports Centre, 13 Ravenhill Road, Belfast. Formal proceedings will be completed by 1.00 pm when a light buffet lunch will be served. A full press service will be in operation to assist with interviews and background information.

For further information contact Harry Reid (Information and Publicity Officer at the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust - NIVT) - Tel (01232) 245927.





Notes to Editors

1. The commonly used short hand term 'peace money' refers to the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland.
2. Intermediary Funding Bodies (IFBs) are a group of non governmental organisations charged with allocating some 25% of the overall 'peace package'.

They are

- Community Relations Council
- Co operation North
- Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
- Northern Ireland University Enterprise Training Partnership
- Rural Development Council in association with the Rural Community Network
- Youthnet

The remainder of the Programme is administered by various Government departments and by the 26 District Partnerships.

