



## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Get Real

#### THEME:

Building Positive Relations:  
Regional Level Projects

#### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€763,280.67

#### MATCH FUNDERS:

Executive Office Northern  
Ireland and the Department  
of Rural and Community  
Development, Ireland

#### LEAD PARTNER:

NIACRO

#### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Probation Board Northern  
Ireland, Probation Service  
Ireland, Victim Support  
Northern Ireland, South  
Belfast Roundtable

#### PROJECT CONTACT:

Mark.johnston@niacro.co.uk

Start Date: 01/11/2017

End Date: 31/01/2021



[https://  
www.niacro.co.uk/  
get-real](https://www.niacro.co.uk/get-real)



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The cross-border project will support those involved in hate crime, their victims and those vulnerable to involvement in hate crime to acknowledge the hurt and damage caused, moving forward with greater understanding and hope.

Get Real aims to help restore the relationships that have been broken in our communities because of racist; homophobic; religious; transgender; sectarian or disability hate crime.

In addition, the project will deliver training to criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland and in Ireland to equip public servants with the knowledge and skills to work towards the acceptance of diversity.

*“It’s important to have an holistic approach to addressing the harm of hate crime, particularly with regard to placing the victim’s experience at the heart of the restorative process. The Get Real approach recognises the salience of the particular harms inflicted by hate crime. It’s providing a space for an alternative approach to hate crime and the challenges that manifest from it.”*

Professor Paul Iganski, Criminology and Criminal Justice at Lancaster University



Pictured at the project’s launch event are (l-r): Mark Johnston, NIACRO; Eithne McIlroy, PBNI; Donnie Sweeney, NIACRO; Paul Sheridan, SEUPB; Professor Paul Iganski, Lancaster University; Ursula Fernee, Probation Service Ireland; and Nandi Jola, Nandi Project. Front: Olwen Lyner, NIACRO.



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**Get Real is a facilitated process using restorative practices where participants have the opportunity to: be heard; ask questions; take responsibility; feel empowered; explore impact; and repair harm.**

This will be achieved through three strands

- **Get Real about Justice:** restorative practice interventions with those who have offended and victims;
- **Get Real about Identity:** community-based education programmes with those at risk of perpetuating hate crime;
- **Get Real about Society:** diversity training delivered to criminal justice agencies across Northern Ireland and Ireland to equip public servants with knowledge and skills to work towards acceptance of diversity.

*"By holding those responsible to account for their actions and enabling those who have been harmed to express how they have been impacted, Get Real identifies positive ways for those involved to move forward. Restorative practices allow those involved to safely hear of the impact, in a way suitable to them, and explore how the person responsible for the hate crime can make up for the harm caused."*

Mark Johnston, NIACRO

